Head of the Class
Teacher Education Program Earns High Marks
The statue of the Catamount mascot, a 2000 gift to Western from longtime benefactor Irwin Belk, has a new position of prominence on campus. Workers have relocated the bronze sculpture from its previous home off Centennial Drive to inside the traffic circle at the main entrance to the university.

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Making the Grade
Efforts to Ease Teacher Shortage Earn National Recognition

Student teacher Christie Walters is surrounded by some of her young friends at Scotts Creek Elementary School in Jackson County. Walters is pictured on the cover with (clockwise from left) Alex Hernandez, Alannah Quinn, Tony Houston and Leah Woodring.

Features
Partners in Preservation
University, Cherokee Collaborate To Revitalize Language, Culture

Going to the Dogs
Professor Breaks New Ground With Pet Breed Popularity Study

Some Good Sports
Baseball Legend’s Jersey Retired; Track Runs Circles Around the Rest

Reality Check
Business Grad Rubs Shoulders With Donald Trump on “The Apprentice”

The Western Wing
Catamounts Make Their Mark In Our Nation’s Capital

News and Notes
Catch Up with Classmates
A niuprise in the school-age population in North Carolina, combined with legislative demands for smaller class sizes and an increase in teacher qualification requirements due to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, is leading to what many are calling a looming crisis in the state’s classrooms. In fact, a study by North Carolina already is in the midst of a shortage of qualified teachers and that the situation is getting worse, as the state’s public and private colleges are producing only about 3,300 traditionally trained teachers needed annually. The quality of our teachers, curriculum and school leaders. "The SUTEP program at Western offers a proven model that is attracting national praise, and it shows how much can be achieved when our campuses and the local schools work together."

--- UNC President Erskine Bowles

...at Western that "it takes a partnership to prepare a teacher," he said. "By working closely with our school partners, we strive to prepare teachers who can help all students learn to a high level of academic achievement. We call it a ‘partnership for performance.’" Established in 1997 as one of 14 such partnerships in North Carolina, SUTEP has formal agreements with 80 schools in 17 WNC school systems and informal partnerships with the remaining school systems and charter schools in the region. Through the partnership, which also involves faculty members from Western’s College of Arts and Sciences, educators from local systems help provide a "real-world classroom" perspective to students in the university’s teacher education program. Teachers serve as clinical faculty, co-teaching selected courses with Western instructors in an effort to blend theory and practice, and as cooperating teachers working with faculty members on education research projects. Local school systems also provide pre-service field experience for Western’s student teachers – an activity that had been taking place long before the formal partnership began.

"North Carolina is facing an education crisis, and to compete in a knowledge-based global economy, we just have to strengthen our public schools and get more of our people better educated," said Erskine Bowles, president of the University of North Carolina system. "As a university, we have committed to make teacher education a top priority, and to do all we can to address the shortage of classroom teachers, as well as the quality of our teachers, curriculum and school leaders. The SUTEP program at Western offers a proven model that is attracting national praise, and it shows how much can be achieved when our campuses and the local schools work together as one team."

In keeping with that pledge to make teacher education a priority, the UNC Board of Governors has included initial planning money for a new education and allied professions building at WCU as part of its initial capital budget request to the N.C. General Assembly for the 2006-07 fiscal year. That is the first step in making the proposed $34 million project a reality. The superintendent of one of WCU’s local school system partners said she is not surprised by the show of state support and the national recognition Western’s teacher education program is receiving. "I am a graduate of WCU with in-school teaching degrees and I am very thankful for the outstanding education I received," said Anne Garrett, "78 MS ’82 Eds ’84, superintendent of Haywood County schools. "The faculty and staff at Western are very deserving of this prestigious award, and they provide quality teachers and administrators for our classrooms and schools in Haywood County. We have an excellent partnership with the university and have several of our staff teaching under-graduate and graduate classes."

Garrett and other educators say that it is through such partnerships and other innovative methods that North Carolina can begin to solve the teacher shortage. In addition to traditional teacher preparation programs, the university provides alternative training programs, such as the NC TEACH program. NC TEACH (Teachers of Excellence for All Children) is designed to help alleviate a statewide shortage of public school teachers by training, supporting and retaining highly skilled, mid-career professionals who are interested in becoming teachers. Initiated in 2000, NC TEACH is a joint, statewide effort of the State Board of Education and the University of North Carolina, including Western.

Regardless of whether teachers are getting prepared to work in North Carolina classrooms through a traditional teacher education program or through a mid-career lateral entry initiative, Western is ready, willing and able to do its part to help train the teachers of tomorrow, said Chancellor John W. Bardo.

"Western was founded as a teacher education institution, and preparing highly qualified teachers has always been among the hallmarks of this university," Bardo said. "That responsibility has become even more critical because continuing prosperity for our region, state and nation must be built upon the foundation of education. We are proud of the vital role our teacher education graduates are playing in ensuring that future, and we are thrilled that our partnership with local school systems has received this significant national recognition."
New Center Provides Support to Beginning Teachers

By BILL STUDENC

As part of a university priority to combat a shortage of qualified teachers in North Carolina classrooms, Western’s newly established Center for the Support of Beginning Teachers is helping Western North Carolina school systems to prevent beginning teachers from experiencing “career burnout” and leaving the profession.

