Provost Praises Program

CARTER CALLS ACHIEVEMENTS “REMARKABLE”

S
ervice learning was incorporated into 49 courses during the 2005-2006 academic year, compared to about 20 in the previous year. The number of faculty offering service-learning activities more than doubled.

This achievement was highlighted in the Student Affairs Annual Report, issued in the summer.

The annual Symposium, Awards Ceremony, Community Service Learning Fair, expansion of the Faculty Fellows Program, and membership in Campus Compact marked a successful year for the Service Learning Department.

Provost Kyle Carter called the achievements “remarkable.”

“I am particularly impressed with the breadth and number of service learning projects in which our faculty are engaged,” Dr. Carter said in a letter to Service Learning Director Glenn Bowen.

“Please extend my congratulations to all individuals who worked with you to produce such remarkable results this past year.”

Katie Graunke Nominated for National Humanitarian Award

K
atherine (Katie) Graunke, a Western Carolina University junior, has been named one of two North Carolina finalists for National Campus Compact’s Howard R. Swearer Humanitarian Award.

“This award recognizes students for their innovative strategies to address community issues and needs,” explained Leslie Garvin, Assistant Director of North Carolina Campus Compact. “It also recognizes their efforts to build and sustain civic engagement among their peers and within their institution.”

This followed Graunke’s selection as a winner of the inaugural NC Campus Compact Community Impact Student Award, presented on November 11 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Two winners of the Community Impact Student Award are selected as state finalists for the $1,500 national award named for Howard R. Swearer, co-founder of Campus Compact. Five students will receive the award.

Virginia Bates of Appalachian State University is the other NC nominee for the Swearer Award.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,000 college and university leaders, dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service learning in higher education.

Graunke, a Medford Service Learning Scholar, is a winner of NC Campus Compact’s inaugural Community Impact Student Award. (See page 16)

Assistant Director Appointed

Kathryn Sims has been appointed Assistant Director of Service Learning at Western Carolina University.

Before joining the Western staff, Ms. Sims was the Program Services Manager for the Girl Scouts of Little Cloud Council in Dubuque, Iowa. She has considerable experience in coordinating and managing volunteer programs.

“Kathy brings new dynamism and enthusiasm to this new position,” said Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning.

“She will play a pivotal role in expanding and strengthening co-curricular programming.”

Kathy Sims earned a B.A. in Communication Arts & Sciences from DePauw University (Greencastle, Indiana) and an M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
Western Endorses Declaration on Civic Responsibility

Western Carolina University has endorsed the Presidents’ Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education. In the Declaration, college and university leaders throughout the United States have expressed the commitment of higher education institutions to their civic purposes.

“We believe that the challenge of the next millennium is the renewal of our own democratic life and reassertion of social stewardship,” the institutional leaders have declared. “In celebrating the birth of our democracy, we can think of no nobler task than committing ourselves to helping catalyze and lead a national movement to reinvigorate the public purposes and civic mission of higher education. We believe that now and through the next century, our institutions must be vital agents and architects of a flourishing democracy.”

The Office of the Chancellor submitted Western’s endorsement of the Declaration recently after the Service Learning Department, through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, recommended that Chancellor Bardo become a signer.

Campus Compact, the national coalition of higher education leaders, coordinates the initiative. Some 540 college and university leaders have endorsed the Declaration.

Below are excerpts from the Declaration:

“We are encouraged that more and more students are volunteering and participating in public and community service, and we have all encouraged them to do so through curricular and co-curricular activity. … [W]e take responsibility for helping [students] realize the values and skills of our democratic society and their need to claim ownership of it. …

“Higher education is uniquely positioned to help Americans understand the histories and contours of our present challenges as a diverse democracy. It is also uniquely positioned to help both students and our communities to explore new ways of fulfilling the promise of justice and dignity for all, both in our own democracy and as part of the global community. We know that pluralism is a source of strength and vitality that will enrich our students’ education and help them learn both to respect difference and to work together for the common good. …

Key Institutional Force

“Higher education – its leaders, students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni – remains a key institutional force in our culture that can respond, and can do so without a political agenda and with the intellectual and professional capacities today’s challenges so desperately demand. Thus, for society’s benefit and for the academy’s, we need to do more. Only by demonstrating the democratic principles we espouse can higher education effectively educate our students to be good citizens.

“How can we realize this vision of institutional public engagement? It will, of course, take as many forms as there are types of colleges and universities. And it will require our hard work, as a whole and within each of our institutions. We will know we are successful by the robust debate on our campuses, and by the civic behaviors of our students. We will know it by the civic engagement of our faculty. We will know it when our community partnerships improve the quality of community life and the quality of the education we provide. …

“We ask other college presidents to join us in seeking recognition of civic responsibility in accreditation procedures, Carnegie classifications, and national rankings and to work with governors, state legislators, and state higher education offices on state expectations for civic engagement in public systems.”
what they're saying ...

