

the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

SACS Liaison: Western is Making Good Progress



Western's reaccreditation efforts are on target and the university is making good progress toward reaffirmation in 2007. That's the word from Ann Chard, a vice president of the Commission

on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, after her Monday, Nov. 14, visit to Cullowhee.

On campus to review the status of Western's reaccreditation efforts, Chard met with Chancellor John W. Bardo, Provost Kyle R. Carter, the university's executive council and the combined SACS committees. She also heard from members of the university community at a general meeting and reception.

The meetings gave Chard, who is Western's official SACS liaison, the opportunity to provide feedback on Western's review materials and to answer questions on the review process.

With the institutional review on target, next steps in the review process are in place, said Carol Burton, the university's SACS review director.

"Western is sending 12 institutional representatives to an upcoming SACS conference in Atlanta," Burton said. "The conference will help us refine strategies for completing our compliance certification, which is due in September 2006, and provide guidance for developing our Quality Enhancement Plan, a key component of the new review process."

Western's SACS review process is a truly united effort, said Burton. "I'd like to express my appreciation to all involved for their dedication and tremendous support in this process," she said. "At the end of the day, the review is about improving our institution and serving our students."

More than 150 members of the university community have collectively served on committees, drafted standards and

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English Professor's Passion for Animals Recognized by State Volunteer Award

The discovery of five puppies in a trash bin eight years ago sparked the passion for animal rescue that grips Mary Adams.

The young boxers abandoned on a tall pile of debris went home with the associate professor of English and stayed until permanent homes could be found.

"They went very quick," said Adams.

The puppies were the first of about 500 cats and dogs that Adams has fostered and placed through the Humane Society of Jackson County, or ARF.

For her service, she will be one of five Jackson County volunteers presented with the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for 2005 at an upcoming luncheon, said Veronica Nicholas, volunteer coordinator for Jackson County.

The award not only honors her foster care of numerous animals but also her development of documents from adoption forms to business cards and maintaining ARF's Web site.

The site goes beyond providing basic information about ARF, a donor-supported nonprofit organization that rescues cats and dogs from shelters or abandonment. The site greets visitors with photographs and quotes from people such as Gandhi, who said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Adams and her two 16-year-old dogs, a spaniel mix named George and a fluffy mystery-mix named Walter, share their home with the steady flow of puppies, kittens and orphaned animals.

But the volunteer work takes up most of Adams' free time and can be draining. "There's such a need," she said. "Some placements fall through, and you have to take them back. That's always hard." What's fulfilling, though, is seeing an animal go to a good home.

Adams watched a dog make fast friends

with a visiting Airedale and convinced the visitor's owner that the pair should not be parted.

"They just fell in love," said Adams of the two dogs. "The man went away without the dog. His wife sent him back." On part of ARF's Web site where families who adopt pets can send updates, a picture shows a cat curled up with a stuffed bunny. Several entries below, a

Georgia woman wrote about her happiness adopting a puppy formerly called Brunnhilde now nicknamed Bella.

Adams often selects names for animals in litters from themes, such as Welsh witches or North Carolina counties. "Otherwise, I usually name them people names," Adams said. "I find that's luckier."

ARF volunteer Jean Lewis, who nominated Adams for the award, said in other types of volunteer work people go home after giving some of their time. Adams, though, goes home to her volunteer work. "She has a compassion for animals that is just phenomenal," Lewis said.

ARF sponsors a weekly adoption show from 1-3 p.m. on Saturdays in the Sylva Ingles parking lot. The Web site is www.a-r-f.org.



Mary Adams shares a warm and fuzzy moment with Reuben, one of the hundreds of animals she has rescued over the years.



A NEW DEFINITION FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING – Professional stunt coordinator and performer Nonalee Davis (left) gets ready to throw a theatrical punch at Claire Eye, assistant professor of communication, theatre and dance, during a recent master class on stage combat. Davis, who graduated from Western in 1995 with a degree in radio and television, is a stunt coordinator/performer for Universal Studios in Florida, and has worked as stunt coordinator and performer in film and television. While at Western through the Visiting Scholars Program, she gave a series of workshops for theatre arts students and members of Western's University Players and Black Theatre Ensemble on basic stage combat, hand-to-hand combat, fight choreography and weapons choreography.

Mountain Heritage Center Receives Smithsonian Grant

The Mountain Heritage Center has received a grant of \$4,565 through the Smithsonian Community Grant Program to aid in the development of "The Appalachian Garden," a "traveling trunk" that soon will be available to third-grade classes in the region.

The traveling trunk will tie the history of regional gardens, both Cherokee and European-influenced, with regional biodiversity and emphasize the link between gardening and the natural world, said Suzanne McDowell, Mountain Heritage Center curator.

The trunk is being developed this fall, and will be available to schools for one-month periods beginning in January 2006. It will contain books, puzzles and other hands-on activities for children, McDowell said.

