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, 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.
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 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.

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.

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-ordinated 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.

WCU NewsFile

The Nominees Are . . .

continued from page 1

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.”

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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. PAC. (227-7324)

Thursday, April 13
Staff 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. (227-3234)

Friday, April 14
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. $. 4 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. S. 2 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Monday, April 17
MFA artist talk series—Kellea 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

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. (227-3234)

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)

Monday, April 24
MFA artist talk series—Jasmine Sadik. 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

Thursday, April 27
Mountain People Folklife Series—“Cherokee Traditional Fishing Methods, Fishing Holes and Fish Names,” Lara Taylor, Cherokee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Mark Cantrell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 6 p.m. MCHC. (227-7129)

Saturday, April 29
Open House—for prospective students and their families. 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. RRAC. (227-3168)

Sunday, April 30
Lady Catamount softball—vs. College of Charleston. Southern Conference game. $. 1 p.m. CSC. (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. (227-5329 or 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.

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

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)

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 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 or contact Sloan Despeaux at (828) 227-3825 or despeaux@wcu.edu. — by Teresa Killiam

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.

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.”