

the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

Western Staff Honored for Service

Members of the Western family took time from their workday duties to honor the contributions of 90 employees and 16 retirees during the 32nd annual staff service awards luncheon Monday, July 18.

“This is the day of the year when I am reminded most that the university is truly a community,” Chancellor John Bardo said. “Collectively, the 90 people we honor today have contributed 1,235 years of service to the university and the state.”

In the 32 years since the awards program began, 2,859 employees have been recognized for 24,310 years of service, Bardo said. “That is a powerful and impressive record of service and dedication,” he said.

Bardo also presented the Judy H. Dowell Outstanding Support Staff Award to Faye Deitz, student services assistant for the Master of Business Administration Program. Deitz, who was among 22 employees nominated for the honor, joins previously announced Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award winners George DeSain, professor of electronics engineering technology, and Tom Frazier, print shop manager, as Western nominees for the Governor’s Award for Excellence.

Deitz also was recognized for 35 years of service to the university and state.

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Faye Deitz receives the Judy H. Dowell Outstanding Support Staff Award from Chancellor John Bardo. Deitz, who was also recognized for 35 years of service to the university and state, will now compete for the Governor’s Award for Excellence.

Dianne G. Lynch Named Chief of Staff for Administration

Move over, C.J. Cregg. There’s a new woman in town with the title “chief of staff” on her business card.

Much like the politically savvy female character from the television drama “The West Wing” who finds herself ascending the ranks of the administration of the fictional Bartlett administration, Dianne G. Lynch has risen to the role of chief of staff for the Bardo administration.



Dianne Lynch

Chancellor John W. Bardo recently announced that Lynch, who has served as assistant to the chancellor since January

2003, is being promoted to the position of chief of staff, effective immediately.

“This change more accurately reflects the broad scope of Dianne’s duties and responsibilities within the Chancellor’s Division and for the university as a whole,” Bardo said in making the announcement. “She provides coordination and cooperation with other senior executive officers on virtually any matter

of interest to my office, and she serves as Western’s liaison to a broad range of important external constituencies,

including federal and state government officials.”

Prior to being named to the position of assistant to the chancellor, Lynch directed the university Equal Opportunities Office. She came to Western in 1996 from the Jackson County School System administration, where she served as director of secondary and vocational education.

Lynch holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Tennessee and a master’s degree in education from East Carolina University. She also completed the prestigious Management Development Program at Harvard University in 1997.

Staff Service Awards

Continued from page 1

Three employees – Linda Bain (Children’s Developmental Service Agency), Hildegard B. Morgan (Hunter Library) and Cindy R. Parker (Controller’s Office) – received awards for 30 years of service. Receiving honors for 25 years of service were Barbara N. Ashe (Office of the Chief Information Officer), Phillip Leslie Farmer (Facilities Management), Carroll Gregory (Residential Living), Beth Robinson (Human Services), Dennis Rogers (Health and Human Performance), Chip Shuler (Facilities Management) and Pat Wike (Research and Graduate Studies).

Twenty-year service honorees were Shirley R. Bateman (WCU Programs in Asheville), Billie Bell (Children’s Development Service Agency), Allie J. Carter (Residential Living), John Clark (Information Technology), Teresa C. Ensley (Hunter Library), Homer Harris (Facilities Management), Yvonne Hooper (Financial Aid), Lisa Hoyle (Distance and Continuing Education), Dixie Lawson (Information Technology), Susan B. Lewis (University Bookstore), Steve McClure (Health and Human Performance), Joe McFalls (Residential Living), Billy Metcalf (Residential Living), Brenda Moore (Hunter Library), Carol Oxendine (Educational Leadership and Foundations), Greg Plemmons (Controller’s Office), Dona R. Potts (Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship) and Mildred Faye White (Food Services).

Retirees receiving recognition were Deborah Blethen (Children’s Developmental Service Agency), Mary C. Brault (Food Services), John Brooks (Campus Vending), James E. Buckner (Facilities Management), Robert Childers (University Bookstore), James Claybo (Facilities Management), Herbert Conley (Residential Living), Sue Deitz (Distance and Continuing Education), Nancy DeSain (English and Music), Sharon Gammon



Among the Western family members honored July 18 were, from left to right, retirees John Brooks (Campus Vending), Charles Gibson (Facilities Management) and Nancy DeSain (Music and English); and Cindy R. Parker (Controller’s Office), who was recognized for 30 years of service.