The Smithsonian Community Grant Program, funded by the MetLife Foundation and administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service, is used to strengthen the connections between museums and their communities. The grants allow exhibitors to enhance program offerings or to create new programs suited to the topic of the SITES exhibition they are hosting. The Mountain Heritage Center's traveling trunk project supplements "Vanishing Pollinators," a SITES exhibit that is on display at the museum through Friday, Nov. 4.

For more information or to reserve "The Appalachian Garden" traveling trunk, contact McDowell at the Mountain Heritage Center at (828) 227-7129.

Annual Holiday Concert Moves to FAPAC Dec. 4

Western's department of music will present its annual Prism Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the performance hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

This year's concert will feature Christmas and holiday music with a variety of musical arrangements, from traditional to modern. Performances will be presented by many university music ensembles, including the WCU Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Faculty Woodwind Quintet, Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, and other university musicians and ensembles.

The "prism" style performance, which has become a yuletide favorite at Western, goes far beyond the traditional concert format.

"Western's department of music presents its holiday concert every year as a prism concert, a continuous program that features

a succession of performances by varied ensembles staged in different locations throughout the hall," said Shannon Thompson, assistant professor of music.

"This year's concert, which is staged for the first time in the performance hall of Western's new Fine and Performing Arts Center, promises to be an especially exciting event since the new venue greatly expands the possibilities for staging the ensembles," said Thompson.

Admission for the Dec. 4 concert is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. Children 4 and under are admitted free. Proceeds from the event go to the music department's scholarship fund.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call (828) 227-7242.

SACS Update *continued from page 1*

provided information for the review.

SACS is the major accrediting body for more than 780 public and private institutions of higher education in the South. Western has been accredited by SACS since 1946; the last accreditation review took place in 1996. The next review will occur in the spring of 2007 when the review team will visit Western upon completion of the self-study process currently under way.

For more information, visit the SACS review Web site at www.wcu.edu/SACS.

Friends Take to the Road

The Friends of Hunter Library are sponsoring a Feb. 4-5, 2006, trip to Atlanta that includes admission to an Andrew Wyeth exhibition at the High Museum, a concert by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and hotel accommodations.

The cost of \$111.50 per person, based on double occupancy, includes tickets, accommodations for one night, a full breakfast, all taxes and a \$25 tax deductible contribution to the Friends group.

Costs are \$109.50 per person for participants ages 65 and older, \$85 for full-time students, and \$99.50 for members of the High Museum. Participants will provide their own transportation to and from Atlanta.

The High Museum ticket in the package is for admission at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, to "Andrew Wyeth: Meaning and Magic," the first exhibit to be held in the newly expanded High Museum. The exhibit includes 100 rarely seen tempora paintings, watercolors and drawings. The package also provides a ticket to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performance that begins at 8 p.m. on Feb. 4.

Participants will stay that Saturday night at the Sheraton Colony Square, located in midtown Atlanta across the street from Woodruff Arts Center, home of the Atlanta Symphony and the High Museum.

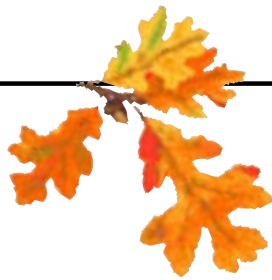
The deadline to register is Tuesday, Nov. 29. For more information, call the library at (828) 227-7307 or click on the Web at www.wcu.edu/library.

MCA NewsFile

► **Gordon E. Mercer**, professor of political science and public affairs and director of Western's Public Policy Institute, has been elected president of Pi Gamma Mu international honor society.

Founded in 1924, Pi Gamma Mu provides social sciences students of high academic standing with a setting in which to engage in intellectually stimulating activities. The society works to nurture top students' commitment to excellence, strengthen their efforts to resist conformity, teach them to assume the responsibilities of leadership, and help them develop the wisdom necessary for sound judgment.

► A paper by **F. Brad Wardlaw**, former assistant professor of health and human performance, and **Rey Treviño**, assistant professor of health and human performance, titled "Service Learning in Therapeutic Recreation" will be published in *Expanding Horizons in Therapeutic Recreation* (Vol. XXII) in March 2006. Wardlaw and Treviño presented the paper at the 34th Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity in Springfield, Ill., earlier this year.



November – December

Monday, Nov. 21

Native American History Month—“Healing the Soul Wounds,” Patty Grant Long, clinical social worker, Cherokee mental health and substance abuse program. 6 p.m. 104 Killian. (227-2276)

Concert—Woodwind Ensembles. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Catamount basketball—vs. Atlanta Christian. \$ 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Wednesday, Nov. 23–Sunday, Nov. 27

Thanksgiving holiday. No classes.