- Great experience!
- This experience was useful and eye-opening.
- Good real-life application.
- Very good experience and helpful for my degree; learned a lot about what I would be doing in my job.
  - Students in Dr. Julie Johnson’s Marketing/MKT 310 course.
- The ... service component helped me to understand Employment Law better as well as understand how the subject matter could be useful in everyday life.
- The experience allowed me to expand my knowledge.
- The service experience helped me to better understand what I was learning.
- This was a great opportunity to help some of the local businesses in our community by providing them with something they need. It helped me to better understand the material and got me involved in the surrounding community.
  - Students in Dr. Lorrie Willey’s Labor & Employment Law/LAW 440. The 18 students developed an Employment Policies Handbook for the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC).
- The real-life experiences were very helpful in my choosing a career path and helping me understand what the class material actually means. ... Strict academic grades [would have been] be somewhat of a hindrance when applying myself to real-life situations.
- I loved this class. What I learned about mediation has helped me in life.
  - Students in Prof. Jayne Zanglein’s Community Mediation/LAW 393, whose service-learning project was with Mountain Mediation Services.
- I love getting involved with the local community, and I think it is good to have classes like this that bring both of them together for a learning experience.
  - Student in Dr. Rey Treviño’s Event & Facility Management & Marketing/SM 435 course in Spring 2006. The 17 students did their service-learning project at Fairview Elementary School, Sylva.
- The students were sincere in their efforts, good listeners and reliable with appointments... [The program can be improved by] taking the projects to and through implementation.
  - Community Partner for CIS 455 service-learning projects in Buncombe County.
- Working with special populations in isolation may not be an accurate reflection of what a future public school teacher will experience. However, the time and space to work intimately with these students will greatly enhance their empathy toward them, as well as their confidence in designing individually-specific project modifications when needed.
  - Dr. Erin Tapley, ART 465
- Service-learning experiences provide students with a first-hand view of what life in the real world will be like. They get a sampling of group dynamics, personality conflicts and how to resolve them positively to arrive at a positive conclusion.
  - Prof. Robert Berry, Emergency Management/EMGT 326, whose 18 students were assigned to four community sites in Spring 2006.
- [Students] went to court, observed intake, observed mediations, and spent the semester learning the skills to be a mediator. [They did this] through role plays, guided discussion and reflection journals; they also wrote an observation paper.
  - Prof. Jayne Zanglein, Community Mediation/LAW 393.
- I enjoyed learning more about Western’s commitment to service learning at the recent symposium. ... I found it very enlightening and worthwhile.”
  - Don McCown, Director of Human Resources and Volunteer Coordinator, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.
- I, again, had a wonderful experience at the symposium – meeting new people and gathering several excellent ideas.
  - Mary Teslow, MLIS, RHIA, Assistant Professor, Health Information Administration, WCU.
“Leamos y aprendamos”:
BUILDING SKILLS, BREAKING BARRIERS

By Patricia Hackett

In the Spring semester of 2006, the WCU Spanish 232 class and I embarked on a five-week adventure. We set out to work on a Spanish Literacy Project as the service-learning component of the course.

Spanish 232 students went to Cullowhee Valley School to read storybooks in Spanish, one-on-one, to kindergarten and first-grade Hispanic students once a week. Each on-site session lasted for 45 minutes and the entire project lasted for four weeks. The Spanish students conversed with the ESL (English as a Second Language) students and explained anything that they might not have understood from the reading. WCU Spanish students also informally tutored the ESL group to recognize and read some words in Spanish. In some cases, they helped students to improve their English reading ability and conversational skills as well.

Throughout the years that I have taught Spanish, I have noticed that it is very hard for students to apply the grammar concepts they learn in the classroom into real-life experiences. Moreover, for students studying any foreign language, it is difficult to grasp not only the target language, but the culture as well. Many students of foreign languages become bored, frustrated and/or detached from reality by being forced to learn a meaningless group of words and verbs without a practical application. Service learning for the foreign language class serves as the medium through which students can apply ... language in a relevant way.

One of the objectives of this project was for WCU Spanish students to realize that “language takes place in a sociocultural context in which language acquires and conveys meaning among individuals and communities,” as Josef Hellebrandt and Lucía T. Varona write in Construyendo Puentes (Building Bridges: Concepts and Models for Service-Learning in Spanish) (1999). Another objective was for Cullowhee Valley ESL students and families to know that bilingualism is a positive skill. Language proficiency can enhance one’s social and professional life in the multicultural and multilingual country in which we live.