Housed in Western’s College of Education and Allied Professions, the center builds upon existing partnerships with the public schools to try to stem the tide of new teachers abandoning the profession before they have completed five years of service.

“A large part of the teacher shortage we are experiencing in North Carolina is due to issues we are facing in retaining qualified teachers in the classroom,” said Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions. “This new center is part of an effort to help keep beginning teachers in the classroom and provide them support to persist and be successful in the teaching profession — something that we often call ‘building the lesson buck’.”

Through the center, Western teacher education faculty are collaborating with beginning teachers, mentors, central office personnel, principals, researchers and policy makers on the development of effective programs to help new teachers successfully make the transition into the profession. The center provides resources and professional development activities tailored to teachers in WNC, including experiences intended to result in highly qualified teachers who implement classroom activities that promote high student performance.

The center also is developing an e-mentoring project to provide Web-based support to teachers, including online classrooms and discussion boards designed to provide the opportunity for new teachers to share resources, lesson plans, instructional strategies and classroom management tips with colleagues from schools at five rural school systems. “We want to build a community of learners outside the constraints of geography,” Holt said. “The virtual network increases new teachers’ confidence by adding the critical support they need to stay in the classroom. We also are trying to be respectful of beginning teachers’ demanding schedules by allowing them to participate at a time and place most convenient to them, rather than require that they drive to the central office for meetings after school.”

First-year teacher Catherine DeWeese ’04 said the e-mentoring program is helping her make a successful transition from sitting in a classroom to standing in front of one. “I was skeptical at first of how this forum would work for me and how much information I could gain from it,” DeWeese said. “As it has turned out, the online chats have been an enormous benefit to me. I feel at ease in this setting, and I believe this has led to more honest and open discussions with my peers.”

Program, which offers an array of direct support services to all educators in North Carolina who serve students with disabilities. The purpose of the TSP is to reduce teacher stress and burnout, increase teacher efficacy, reduce the gap between research and practice, and retain teachers in the profession. Services offered include collaborative problem-solving sessions, electronic communication and collaboration, on-site consultation, information and material searches, and mentoring. The TSP is completing its fifth year of operation, and the university is looking to replicate the program in the central and eastern regions of the state in the coming year.

The center also is creating a database to provide more contact information on universities and the state’s Teacher Retirement System. The database includes the names of the 15,000 teachers in North Carolina who receive retirement benefits. It also includes contact information for the retirement system, the teacher’s former school system, and the teacher’s former school. The database is being used to help new teachers connect with former teachers who are willing to provide guidance and support.

NCCAT Celebrates 20 Years of Professional Renewal

By CHRISTY MCCARLEY ’71 MA ’78

Robin Showalter of Sanford agreed. I returned to the classroom with a renewed spirit and dedication to my students and my profession. Without this experience, I sincerely believe I would have left the profession,” Showalter said.

More than 5,000 teachers arrive at NCCAT each year to attend five-day residential seminars that provide the gift of time to pursue ideas, meet colleagues from all over the state, and stretch their minds with new learning. Seminars cover a wide range of topics that take teachers on journeys of the mind. Through the years, teachers have built electric cars, painted Latino murals, met Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, catalogued wildflowers, tested water quality in streams, mapped the constellations, hiked the Appalachian Trail, cast their lines with commercial fishermen, studied the science of chocolate, recreated prehistoric tools, dabbed in DNA sampling and become scientific sleuths at simulated crime scenes.

Many seminars take participants on real-life journeys for experiential learning – to the streets of Manhattan for a behind-the-scenes study of the makings of Broadway shows, to Montana to retrace parts of the epic Lewis and Clark expedition, and to the Deep South to travel the roads of the civil rights movement – all in the name of renewing teachers’ zest for teaching, and for life.

Teachers are able to choose NCCAT adventures in the mountains and at the coast, and a major expansion will enable the center to broaden its programs even further. The former U.S. Coast Guard Station building near the North Carolina’s Outer Banks is undergoing renovations to provide an eastern campus.

With teacher shortages growing, NCCAT has emerged as a national model for providing new knowledge, support and encouragement to a vitally important profession. “I’m so proud of this place,” former Gov. Hunt said as part of a 20th anniversary celebration at NCCAT. “History is going to show that, in addition to our great university system, our two-year college system and our public schools, this is one of the best things that we’ve done in our state.”

Former Gov. James Hunt

The NCCAT campus in Cullowhee provides a welcoming retreat.

“We must find a way.” Those words, describing North Carolina’s critical need to attract and retain excellent public school teachers, inspired a unique idea. The words laid the groundwork more than 20 years ago for a residential center to provide experiences to renew the love for learning that first called them to the teaching profession.