Monday, Nov. 28

Brown Bag Lunch—“Regional and National River Restoration and Enhancement,” American Whitewater presentation. Noon. Multipurpose Room B, UC. (227-3462)

Artist-in-Residence—Dike Blair, Rhode Island School of Design / Painting Program. 4 p.m. 223 FAPAC. (227-3597)

Catamount basketball—vs. Toccoa Falls. \$ 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Free art classes—for young children, taught by elementary art methods students. 9:15 a.m., clay shaping; 9:45 a.m., reductive sculpture. Parents/caregivers must accompany children. Reservations required. 150 FAPAC. (227-3598 or etapley@wcu.edu)

Open meeting—Microgrant Committee. 2–3:30 p.m. 240 Hunter. (227-7196)

Workshop—“Make a Basket,” offered by Art Educators Club. Reservations required. \$ 8 p.m. 150 FAPAC. (227-3598 or etapley@wcu.edu)

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

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Recital—music students. 4 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Catamount basketball—vs. Montreat. \$ 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Thursday, Dec. 1

Learning for Fun—“Internet Tips and Tricks.” \$ 9 a.m. UOC. (227-7397 or 800-928-4968)

Free art classes—for young children, taught by elementary art methods students. 9:15 a.m., painting; 9:45 a.m., drawing. Parents/caregivers must accompany children. Reservations required. 150 FAPAC. (227-3598 or etapley@wcu.edu)

Meeting—Faculty Senate planning team. Noon. Mary Will Mitchell Room, Brown Cafeteria. (227-3966)

World War II Roundtable—“Downfall” (“Der Untergang”), film in German with English subtitles about Hitler’s final days. Seating limited to 30. 5 p.m. 201 McKee. (227-3908)

Films That Matter—“Day for Night” (Francois Truffaut, 1973). 6 p.m. 130 FAPAC. (227-2324)

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—local musicians share tunes and techniques. 7 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Holiday Spectacular—“Riders in the Sky.” Grammy Award-winning music of the American West. \$ 7:30 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-2479)

Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3



Holiday celebration—Madrigal Dinner. \$ 6:30 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7206 or 227-7242)

Friday, Dec. 2

Meeting—Board of Trustees quarterly meeting. 9:30 a.m. 510 HFR. (227-7100)

Concert—Western Carolina Civic Orchestra. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Saturday, Dec. 3

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. UNC Asheville. \$ 4:30 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Catamount basketball—vs. UNC Asheville. \$ 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Sunday, Dec. 4

Arti-Facts—No admission charge, but reservations required. 2:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

PRISM concert—holiday show featuring student ensembles and music faculty members. \$ 3 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-7242)

Concert—Inspirational Choir. 6 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Fine Art Museum, FAPAC

Through December 9:
Fall 2005 Student Art Exhibition featuring artwork in all mediums. Atrium Gallery, FAPAC. (227-3591)

Through December 16:

- *Worldviews*. Selections from Western Carolina University’s art collection
- *Contemporary Native American Art*
- *Joel Philip Myers: Studio Glass*
- *Strange Beauty*. Showcasing art alumni works.
- *Emma Johnson Allison Art Awards 1978–2005*

Fine Art Museum hours: Closed on Mondays and university holidays. (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 the 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

For November and December: “Mountain Trout” tells the 10,000-year-old story of people, trout and flowing water in the Southern Appalachians.

EXHIBITS

Key: \$—Admission fee; **BB**—Belk Building; **CAC**—Catamount Athletic Center; **CAT**—Center for Applied Technology; **FAPAC**—Find 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**—Whitmore Stadium/Bob

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.

Cowboy Singers Riding into Town for Dec. 1 Concert at Fine Arts Center

The inaugural season at the Fine and Performing Arts Center will continue Thursday, Dec. 1, with "Riders in the Sky: A Holiday Spectacular," a concert of Grammy Award-winning music of the American West.

The concert, part of the center's 2005-06 Subscription Series, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Since 1977, Riders in the Sky have given more than 5,000 performances, made 290 national television appearances, appeared on more than 200 public radio shows, and performed about 700 times at the Grand Ole' Opry. The group's music is grounded in the traditions of American cowboy singers, such as Roy Rogers and Gene Autry.

"The moment America's favorite cowboy singing group steps up to the microphone the magic begins, allowing listeners to leave behind the frenzied pace of today's living and lose themselves in the romantic, comical and whimsical world of the singing cowboy," said Paul Lormand, performance director for the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

In 1999, the group won its first Grammy Award for "Woody's Roundup Featuring Riders in the Sky," a "companion album" for the soundtrack to the movie "Toy Story 2." Two years later, the group won another Grammy Award for the album "Monsters Inc. – Scream Factory Favorites," which was based on the movie "Monsters Inc." Both movies were computer-animated Disney/Pixar productions.

The group also composed the original score for the Academy Award-winning computer-animated short "For the Birds," starred in its own Saturday morning children's television series for CBS and TNN, and appeared regularly on the television program "Austin City Limits."

The performance is sponsored by The Mountaineer Publishing Company.

For information about performances, call the box office at (828) 227-2479. For more information about exhibits, call the gallery office at (828) 227-3591.

For more information about the Fine and Performing Arts Center, visit the Web site at <http://fapac.wcu.edu/>.



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