The Jackson County Public School System, which includes Cullowhee Valley School, has an ESL program which helps students who have a non-English language background, or limited English proficiency, to learn and or improve their English language skills. According to Paul Strop, Jackson County ESL Program Coordinator, during the 2005-2006 academic year, the ESL program had 120 students registered, and 101 of those students were of Hispanic ancestry. Thirty of those ESL students attended Cullowhee Valley School and were Spanish-speaking students.

The results of this service-learning experience and the writing of their Spanish storybooks were remarkable for them and for me as their instructor. Their language skills improved, as did their cultural awareness and appreciation for the Latino culture. One student expressed very well what she and most of her classmates learned in this Spanish reading literacy project: “I am thankful for this opportunity to serve the community and to show my student how special she is to be a part of her Hispanic community, and to show her how important it is to stay in touch with her culture and language amidst another culture.”

Learning a foreign language and having the chance to apply one’s knowledge through a service-learning project should be everyone’s opportunity. I believe that this experience helps students to discover other points of view and to gain a general awareness of the cultural framework of the people who use the language, in this case, Spanish. Learning a foreign language also helps one to appreciate one’s own native language, as well as to become more perceptive. In a multicultural society that desperately requires us to be tolerant of different cultures, this service-learning project provided a means to accomplishing that goal. In addition to helping students improve their language skills, the service-learning project also served to help them break through cultural barriers.

I encouraged my students to go through this self-discovery process by creating journals and writing “transformation” papers. For the final cultural course project, students wrote a children’s storybook in Spanish with a classmate. Some of the storybook titles are: Carlito Viaja al Norte, Mi Cumpleaños Favorito, El Guacamayo Viajante, El Perrito Negro, El Viaje Fantástico, and Los Instrumentitos.

Patricia Hackett is Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Modern Foreign Languages Department at Western Carolina University.
Featuring Five Faculty Fellows . . .
INTEGRATING SERVICE LEARNING INTO THE CURRICULUM

Jeanne Dulworth (Applied Sciences), Glenda Hensley (Arts & Sciences), William Richmond (Business), Mickey Randolph, and Steve Carlisle (The Honors College) are the Service Learning Faculty Fellows for the 2006-2007 academic year.

The primary purpose of the Service Learning Faculty Fellows Program is to promote and support the integration of service learning into the curriculum. Fellows assist in integrating the philosophy, pedagogy, and process of service learning into the academic programs of each college. The program began in Fall 2004.

Jeanne Dulworth
is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work. She has been teaching undergraduate courses in Human Behavior and Social Environment as well as Social Work Practice courses at Western since Fall 2000. She began teaching in the new MSW program in 2006.

A WCU alumna (Social Work graduate), she received her Master’s in Social Work (MSW) from the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Prof. Dulworth’s practice experience is in mental health with children and families and children with special needs. Her research interests include student/client empowerment, working with families, adoption, and foster care.

“I am excited about service learning and am looking forward to conducting research in the area of service learning and social work,” she said.

Glenda Hensley is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre in the Communication, Theatre, & Dance Department. She holds a BFA in Costume Design from UNC Greensboro and an M.A. in Drama Education from Prescott College in Arizona.

In addition to her teaching and design responsibilities, Ms. Hensley is Co-Director of the Theatre in Education (TIE) program that was launched during the 2005-2006 academic year. In connection with the TIE mission, she facilitates TIE workshops for WCU students and community children and educators.

A founding member of Early Stages Productions, a Colorado Theatre for Young People, Prof. Hensley continues to focus her research on how the arts enhance, authenticate, and integrate learning across the curriculum, and promote social and environmental literacy through engaged service-learning structures.

Glenda Hensley

William (Bill) Richmond is an Associate Professor in Computer Information Systems in the College of Business. He teaches classes in Systems Analysis & Design and E-commerce as well as in the MBA core.

He has a B.A. in Mathematics from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Purdue University.

Before coming to WCU, Dr. Richmond taught at Texas A&M, George Mason University, and the University of Rochester. He also worked as a systems analyst, project manager, program manager, and corporate vice president at various consulting companies. His clients ranged from small dot-com startups to NASA headquarters.

Mickey Randolph
has been at WCU since 1988. A Professor in the Department of Psychology, she teaches at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and is involved in the undergraduate internship program. Previously, she was Director of the School Psychology Graduate Program and Department Head in Psychology.

Dr. Randolph’s research interests include family violence and prevention/early intervention programs. She is currently focused on a program entitled “LifeFit,” which addresses the issue of obesity in children and adolescents.

She completed her B.S. in Psychology at the College of Charleston in 1980 and her Ph.D. in School Psychology in 1987 at the University of South Carolina.

