

# the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

## Five Faculty Members in Running for Chancellor's Teaching Award

Five WCU faculty members have been named nominees for the university's top teaching honor, the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, which will be presented during the spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation on Friday, April 21.

Winners of the award are chosen through a two-stage process that includes nominations by students and faculty members, and a review of portfolios and classroom teaching by an awards committee composed of students and faculty. The recipient receives a \$1,000 honorarium and engraved plaque.

Nominees are listed, along with their educational backgrounds and excerpts from their teaching philosophies as described in their award portfolios:

- **Christopher Cooper**, assistant professor of political science and public affairs, and director of WCU's master's program in public affairs. A Sylva resident, Cooper began teaching at the university in 2002. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology at Winthrop University in 1997, and master's and doctoral degrees in political science at the University of Tennessee in 1999 and 2002, respectively.

"My philosophy of teaching political science is similar to my philosophy of teaching someone to change a bike tire: theory and



**Christopher Cooper**



**Frank Lockwood**



**Elizabeth McRae**



**Burton Ogle**



**James Scifers**

practice are equal partners," Cooper wrote.

"In addition to mixing theory and practice, my teaching philosophy includes showing students why the topic is important, being a practitioner of what I teach, and using a variety of different teaching techniques in the same class. I find that following this philosophy leads to significant, meaningful student learning."

- **Frank Lockwood**, assistant professor of entrepreneurship, who began teaching at WCU in 2003. A resident of Sylva, Lockwood earned a bachelor's degree in history at Ripon College in 1965, a master's degree in finance at Emory University in 1969, and a doctoral degree in strategic management at the University of South Carolina in 1998.

"I developed my teaching philosophy from my life experiences and observations as a student and as a businessman, and from my

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## PHILYAW NAMED TO LEAD MOUNTAIN HERITAGE CENTER

A historian who rummaged through Appalachian Mountain artifacts and archives as an undergraduate student at Western has been tapped to lead the museum where he once toiled as an intern.



**Scott Philyaw**

Scott Philyaw, associate professor of history, is the new director of the Mountain Heritage Center, the university's regional museum that studies, documents and interprets the culture and history of Southern Appalachia.

"We have searched far and wide for the

right person to move our Mountain Heritage Center forward, and we are delighted that someone who grew up in these very mountains is coming on board to ensure that the fine work of this important cultural resource continues," Clifton Metcalf, vice chancellor for advancement and external affairs, said in announcing the appointment. "Dr. Philyaw is no stranger to the Mountain Heritage Center and, in fact, played a key role in developing the center's inaugural exhibit when he was an undergraduate student at WCU."

Philyaw, who earned his bachelor's degree in history from WCU in 1983, traveled to Northern Ireland during his senior year to conduct research and arrange for loans of artifacts for the center's inaugural exhibition on the migration of the Scotch-Irish people. That

display, which chronicles the arrival of settlers from Scotland and Ireland in the mountains of Western North Carolina, has evolved to become the museum's permanent exhibit.

For Philyaw, who was born in Lenoir and grew up in Morganton, the lure of the history of the mountains goes further back than his undergraduate days. "My interest in the history of this region began when I used to beg my grandmother for stories about her youth in northern Jackson County," he said. "She told me stories of her father, John Hipps, who worked in the timber business, of her Cherokee neighbors and of Saturday shopping trips to Sylva."

After graduating from WCU, Philyaw went on to earn his master's degree in history from the College of William and Mary.

— by **Bill Studenc**

## WCU Librarian Chosen to Attend Prestigious Immersion Program

Alessia Zanin-Yost, reference librarian and visual/performing arts liaison at WCU's Hunter Library, has been selected to attend the prestigious Immersion Program of the Association of College & Research Libraries' Institute for Information Literacy.

The selective gathering, the only one of its kind in the nation, provides academic librarians with intellectual tools and practical techniques to help institutions build or enhance their instruction programs. Zanin-Yost will attend the conference this summer at Simmons College in Boston.

The ACRL divides the program into two tracks: the teacher track, focusing on individual instruction skills; and the program track, focusing on the integration of information literacy into academic programs. Zanin-Yost completed the teacher track program while serving as reference librarian at Montana State University and will participate in the program track this summer.

