Poet Laureate To Give Reading

The nation’s newly appointed poet laureate, Ted Kooser of Nebraska, will bring his straightforward style of Great Plains-flavored verse to Western for a public reading on Sunday, Nov. 7.

Kooser’s appointment as the 13th “poet laureate consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress” was announced Aug. 12 by James H. Billington, librarian of Congress.

“Ted Kooser is a major poetic voice for rural and small-town America and the first poet laureate chosen from the Great Plains,” Billington said in announcing the appointment. “His verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways.”


Railsback To Undertake 110-Mile Ride For Scholarships

Railsback rides again! Brian Railsback, head of the Honors College, will re-start a fund-raising tradition when he begins a two-day, 110-mile bicycle ride for pledges from the campus to the top of Mount Mitchell.

Funds raised through the ride will be earmarked for the Honors College’s scholarship fund for academically gifted students.

Railsback plans to leave the campus early Wednesday morning, Oct. 27, and follow U.S. 23-74 from Sylva to Balsam Gap, where he will head north on the Blue Ridge Parkway. He hopes to make it to Asheville that night, and then follow the parkway past Asheville and on to the summit of Mount Mitchell, at 6,684 feet the highest peak in the East, on Thursday, Oct. 28.

Railsback initiated a series of fall pledge rides to raise money for the Honors College scholarship fund shortly after he was named acting dean of the college in July 1997. He completed a lone ride to Mount Mitchell over three days in November 1997 despite encountering rain, fog, snow and lightning en route.

Three students joined Railsback for an October 1998 pledge ride, with the group pedaling from Cullowhee to Mount Mitchell in two days. The third annual ride in October 1999 included Railsback and five students attempting to bicycle all the way from Cullowhee to Raleigh – a 409-mile trip – over five days. The bicyclists completed about 140 miles of that trip before pulling the plug because rain and dense fog made conditions too dangerous to continue.

Railsback left his leadership position in Western’s Honors College in 2000 to become head of the university’s English department. After four years in that role, Railsback came back to the Honors College as interim dean earlier this year after Jill Gahnassia, who had served as dean since 2000, decided to return to a teaching position in the English department.

Railsback said he plans to use the same trusty mountain bike that carried him on previous pledge rides during the upcoming
Railsback Ride
Continued from page 1

They’re also listed in the 80-page “Partner Up!” handbook, but not everyone got a handbook with a pledge form this year. Instead, employees got a new flyer with directions to www.ncsecc.org for details. “Western is saving money by sending only a few handbooks to each department,” Murdock says. “That helps keep administrative costs down so that nearly every penny of each donation goes to the charity of your choice.” Western is piloting the effort to reduce campaign costs this way. It would be ironic if that also contributes to a decline in donations, he said.

The State Employees Combined Campaign ends this year on Oct. 31.

Poet Laureate
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Bohemian Alps,” was chosen as the Best Book by a Midwestern Writer in 2002 by Friends of American Writers.

Kooser also is the author, with his longtime friend Jim Harrison, of “Braided Creek: A Conversation in Poetry,” for which the two poets received the 2003 Award for Poetry from the Society of Midland Authors. Harrison visited Western last spring to present a reading as part of the university’s Spring Literary Festival.

Kooser’s other awards and honors include two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Pushcart Prize, the Stanley Kunitz Price, the James Boatwright Prize and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council.

Kooser’s presentation at Western is being sponsored by the university’s Parris Distinguished Professorship in Appalachian Cultural Studies and Honors College. The event is part of the Honors College’s Jerry Jackson Lectures in the Humanities Series.

For more information, contact the Honors College at (828) 227-7383.

Fine Arts To Hold Open House

The department of art will hold its first-ever open house in the recently completed art wing of the Fine and Performing Arts Center from 4 until 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4.

The event is open to the public free of charge. It is the first public activity in Western’s new $30 million centerpiece for the arts and humanities, a 122,000-square-foot facility that includes classrooms, studios, galleries and support space for students majoring in the arts and humanities, and a 1,000-seat hall for Broadway-quality music and theatrical performances.

Although finishing touches still are being applied to the facility’s performance wing, the art department moved into its side of the building earlier this year and is ready to show off its new home. The Nov. 4 open house will feature exhibits of student and faculty work, guided tours, refreshments, music and “seasonal” surprises.

Chancellor John W. Bardo will deliver welcoming remarks at 5:30 p.m., followed by a gallery update by Martin DeWitt, founding director of the museum of art. The art museum includes four separate art galleries comprising more than 4,470 square feet.

State Combined Campaign Deadline Draws Near

They’re also listed in the 80-page “Partner Up!” handbook, but not everyone got a handbook with a pledge form this year. Instead, employees got a new flyer with directions to www.ncsecc.org for details. “Western is saving money by sending only a few handbooks to each department,” Murdock says. “That helps keep administrative costs down so that nearly every penny of each donation goes to the charity of your choice.” Western is piloting the effort to reduce campaign costs this way. It would be ironic if that also contributes to a decline in donations, he said.