Mickey Randolph

Steve Carlisle, the Associate Dean of the Honors College and the Director of the Humanities Program, is a 1973 graduate of Western Carolina University. He received his MFA from Florida Atlantic University where he graduated summa cum laude in 1977.

Mr. Carlisle worked in New York and Los Angeles as an actor/director/teacher for more than 30 years before returning to the Cullowhee campus to teach theatre in 1999. He lives in Flat Rock, NC, where he did a radio show called It's About Life. The show centered on retirees and their trials, tribulations, and triumphs when encountering advanced age.

A member of the WCU Service Learning Advisory Committee, Mr. Carlisle has been a Service Learning Faculty Fellow since 2005.

Steve Carlisle

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Meet the Medford Scholars

Five undergraduates have received Medford Scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. They are Ramona Dowdell, Mary Ferrick, Joshua Fisher, Katherine Graunke, and Amber Poling. Medford Scholars serve as peer educators and as orientation and reflection leaders in the service-learning program.

Ramona Dowdell is majoring in Social Work and taking a minor in Spanish. She started her sophomore year in August.

Ramona is also a Resident Assistant (Scott Hall), Vice President of the Organization of Ebony Students (OES), and a Western’s BEST Counselor.

Mary Ferrick is a volunteer at Scotts Creek Elementary School and with Mountain Mediation Center in Sylva and has created a diversity awareness/peace building program for young children. On campus, she is a member of Phi Alpha/SSWA.

A junior, Mary is pursuing a degree in Social Work.

Joshua Fisher is pursuing a degree in Physical Education and plans to teach and coach in his hometown after graduation. His favorite quote comes from Vince Lombardi: “It’s not the will to win that matters, but the will to prepare to win.”

A sophomore, he is “excited about being a peer educator in Service Learning” through the Medford Scholars Program.

“It takes preparation to be a true asset to someone in need,” Joshua asserted. “I am looking forward to the challenge of becoming a valuable asset to the students at Western Carolina, as well as the surrounding community.”

Katherine (Katie) Graunke is a junior and a Social Work major, concentrating in School Social Work and Counseling, with a minor in Special Education.

Katie serves as the Vice President of Service in the Alpha Phi Omega (national service fraternity) Petitioning Group, trying to get APO re-chartered on campus. She participated in two Alternative Spring Break trips to aid in hurricane relief, one to Florida in 2005 and another to Mississippi in 2006. In addition, Katie is VP of Administration for Western Carolina University’s Relay for Life for the second year in a row; a Peer Mentor in the Student Leadership Institute as well as the Honors College Mentor Program; and a member of Omega Chi Upsilon, the National Residence Hall Honorary.

Amber Poling is also a Social Work major. A senior, she is involved with C.L.A.W (Campus Leaders Advocating Wellness), a radio show called In the Know: College Health Show, and as a volunteer with REACH of Jackson County.

Amber participated in the NC-ACTS! AmeriCorps program last year.

Selection Committee

Dr. H. Gibbs Knotts, III, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, was chairman of the Medford Scholars Selection Committee. Other members were Jeff Hughes, Associate Director, Hinds University Center; Alessia Zanin-Yost, Reference Librarian and Visual & Performing Arts Liaison, Hunter Library; Christina Smith, Executive Director, The Community Table and a former Medford Scholar; and Dr. Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning.

Service Learning Advisory Committee

A 17-member Service Learning Advisory Committee has been appointed for the 2006-2007 academic year. The committee is composed of faculty, administratoress, students, and community partner representatives.

Members are Mardy Ashe, Director of Career Services & Cooperative Education; Jimmi Buell, Health Promotion Coordinator, Jackson County Department of Public Health; Steve Carlisle, Associate Dean, The Honors College; Carla Catalan, student; James Contratto, Assistant Director for Programs, Hinds University Center; Ramona Dowdell, student/Medford Scholar; Sandy Frazier, Director of Development, Housing, & Community Outreach, REACH of Jackson County, Inc.; Russ Harris, Outreach Counselor, Educational Talent Search; Karen Lunnem, Ed.D., Associate Professor and Department Head, Physical Therapy; Lynn Mathis, Assistant Director, Department of Residential Living; Anna McFadden, Ph.D., Director of the Coulter Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning; Emma Miller, D.Div., Early Learning Specialist, Region A Partnership for Children; Sara Stoltenburg, Director of Women’s Programs and the Women’s Center; Walter Turner, Director of Student Judicial Affairs; Lorrie Willey, J.D., Assistant Professor, Marketing & Business Law; Jeffrey Zelenka, Director of Administration, Finance & Special Programs, Institute for the Economy and the Future; and Glenn Bowen, Ph.D., Director of Service Learning.
CAMPUS COMPACT: John Barnhill, then Executive Director of North Carolina Campus Compact, visited Western last academic year and delivered the keynote address at the Service Learning Awards Ceremony. Mr. Barnhill also had a series of meetings with campus groups and university officials, including Dr. Kyle Carter, Provost, and Dr. Robert Caruso, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Seen here with Mr. Barnhill are Vera Guise (left) and Professor Debra Burke, then Service Learning Faculty Fellows, and Dr. Glenn Bowen, Director. “John Barnhill is a consummate professional who raised service learning to a new level of credibility and visibility within North Carolina,” VC Caruso wrote as part of collection of comments read at a farewell dinner held in Winston-Salem, NC, in May. The dinner was a highlight of the NC Campus Compact Conference for Service Learning Directors. “He has been a tremendous resource to campuses throughout the state, and the creation of the North Carolina Campus Compact will remain central to his legacy,” Dr. Caruso added. Dr. Lisa Keyne is the new Executive Director of North Carolina Campus Compact.