Since coming to WCU in January 2005, Zanin-Yost has forged connections between the library and the Honors College, and regularly includes library instruction in classes she co-teaches with art faculty.



Alessia Zanin-Yost

"The point of information literacy is to teach students to think critically about information," she said. "Once they graduate, they will have a wealth of tools to help them through life. It is important that the students not see me only as 'the librarian,' but as a

partner in their endeavors—for me to go to classes and establish a relationship."

This is not the first time the ACRL has recognized a member of Hunter Library's faculty. Heidi Buchanan, reference librarian and coordinator of information literacy, was selected for the program track during summer 2005.

Bil Stahl, WCU's associate provost for information services and university librarian, said, "The fact that both Heidi and Alessia were selected to participate in the highly selective Information Immersion Program underscores two things. The first is the high quality of our library faculty as evidenced by Heidi and Alessia. The second is the library's intense commitment to do all we can to prepare our students for the complex information environment they will live in."

— by Brandon A. Robinson

## The Nominees Are . . .

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experiences and training as a teacher," Lockwood wrote.

"It has been my goal to be a college professor for the purpose of sharing my knowledge and experience – both practical and theoretical – with my students in order to offer them the opportunity to prepare themselves to be successful in their life's work. My ultimate goal as a teacher is for my students to be successful as individuals."

• **Elizabeth McRae**, assistant professor of history and social science education coordinator, who joined the faculty in 2000. A Cullowhee resident, McRae received a bachelor's degree in history at Wake Forest University in 1989, a master's degree in secondary social science education at Marymount University in 1991, a master's degree in history at WCU in 1996, and a doctoral degree in American history at the University of Georgia in 2003.

"It is only when my students stop me outside of class to argue or to question the history they have learned that I feel as if I have succeeded in the classroom," McRae wrote. "When I overhear them talking to each other about historical conflict, then I know I have."

"As their reading and writing reflect how the history they have learned impacts their thinking about and understanding of the present, they have acquired the skills to become collaborators in the creation of knowledge, rather than recipients of it."

• **Burton Ogle**, assistant professor of health sciences and environmental health program director, who has taught at WCU since 2002. A Cullowhee resident, Ogle earned a bachelor's degree in food science and technology at the University of Tennessee in 1979, a master's degree in industrial hygiene at East Tennessee State University in 1985, and a doctoral degree in public and environmental health at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1998.

"My approach to teaching is based on the belief that my purpose at the university is to serve the students," Ogle wrote. "This service focuses on the long-term best interests of the students, not only in classroom learning, but also in career choices and life decisions."

"Serving students means going beyond just teaching them the facts of economics to teach them how to learn, how to think, and how to help others do the same."

• **James Scifers**, associate professor of health sciences and director of WCU's athletic training program. A resident of Webster, Scifers joined the faculty in 2003. He earned a bachelor's degree in athletic training at East Stroudsburg University in 1990, a master's degree in physical therapy at Emory University in 1994, and a doctoral degree in orthopedic physical therapy at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2003.

"I believe that I have the greatest job in the world," Scifers wrote. "I love the interactions I have with my students and knowing that I am impacting their lives in a positive way."

"I challenge students to understand and apply the material they learn in class, rather than to simply memorize and regurgitate what they have heard in assignments and on exams. By the conclusion of their undergraduate education, my students have developed the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills required of health care providers in the 21st century."

## WCU NewsFile

► Gov. Mike Easley recently reappointed **Burton Ogle**, director of the environmental health program, to the North Carolina State Board of Sanitation Engineers. The board was created to safeguard life, health and the environment by registered qualified people to practice as sanitarians in North Carolina.

► **Robert Caruso**, vice chancellor for student affairs, participated in several programs at the recent convention of the American College Personnel Association held in Indianapolis. Caruso co-coordinated the annual legislative and legal affairs update, participated as a panelist for the session titled "Finding Your Way to a Senior Student Affairs Position: Tips for Mid-Level Professionals," and co-chaired a senior practitioners roundtable.