(Anthropology and Sociology), Charles Gibson (Facilities Management), Ellavee Gordon (Mail Service), Mary Lou Millwood (College of Education and Allied Professions), Harold Neely (Information Technology), Ruth Patterson (Residential Living) and David F. Peters (Children’s Developmental Service Agency).

Employees with 15, 10 and five years of service also received service awards.



Western employees recognized for 20 years of service include, from left to right, Dixie Lawson (Information Technology), Susan B. Lewis (University Bookstore), Allie J. Carter (Residential Living), Homer Harris (Facilities Management), Dona R. Potts (Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship), Lisa Hoyle (Distance and Continuing Education) and Greg Plemmons (Controller’s Office).

Knotts Named Associate Dean of Graduate School

H. Gibbs Knotts, director of the Master of Public Affairs Program, has been named associate dean of the Graduate School.

Knotts, assistant professor of political science and public affairs at Western since 2000, will assist the dean with graduate student recruitment efforts, marketing and promotion of graduate degree programs, curriculum development and review, graduate faculty reviews and academic policy development.

“Gibbs Knotts will be a valuable asset to the university as we continue to expand our graduate degree offerings,” Provost Kyle Carter said in announcing the appointment.



Gibbs Knotts

WCU Calendar

July 25 - August 28

July

Monday, July 25–Friday, August 5

Tiny Tot Swim Program—swim lessons for youngsters ages 1 to 5 years. Registration: \$28 per child. Children ages 1 to 3 meet weekdays 5:30–6 p.m. Children ages 3 to 5 meet weekdays 6:15–6:45 p.m. Three-year-olds may take either class, based on skill level. Reid and Breese pools. (227-7397)

Tuesday, July 26

Folkmoot USA festival—Groups representing Latvia, Germany and Indonesia will perform traditional music and dance. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 12 and under. Advance tickets are available at Western's Office of International Programs and Services, Room 273, Belk Building. A portion of the proceeds support international programs at Western. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7494)

Thursday, July 28

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—local musicians share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. Open to pickers and singers of all ages and experience levels and also to those who want to just watch and listen. 7–9 p.m. Lawn, A.K. Hinds University Center. Rain location, Grandroom, University Center. (227-7129)

Friday, July 29

SACS orientation session—*SACS Matters*—*Quality Counts* to help staff and faculty understand the SACS Review process. This session will help employees learn about QEP and how it will affect them, and other topics. 10 - 11 a.m. Room 203, Jordan-Phillips Field House. Registration is required. <http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp>

Presentation—*Macon County Voices*, a collection of filmed interviews, personal storytelling, advanced mapping and projection technologies, designed to stimulate conversations about shared hopes and concerns for long-range land use planning for the region. 10 a.m. Hospitality Room of the Ramsey Activity Center. (227-3442)

Monday, August 1

Arts Studio Tour—Students enrolled in Western's Master of Fine Arts Program will give a behind-the-scenes look at the new art studio facilities. 11 a.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (227-3597)

August

Wednesday, August 3

2005 Western Open Golf Tournament and Preseason Social—Annual gathering open to all Western alumni, Catamount Club members and friends of Western. Noon. Golfers must sign up by Aug. 2. Entry fee is \$80. 12:00 p.m. Porch social and dinner will be held at 6 p.m., cost is \$35 per non-golfer. Waynesville Country Club (227-7377)

Friday, August 5

Summer Commencement—7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center

Monday, August 8 - Friday, August 19

Tiny Tot Swim Program—swim lessons for youngsters ages 1 to 5 years. Registration: \$28 per child. Children ages 1 to 3 meet weekdays 5:30–6 p.m. Children ages 3 to 5 meet weekdays 6:15–6:45 p.m. Three-year-olds may take either class, based on skill level. Reid Gym pool. (227-7397)