Photo: Donna Welch

“Young Cherokee” Promotes Cultural Understanding

Students from Western’s Theatre in Education (TIE) program returned in September for encore performances of “Young Cherokee” at the Cherokee Fairgrounds Pavilion. The event featured Cherokee artists, storytellers, and performers as well.

The TIE students also performed at a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

“The program combined arts-based learning, service to the community, and the need for cultural and environmental literacy,” according to a news release from the WCU Office of Public Relations.

The dramatic production closed a year in which WCU students hosted theatre workshops for Cherokee students and produced “Young Cherokee,” an educational play that WCU students adapted to better reflect the stories and beliefs of the members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and then performed for school-age audiences. Their goal was to promote cultural understanding through performing the story of a young Cherokee boy who accepts responsibility, overcomes fear, and shows respect for all things as he battles an underwater panther and a thunderbird.
Caruso Calls for “Deep Learning”

Dr. Robert Caruso, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Dr. Kyle Carter, Provost, opened the 2nd Annual WCU Service Learning Symposium by speaking on “Engagement and Outreach as Part of the Mission of Higher Education.”

“Among our hopes for students who engage in service learning are that they will engage in … deep learning through the strong connections they make between community service and the curriculum,” Dr. Caruso said. He noted that service learning was “regularly identified as a natural bridge between the curriculum and co-curriculum and between campus and community.”

Dr. Caruso said that at Western, our institutional aspirations include “preparing students to become contributing and informed citizens in a global community and encouraging students, faculty, and staff to display several traits of citizenship, including … service to others.”

The Vice Chancellor challenged higher education leaders to “improve the degree to which we place our institutions in the service of the communities in which we reside – educationally and economically.”
Western Now an “Engaged Campus” – Provost Carter

Western Carolina University is now an “engaged campus,” Provost Kyle Carter announced at the opening session of the Service Learning Symposium.

Provost Carter said: “Our mission statement now formally announces us as an engaged campus that is utilizing teaching, research, and service to improve the quality of individual lives as well as the quality of life in the region.”

According to Dr. Carter, “We have adopted engagement as a primary model of instruction to support learning on this campus. … Our strategic directions form a paradigm that really embraces service learning on our campus. … These new directions give our faculty license to go outside the classroom and be creative. It gives our faculty license to be engaged in the community.”

Provost Carter added: “We want our students to have learning experiences that provide depth and meaning. And the way to do that is to have them engaged in meaningful community activities that relate directly to the discipline.”

The theme of the daylong Symposium, on June 8, was “Promoting Significant Student Learning and Civic Engagement: Principles, Procedures, and Practices.” Participants were from higher education institutions in the Southeastern United States and local community agencies.
Residential Living Staff Participate in Service Day with REACH of Jackson County

Residential Living staff participated in a Service Day with REACH of Jackson County on July 24. Led by Associate Director Michaelle Finch, the 15-member group contributed about 40 hours of service at the REACH Village and the REACH Thrift Store in Sylva. Sandy Frazier, Director of Development, Housing, & Community Outreach, provided an overview of programs and services offered by the nonprofit organization. Rita Watkins, Acting Manager of the Thrift Store, participated in the orientation. Other members of the Residential Living group were Mistie Bibbee, Lynn Mathis, Brian Boyer, Keshia Martin, Laura Walter, Brian Nieft, Stephen Rice, Kimberly Hardaway, Peggy Cope, Venus Miller, Heather Hanami, Michelle Murray, Mary Alice Snead, and Marcella Crocker. The Service Learning Department coordinated the reflection exercise. REACH of Jackson County has been providing services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1978.

Mary-Alice Snead, an Associate Resident Director, participates in the service project at REACH.