Robert Caruso

*NewsFile continues on page 4*

## Monday, April 10

**MFA artist talk series**—Sally Jacobs. 4:30 p.m., Room 223, FAPAC. (227-3597)

**Visiting artist**—Lois Dodd, painter. Reception following artist's talk. 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-7210)

## Tuesday, April 11

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

**Catamount baseball**—vs. Clemson. Pre-game ceremony to retire No. 23 jersey of baseball legend Keith LeClair. \$ 7 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

## Wednesday, April 12

**Concert**—nationally acclaimed Marian Catholic Band, featuring the Concert Band, Western alumnus Bobby Lambert, directing; and the Symphonic Band. 7:30 p.m. FAPAC. (227-7608)

## Thursday, April 13

**Staff Forum**—8:30-10:30 a.m. Cardinal Room, UC. (227-2412)

## Fridays, April 14, 21 & 28

**Learning for Fun art class for children ages 2 to 5**—introduction to art media and appreciation for art. \$ 10-11 a.m. Room 150, FAPAC. (227-7397)

## Friday, April 14

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

## Saturday, April 15

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

## Sunday, April 16

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

## Monday, April 17

**MFA artist talk series**—Kelledy Francis and Jennifer Lipsey. 4:30 p.m. Room 223, FAPAC. (227-3597)

## Tuesday, April 18

**Open meeting**—campus update of master plan. 10 a.m.-noon. Theater, UC. (227-7321)

**Luncheon**—annual event for EPA Retirees. Noon. West Wing, Dodson Cafeteria. (227-2293)

## Wednesday, April 19

**International Phi Beta Delta Brown Bag Lunch**—"Myths and Facts About Persia," Mark Azadpour. Noon. Hunter Library. (227-2175)

**Circus**—Clyde Beatty Three-ring Circus. 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. RRAC. (227-7722)

**Catamount baseball**—vs. East Tennessee. \$ 7 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

## Thursday, April 20

**Open forum**—review of campus efficiencies, both academic and business-oriented, with provost and vice chancellor for administration and finance. 3:30 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-7321)

**Films That Matter**—"The Godfather" (Francis Ford Coppola, 1972). 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2324)

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

**Dance recital**—"Spring into Dance," original student choreography in tap, hip-hop and lyrical jazz; and "For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls," parody of "The Glass Menagerie." 7:30 p.m. HA. (227-3672)

## Friday, April 21

**Crisis Communication Day**—featuring Kathleen Fearn-Banks, associate professor, University of Washington and author of "Crisis Communications: A Casebook Approach." 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-5386)

**Spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation.** 3 p.m. FAPAC. (227-7100)

**Dance recital**—inaugural showcase featuring original choreography and performance by Western faculty. 7:30 p.m. HA. (227-3672)



**Concert**—blues rocker Kenny Wayne Shepherd. \$ 8 p.m. RRAC. (227-7722)

## Saturday, April 22

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

**Conference**—second annual Smoky Mountain Undergraduate Research Conference on the History of Mathematics. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Room 214 Mckee Building. (<http://paws.wcu.edu/despeaux/2smurchom.html>)

**Tuckasegee River Cleanup**—22nd annual event. Meet 11 a.m. Lawn, UC. Cookout 5 p.m. (227-3466)

## Sunday, April 23

**Spring into Summer**—"Turtle Talks: Regional Reptiles." 2:30-3:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

## Monday, April 24

**MFA artist talk series**—Jasmine Sadki. 4:30 p.m. Room 223, FAPAC. (227-3597)

## Tuesday, April 25

**Lady Catamount softball doubleheader**—vs. Gardner-Webb. \$ 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

## Thursday, April 27- Friday, April 28

**Second Carolinas MicroOptics Triangle Symposium**—"Nano Rapid Prototyping for Photonic Structures." \$ Various locations. (227-2435)

## Thursday, April 27

**Mountain People Folklife Series**—"Cherokee Traditional Fishing Methods, Fishing Holes and Fish Names," Lora Taylor, Cherokee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Mark Cantrell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 6 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

**Banquet**—second annual Service Learning Awards, featuring speaker John Barnhill, executive director, North Carolina Campus Compact. 7-9 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7234)

## Friday, April 28

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

## Saturday, April 29

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

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

## Sunday, April 30

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

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

**Performance**—Luma, technocircus that uses dark as a canvas and light as a brush. \$ 3 p.m. FAPAC. (227-2479)



## 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](http://www.wcu.edu/mhc))

**Slideshow Spotlight, MHC**  
**APRIL:** "Working the Land" describes the past, present, and future of farming in Southern Appalachia, particularly Western North Carolina, through commodities such as corn, tobacco and livestock.