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October 25-Nov. 7, 2004

Monday, Oct. 25
Lady Catamount soccer — vs. Furman. Southern Conference match. 4 p.m. Schrader Field. (227-7335)

Lecture — Donald Harington, acclaimed author of 12 novels, will read from his work. Harington has been hailed by critics as “America’s greatest unknown novelist.” 7:30 p.m. Forsyth auditorium. Jerry Jackson Lectures in the Humanities Series. (227-7264)

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Lady Catamount volleyball — vs. East Tennessee State. Southern Conference match. 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7335)

Concert — music faculty and guest violinist Mary Byrd Daniels perform music of Stravinsky, including The Soldier’s Tale, Wind Octet and Sonata for Two Pianos. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. Catamount Concert Series event. (227-7242)

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Speaker — Dave Pallone, former Major League Baseball umpire, whose best-selling autobiography, Who’s Really on First?, offers a revealing look at the sport through the eyes of a gay man. 7 p.m. auditorium, Forsyth Building. (227-3550)

Thursday, October 28
Lady Catamount volleyball — vs. Chattanooga. Southern Conference match. 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7335)

Recital — trumpet studio. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Friday, October 29
Recital — music students. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Lady Catamount soccer — vs. The Citadel. Southern Conference game. 4 p.m. Schrader Field. (227-7335)

Saturday, October 30
Open House — for prospective students and their families. Registration 8:30 a.m. Concourse, Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7317 or 877-928-4968)

Recital — Karen Clarke, violin, and Lillian Buss Pearson, piano. Works by Brahms, Debussy, Shostakovich, Kreisler and Sarasate. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Sunday, October 31
Lady Catamount soccer —vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference game. 4 p.m. Schrader Field. (227-7335)

November

Monday–Tuesday, November 1–2
Movie debut — Trust, a psychological thriller written, produced and directed by Western senior Tom Mone. Tickets: free with Western ID card, $1 general public. 9 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center theater. (227-3644)

Tuesday, November 2
Concert — Faculty Woodwind Quintet. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Wednesday, November 3
Appalachian Folklife series—“Mountain People, Mountain Land: Proctor Community.” 7 p.m. Auditorium, Mountain Heritage Center, H.F. Robinson Building. (227-7129)

Thursday, November 4
Open house — Western’s department of art will hold its first-ever open house. 4-7:30 p.m. Chancellor’s welcoming remarks at 5:30 p.m. followed by a gallery update by Martin DeWitt. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (227-7210)

Concert — choral groups, including the Concert Choir, Early Music Ensemble, Catamount Chamber Singers, and Dr. William Martin, tenor. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Sunday, November 7
Anti-Facts! —series designed for children ages 6 through 12 to explore the region’s natural and cultural heritage, presents “Cherokee Pottery.” No admission charge, but reservations required. 2:30–3:30 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, H.F. Robinson Building. (227-7129)

Speaker — Ted Koozer, poet laureate of the United States and author of 10 collections of poetry and prose, will read from his works. 7:30 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center theater. (227-7383)

EXHIBITS

Mountain Heritage Center
October SLIDESHOW
SPOTLIGHT: Going Places: Travel and Tourism in Western North Carolina portrays the history of the tourism industry that developed in the early 19th century.

Gallery A
Migration of the Scotch-Irish People
—Permanent

Gallery B
The Crafting of Mountain Music, through January 5, 2005.
An interpretation of the historical musical instruments common to the Southern Appalachian region.

Gallery C
All Things Iron: Practical and Decorative Ironware, through December 17.
More than 200 iron items dating from the 1600s to the 1900s, including implements, blacksmith and farrier tools, and lighting devices.

Lobby
People of the Land: Cherokee Heritage Sites in the Cullowhee Valley.
The latest reports on the finding of summer archaeological digs in the Cullowhee Valley.

The Dulcimer: An Appalachian Folk Tradition, through June 2005.
Traces the development of the dulcimer from its origins to today’s traditional folk instrument.

Submissions:
Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 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.
Ask about how to prevent students’ alcohol abuse, and everyone’s got an opinion. But the facts are harder to find. That’s why Western is taking part in a national research project that may become the model for how to reduce high-risk drinking on college campuses. And all members of the campus community can help.

Elizabeth Likis-Werle, a licensed professional counselor and an alumna of Western’s community counseling graduate program, is the new campus and community organizer for the Study to Prevent Alcohol-Related Consequences (SPARC). The study is supported by state and federal funds through a grant from Wake Forest University’s School of Medicine.

SPARC’s premise is that high-risk drinking among college students is part of a culture that can be changed and that social norms – the behavior that is accepted and expected – must also change. Deciding how to do that effectively is the work of a coalition Likis-Werle has put together, including business owners, law enforcement and other public officials, the faith community, university faculty, staff and students, and others.

As the SPARC coalition identifies and implements the combination of strategies most likely to work at Western, a research team from Wake Forest will be collecting data from student questionnaires, surveys of university housing staff members, and alcohol-related incidents. That information will indicate whether the drinking culture and student behaviors are, indeed, changing over the study’s three-year cycle.

“What makes this project unique is working together on overall strategies that research shows can make a difference,” Likis-Werle says. “The goal, of course, is to change those elements of the campus and community environments that contribute to high-risk drinking and to make those changes effective and lasting.”

Faculty, staff or students who would like to be a part of the effort, should call Likis-Werle at 227-7469 or send a message to elikis@email.wcu.edu. For details, go to http://www.wcu.edu/pubinfo/news/alcoholresearch04.htm