Photo: Michaelle Finch

Fraternity Members Perform Service at Appalachian Farm

Members of various WCU fraternities performed volunteer work at Appalachian Homestead Farm & Preserve in September. Inter-Fraternity Council President B.J. Pendry and Greek Organizations Advisor Tim Inman, in collaboration with the Service Learning Department, were the main organizers of the project.

The group did “a superb job,” reported Vera Guise, Director of Appalachian Homestead Farm & Preserve.

Mary Jo Hooper Cobb, a member of the Farm Board, tests the steps down the embankment, which the fraternity members constructed.

Brothers take a break for this photo.

Some of the brothers with Tom Rodgers (left), a Farm volunteer. Mr. Rodgers led a group up the mountain cutting a scenic trail to the waterfalls.
In Our Library

From time to time, we will publish information on books and journal articles in the Service Learning Department. In this issue, we present information on a series of books focusing on service learning in various disciplines. – Editor


These practical guides are intended for faculty and service-learning staff. They combine the “how-to” information and rigorous intellectual framework that faculty seek. The distinguishing characteristic of the series is that the contributors to each volume are scholars writing for peers in their own discipline. Each volume discusses how service learning can be implemented within a specific discipline, and what that discipline contributes to the pedagogy of service learning.

At Service Learning Symposium 2006

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**
Monday, January 15
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Community Service Learning Fair**
Thursday, February 8
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
University Center Grand Room

**Alternative Spring Break Trips**
Friday, March 2 - Sunday, March 11

**Third Annual Service Learning Awards Ceremony**
Thursday, April 26
7:00-9:00 p.m.
University Center Grand Room
(Nomination deadline: March 30)

**Third Annual Service Learning Symposium**
Thursday, June 14
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
University Center

ABOVE: Dr. Robert Bringle, Director of the Center for Service and Learning at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (second from right), was the Lead Presenter at Service Learning Symposium 2006. Other Symposium participants included (from left) Dr. Anna McFadden, Interim Director of the Coulter Faculty Center; Dr. Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning; Jane Adams-Dunford, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Dr. A.J. Grube, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

BELOW: Bart Andrus of Western Carolina University and Jason Denius of East Carolina University participate in the Symposium.
Students, Staff, and Faculty Volunteer on Make a Difference Day

BRIDGE PARK PROJECT: The men’s rugby team and other WCU students, staff, and faculty were on hand to help Sylva kick off a fundraising campaign for downtown improvements called the Bridge Park Project. Their service on Make A Difference Day included helping with set-up and clean-up and managing the children’s activity area.

AT MOUNTAIN TRACE: On October 28, many WCU students — including Joe Loyd, William Jones, and Jordyn Reed (right) — as well as WCU staff members participated in Make A Difference Day by visiting Mountain Trace Nursing Center in Webster. Representatives of Kappa Sigma fraternity were among the students who went to Mountain Trace to spend time and play bingo with the elderly residents.

Photos: Kathy Sims, Service Learning Department

PUMPKINFEST: Tanisha Jenkins, Director of Multicultural Affairs & the Multicultural Center, joined other WCU staff, faculty, and students who contributed their time and energy at Make a Difference Day project sites in Jackson and Macon counties. At PUMPKINFEST in Franklin, volunteers helped with kids’ activities and a parade, controlled traffic, and performed other tasks on “America’s largest day of doing good.”
Western Carolina University students, faculty, and staff donated more than 500 pounds of food items to the Jackson County Food for Kids program recently.

The donation was made to the Community Table, a Sylva-based nonprofit organization, as a WCU homecoming community service project.

“Members of the campus community were very responsive,” the Service Learning Department reported. “Students, as well as faculty and staff, obviously understand the importance of addressing health risks associated with obesity in children. We collected highly nutritious foods, which will help to foster healthy eating habits in children.”

The Community Table recently launched the Food for Kids program to provide nutritious meals on weekends to children of Jackson County. “The program’s goal is to serve children who do not have adequate access to food on the weekend and who might otherwise go hungry,” said Christina Smith, Executive Director of the Community Table.

The program will initially support about 40 children at Smokey Mountain Elementary School. Each weekend they will receive backpacks containing breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items.
SERVICE LEARNING IN LEGAL STUDIES: Debra Burke, Professor of Marketing and Business Law, presented a paper entitled “Service Learning: Opportunities for Legal Studies in Business” at the 81st Annual Conference of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business in August in St. Petersburg, FL. Professor Burke was the recipient of one of three Distinguished Conference Proceedings Awards, and her paper is scheduled to be published early 2007 in the *Journal of Legal Studies Education*. The Academy of Legal Studies in Business is the national organization for professors who teach Business Law in colleges and universities. At the conference, Prof. Burke’s discussant was enthusiastic about the prospect of incorporating service learning in Business Law courses and was impressed with the support of service-learning activities at WCU. Prof. Burke is a former Service Learning Fellow.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR: Former Medford Scholar Alice Lelia Morrison of Davidson, NC, was one of 16 students who were designated University Scholars for completing their entire undergraduate careers at Western with grade-point averages of 3.90 or better. They participated in the Spring 2006 commencement. Alice received a Jacob Spencer Service Learning Scholarship in 2005.

FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY: Dr. Rey Treviño, former Service Learning Fellow for Education & Allied Professions, is Facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Service Learning. Other FLC members are Dr. Mickey Randolph (Psychology), Dr. Bill Richmond, Glenda Hensley (Communication, Theatre & Dance), Jeanne Dulworth (Social Work), Kathy Sims and Glenn Bowen (Service Learning Department). Service Learning is currently one of 14 FLCs at Western, Amy Martin, Coordinator of FLCs, has reported. An FLC is composed of six to 12 faculty members and requires a commitment to meet, work, collaborate with colleagues on the FLC, and disseminate the outcomes of the FLC’s work to the campus.

COMMITTEE: Dr. Lori Unruh, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has been appointed to the 2007 Program Selection Committee for the North Carolina Campus Compact Service-Learning Conference. Leslie Garvin, Assistant Director of NC Campus Compact, announced that representatives from six member institutions of the coalition comprise the committee. The 9th Annual NC Campus Compact Service-Learning Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 21, Elon University.

SUMMER SUCCESS: The service-learning summer projects for Western’s Educational Talent Search Program were “a big success,” reported Todd Murdock, Talent Search Director. Maggie Donahue and Russ Harris were on the coordinating team. They thanked the Service Learning Department for support. The Service Learning Department also assisted the Upward Bound Math & Science Program with its summer program, which included a service project at Marble Springs Outdoor Center. Director Erin McManus expressed the participating group’s appreciation.

PLAYGROUND CLASSIC: The Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition recently hosted “The Playground Classic,” a fundraising event to support the children in Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools. Western Carolina University facilitated one of the activities and provided additional support. WCU representatives involved in “The Playground Classic” were: Dr. Dale Carpenter, Associate Dean of the College of Education & Allied Professions; Kimberly Elliott, Janice Holt, Kenneth Hunt, Cyndi Margiotta, Ruth McCready, Patsy Miller, and Kathy Sims. The Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition is a WCU Service Learning community partner.

TRICK OR TREAT: The ANTH 473/573 class participated in the annual Trick-or-Treat activity in Cherokee on October 31. Eighteen students – both undergraduates and graduate students – participated. “We gave out candy and information about programs here [at Western] to around 2,000 kids there,” Dr. Anne Rodgers, Professor of Anthropology, reported. “The children were accompanied by parents or other adults, and the university was recognized as being involved in the community.”

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Two WCU student teams made presentations at the 14th annual North Carolina Campus Compact Student Conference in Raleigh on November 11. Keith Shipley, Bill Ackerman, and Todd Henry presented a workshop entitled “Service Learning in the Wild: National Public Lands Appreciation Day.” They discussed their involvement with the park system and the personal impact of their involvement in the service-learning project. Lauren Kaufmann and Julie Mann made a presentation on “Improving Communities: One ‘Bridge’ at a Time.” In their presentation, Kaufmann and Mann discussed the Bridge Park Project in Sylva – a community effort to create an attractive, accessible, and functional public park. Students Lacy Ensley and Lori Saddler also contributed to this presentation. The conference theme was “Constructing a Better World.” Kathy Sims, Assistant Director of Service Learning, accompanied the students to the conference.
Civic Place – “A Special Place in the Village”
Where Students Live, Learn, and Serve Together

Nineteen WCU students are now living, learning, and serving together as part of a new community called Civic Place, based in The Village.

As plans for this living-learning community heightened just before the start of the 2006-2007 academic year, current and prospective students, as well as their parents, became as excited as the organizers. Now, the program is in full swing, and residents of Civic Place are poised to make a difference through their involvement on campus and eventually across the Western NC region.

The Service Learning Department, in collaboration with the Department of Residential Living, has created Civic Place specifically for students who want to make a difference through community service/volunteer activities and civic engagement. The program includes seminars and workshops, experiential exercises, academic support, a film/video series, community service projects, and Alternative Spring Break trips.

Fall semester seminar sessions included “Personal Values and Vision,” “Group Dynamics and Team Building,” and “Decision Making.” Guest presentations included “Managing Your Time to Achieve Academic Success” by Kimberly Marcus, Director of Disability Services; “Developing Civic Responsibility” by Dr. Christopher Cooper, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs; and “Becoming Effective Leaders and Agents of Social Change” by Bart Andrus, Associate Director for Leadership.