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](mailto:Reporter@email.wcu.edu).  
Submit items for the university's online calendar at least one week prior to the event.

## Western Hosts Undergraduate Math Research Conference

Della Fenster, associate professor of mathematics at the University of Richmond, will deliver the keynote address "Mathematics: A Question of History" at the Second Annual Smoky Mountain Undergraduate Research Conference on the History of Mathematics.

The event, to be held at Western Carolina University on Saturday, April 22, starts the day of undergraduate presentations on topics from "Zero-phobia" to "Florence Nightingale: Statistician." Fenster will speak at 10 a.m. in Room 214, McKee Building about whether the history of mathematics is about problems or the people who solve problems.

The Mathematical Association of America is helping fund the conference, which is designed to create opportunities for undergraduate students to present mathematically oriented talks and to expand their knowledge of theory, history and applications. Presenters include students from Western, Davidson College, Auburn University at Montgomery and University of North Carolina-Asheville.

For more information, check out [paws.wcu.edu/Despeaux/2smurchom.html](http://paws.wcu.edu/Despeaux/2smurchom.html) or contact Sloan Despeaux at (828) 227-3825 or [despeaux@wcu.edu](mailto:despeaux@wcu.edu). — by **Teresa Killiam**

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## SACS Update

### Quality Enhancement Plan Fosters Intentional Learning at WCU

The Quality Enhancement Plan being developed at Western as part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process proposes the development of intentional learners – students who are purposeful and self-directed, engaged in their own learning, and goal-oriented.

The QEP advocates a greater synthesis of the student's overall university experience—the integration of academics with such areas as residential life, service, leadership and career awareness. Students should be introduced to a pathway that fosters intentional learning—a path that might begin as early as recruitment and continue through orientation, university experience and freshman seminar courses, advising, selection of major, undergraduate research, service learning, co-ops and internships, and career education.

The QEP Committee is focusing on specific learning outcomes related to the notion of creating more opportunities for intentional learners, with primary strategies for implementing and assessing the plan to be derived from the completed learning

outcomes. The committee is requesting input from university constituents, and a review and approval process for the plan will be in place during the fall semester. On-site reviewers will evaluate the QEP in April 2007 in terms of topic focus, institutional capability to sustain the plan, involvement of the university community in identifying an area of need related to student learning, and ability to assess the effectiveness of the plan.

The QEP topic is a culmination of a year's exploration of topics that are significant to Western's mission as an institution; feedback from multiple academic departments, staff representatives, current students and alumni; and an investigation of quantitative and qualitative indicators of student performance and perceptions.

Anyone with questions or comments about the QEP should e-mail co-chairs Scott Philyaw and Brian Railsback, who will share those views with the committee. A draft of the introduction to the QEP may be downloaded from the WCU-SACS Web site: [www.wcu.edu/sacs](http://www.wcu.edu/sacs).

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► **Maurice Phipps**, professor of health and human performance, recently received the Frank Lupton National Service award from the Wilderness Education Association. Phipps also published the article "Teaching and Evaluating Instructor Effectiveness Using the Instructor Effectiveness Questionnaire and the Instructor Effectiveness Check Sheet Combination" in the *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning* with former graduate students Aya Hayashi of Indiana University and April Lowendoski and Allison Padgett of WCU. He also published the article "Application of Leadership Theories: Examples from the Western Carolina University 2004 Teton Course" with Hayashi in *The Proceedings of National Conference for Outdoor Leaders*. Phipps and Hayashi also edited these proceedings. Phipps published a chapter titled "Emergence and Development of Outdoor Adventure Education in North Carolina" with Ed Raiola of Warren Wilson College and Debbie Singleton of WCU's health and human performance department in the book "Introduction to Leisure Services in North Carolina."

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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](mailto:Reporter@email.wcu.edu).