Thursday, August 11

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—local musicians share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. Open to pickers and singers of all ages and experience levels and also to those who want to just watch and listen. 7–9 p.m. Lawn, A.K. Hinds University Center. Rain location, Grandroom, University Center. (227-7129)

Sunday, August 14

Crafts at the Center—Alwin Wagener, blacksmith demonstration. 2–4 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, H.F. Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)

Thursday, August 18

Opening Assembly—for faculty and staff. Reception, 8:30 a.m. Assembly, 9 a.m. Performance Hall, Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Friday, August 19

Concert: Dwight Yoakam and Charlie Daniels Band—two-time Grammy Award-winning country music star Dwight Yoakam with special guest, fiddling phenomenon Charlie Daniels. Proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity and other charities. Admission is \$39.50 or \$49.50. 7:30 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7722 or 866 WCU-FEST)



Dwight Yoakam

Tuesday, August 23

Valley Ballyhoo—Annual welcome back celebration, featuring food, fun and music, for students and the community to kick off fall semester. 4:30 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center Lawn (227-7206)

Thursday, Aug. 25

Traditional dance—Informal dance gathering open to anyone with a hankering to kick up their heels. 7–9 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center, third floor (227-7129)

Sunday, Aug. 28

Crafts at the Center—Doris Pannell, gourds demonstration. 2–4 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE
CULLOWHEE, NORTH CAROLINA CENTER

Slideshow Spotlight

July: *Islands in the Clouds* tells the story of the Blue Ridge Parkway, from its depression-era origin to its current popularity as a tourist highway.

August: *Bells in the Valley*.

Gallery B:

Movers & Makers: Doris Ulmann's Portrait of the Craft Revival. A compelling view of the story of the 20th-century Appalachian craft revival and the people who made it happen.

(227-7129) or www.wcu.edu/mhc/

Submissions:

E-mail news items and calendar notices to:

Reporter@email.wcu.edu.

Submit items for the university's online calendar at least three weeks prior to the event.

SACS Update: Committees Work to Prepare for Visit

At a recent orientation sponsored by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' regional office in Atlanta, representatives of Western's SACS Leadership Team learned that the university is well on its way to reaffirmation of its accreditation.

Tentative dates for an on-site visit by a SACS team have been set for April 2-4, 2007. "While much work remains to be completed before Western can receive an official nod from the Commission on Colleges of SACS, the Leadership Team is confident that the review is heading in the right direction and plans for the upcoming academic year are well under way with heavy involvement from two additional committees," said Carol Burton, SACS review director.

A major step in the process is the identification by the Quality Enhancement Plan Committee of a working topic to guide its work this summer: "From Students to Educated Citizens: Learning Through Engagement (Enhancing Student Learning by Application of Knowledge, Experiential Education, and Professional Endeavor in a Regional and Global Community)."

The committee selected the topic based on feedback from the university community – including students, staff, faculty, administrators, board of trustee members, alumni and others – along with a review of student perceptions of their experiences at Western as analyzed by the National Survey of Student Engagement, and the results of internal and external scanning processes by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Subcommittees are investigating the following areas: Context

(history and mission of Western; regional and global initiatives and relationships; faculty and student research; enhancing learning through engagement—past, present, future); Application of Knowledge (liberal studies; service learning; research; faculty and student engagement); Experiential Education (academic programs and outreach; internships; distance education; service learning; co-ops); Professional Endeavor (post-baccalaureate programs; professional programs; senior and graduate seminars; fellowships; careers); and Assessment and Evaluation (qualitative and quantitative measures for determining success of the QEP; internal and external tools for assessing student learning; strategies for disseminating and using results).

Other QEP Committee members are reviewing the drafts in relation to implementation timeline, resources and institutional infrastructure, technology, institutional sustainability, references and plan focus. The Commission on Colleges of SACS will evaluate Western's QEP in terms of its focus, course of action/goals, capacity (human, financial, physical and educational resources), assessment, and five-year impact report.

The Compliance Committee also is very active this summer with members drafting responses to standards on institutional effectiveness, governance, faculty, educational programs, services and resources. Action plans for areas that require follow-up in terms of partial compliance or noncompliance also are being developed.

Additional information on the SACS Review at Western can be found at www.wcu.edu/sacs.

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