Civic Place also hosted a dinner with former members of Congress Jay Dickey (R-AK) and Elizabeth Patterson (D-SC) as part of the Congress to Campus program, organized by the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs.

Consulting Course Prepares Student for Internship

The hands-on experience that Hendersonville native Sarah Desforge took from Prof. Bruce Berger’s increasingly popular Business Consulting class at Western helped her land a summer internship in Asheville that, to her, seemed too good to be true: working on a marketing plan for the Biltmore Estate Equestrian Center.

“It’s the perfect job for me, and I’m so excited about it,” the WCU Office of Public Relations quoted Desforge as saying. She is a WCU graduate student who grew up riding horses and attending horse shows at Biltmore. “I don’t think I would have gotten the job without the Consulting class, because it gave me real experience to draw on.”

Service learning is an integral part of Prof. Bruce Berger’s courses.

The Consulting course links students in Western’s graduate programs with clients seeking assistance through small business assistance programs at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and WCU.

“Some business owners will say, ‘We need cash flow. We don’t have the business. We need to get customers,’” noted Prof. Berger, Visiting Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Law. “Some will say, ‘I don’t understand my accounting. I am losing money and don’t know where it’s going.’”

The clients are diverse – manufacturers, shopping centers, mom-and-pop retail businesses, recreational facilities, and even a research laboratory.

“We conduct marketing surveys, create marketing plans, price out different expenses for advertising on TV, radio, billboards or newspapers and give the client a marketing plan that works in their budget,” Prof. Berger explained. He developed and began teaching the Business Consulting class two years ago.

The consulting projects conclude with a 15-minute briefing and a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation before the professor, the dean, the client, and others. Dr. Leroy Kauffman, Dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning, attended Desforge’s presentation.

For Desforge, who is pursuing a Master’s in Business Administration, the consulting class project enabled her to create a marketing plan for St. John’s Market Place, a Fletcher, NC shopping center. She proposed quarterly events and helped with a grand opening that attracted about 500 people and generated a mailing list for tenants.

That experience helped her land the internship with Biltmore.

MBA student Sarah Desforge landed her dream internship helping market the Biltmore Estate Equestrian Center this past summer, thanks to a WCU Business Consulting class that had a service-learning component.
MEDFORD SCHOLAR RECEIVES COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Medford Scholar Katherine M. Graunke has been named a winner of North Carolina Campus Compact’s inaugural Community Impact Student Award. The award recognizes outstanding leadership and innovation in volunteerism and service learning.

Graunke was one of 21 students selected for the award. State Senator Janet Cowell and Representative Linda Coleman presented the awards at a special luncheon on November 11. The luncheon was a highlight of the 14th Annual North Carolina Campus Compact Student Conference at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

“These students truly understand the role that young people can play in transforming society,” said Leslie Garvin, Assistant Director of NC Campus Compact.

“Katie Graunke has exemplified outstanding leadership and has demonstrated a creative approach in her volunteer and service-learning endeavors both on the WCU campus and in the wider community,” said Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning.

“She has been instrumental in promoting and garnering support for diverse forms of engagement, including community service, service learning, community building, advocacy, and leadership. Her leadership abilities are evidenced by the growth of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) interest group, an enormously successful Relay for Life and other fund-raising events, a memorable Alternative Spring Break trip, and other achievements during the 2005-2006 academic year,” Dr. Bowen noted.

The 2006 Relay for Life at WCU raised more than $18,000 for the American Cancer Society.

In her role as a Medford Scholar, Graunke serves as a service-learning peer educator and reflection leader. She is pursuing a degree in Social Work with a minor in Special Education.

Julie Walters-Steele, former Director of the University Center, said she was “impressed by Katie’s maturity and her passion for service.” She remarked that “it is students like Katie who give us hope for a brighter future.”

Faculty member Leah Hampton, APO Advisor, described Graunke as “a stellar student” whose “abilities and perseverance inspire respect in others.” Professor Hampton said the success of APO’s service activities was “almost always the direct result of [Katie’s] solid work.”

Bart Andrus, Associate Director for Leadership, referred to Graunke’s “remarkable record of service and leadership” and added: “She is an excellent representative of service to the larger community and of the best we have at Western Carolina University.”

“The community service projects that I have done over the past two years have had a positive impact on my life,” Graunke noted. “The Alternative Spring Break project, in particular, showed me what a positive difference we can have on the lives of others.”

Juliet Thomas-Burras, Special Projects Coordinator at NC Campus Compact, said: “We applaud Katie and the other winners for their hard work, dedication and passion.”

NC Campus Compact is a coalition of 26 college and university presidents and chancellors, established to encourage and support campus engagement in the community.