The speaker was Jean Powell of Clinton, North Carolina’s 1983 “Teacher of the Year.” In an address that year to the Commission on Education for Economic Growth, headed by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., Powell said: “To attract and retain the best teachers, we must find a way to enhance their self-worth, pride of accomplishment and enthusiasm.”

The commission liked Powell’s idea. H.F. “Cotton” Robinson, then chancellor of Western Carolina University, was named to lead the planning committee for a center to foster excellence in teaching. Two years later, the state legislature established on the Western campus the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. The center, better known as NCCAT, was directed “to advance the art and profession of teaching.”

Gradually, teacher-by-teacher, word began to spread that North Carolina had a special place in the mountains just for them. Enrollment in seminars increased. Within four years, NCCAT outgrew its temporary headquarters in Madison Hall on the WCU campus. A permanent home on a hillside campus adjacent to the university opened in 1990. The new buildings, including a conference facility and two residences for visiting teachers, were given Cherokee names that mean “a place in the mountains to explore the human spirit.”

Teachers say that’s exactly what NCCAT seminars provide – a place to explore their spirits. “I went to NCCAT, and it was at a make-or-break point. ‘Am I going to stay in education? Am I not? I was getting disenchanted. And the week that I spent out there, I’m talking to others, interacting, learning and sharing, and that’s when it really hit me that education is what I’m supposed to do,” said Bill Melega of Chapel Hill.

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Cherokee Story Lives On
Partnerships Write Next Chapter
Series By TERESA KILLIAN

Western Carolina University students have dug spoonful by spoonful to unearth artifacts from ancient Cherokee settlements that once stood on land that has become the university’s campus. They wanted to learn more about the Cherokee people, who, despite the odds, have been an unwavering presence in the mountains for centuries.

The nature of the Cherokee Studies Program at Western, though, is changing – for the better.

“We have concentrated studies on Cherokee culture from historical and anthropological perspectives,” said Jane Eastman, director of the Cherokee Studies Program. “What it’s going to become, and what it should become, is a group of professors, staff and students at the university working with the Cherokee community not only for academic reasons but also to explore health issues, economic development and language revitalization.

“We hope to offer degree and certificate programs that support the expressed needs of the community. The university serves the region, and the Cherokee people are a very important community in the region – an amazing group of people with a long history in one place,” Eastman said.

The number of partnerships between WCU and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a sovereign nation less than an hour from Cullowhee, is growing. Tom Harkey, Sesqiyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies, and Roseanna Belt, director of WCU’s Cherokee Center, led a process of joint planning that resulted in a historic agreement with the tribe. The leaders of the university and the Eastern Band spoke at an event to celebrate the signing of the agreement, or memorandum of understanding. Chancellor John Bardo said the university, the Cherokee people and the Western North Carolina region are “inextricably intertwined.”

“The documents we are signing today are additional evidence of our commitment to engage with the people of Cherokee for the mutual benefit of the Eastern Band and the university, a reciprocal relationship symbolized by the fact that the documents we sign are written in both the Cherokee language and in English,” Bardo said. Principal Chief Michell Hicks ’87 said the long, strong relationship between the university and the Eastern Band is important to the future of the entire region. “We have become true neighbors to each other,” he said.

The planning process for the MOU yielded formation, also, of an ongoing, diverse task force to pinpoint issues and opportunities to work together. Lynne Harlan of the Eastern Band and Beth Tyson, director of WCU’s Cherokee Center, led a team to finalize the agreement.

Lofquist ’78 MAEd ’79 EdS ’88, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, co-chair the diverse group.

Another key development that has promoted and supported the partnerships is the establishment in 2000 of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. The nonprofit works to improve the quality of life of the Eastern Band and strengthen the region through supporting cultural preservation, economic and workforce development, and environmental protection. The foundation awards grants and convenes and brokers partnerships between the Eastern Band, regional neighbors and philanthropic organizations. Executive Director Susan Jenkins said more than $600,000 has been granted to seed ongoing initiatives in which Western is a partner.

“Our expectations are very high,” Jenkins said. “Whether we move forward on other projects depends on what the results are. So far, it has been very good.”

Grants resulting from partnerships have enabled Western to expand and diversify the Cherokee Studies Program. Today, slides in evidence such as Freeman Owle ’76 MAEd ’78 and Tom Belt work and teach on campus. Newly established Sesqiyah Assistantships help fund the work of graduate students interested in Cherokee studies, and Western has developed an interdisciplinary certificate program that allows students to get a graduate degree with a concentration in Cherokee studies.

A new language program is in development. A financial freedom program is hosted at WCU’s Cherokee Center. Foundation funds have enabled the university to help operate a program to revitalize scarce natural resources that traditional Cherokee artists use. They also support the exhibition of Cherokee artwork in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, which features signage in English and the Cherokee language, words that capture the sentiments of cooperation and hope: “Our Story Lives On.”

Q&A with Principal Chief Michell Hicks ’87

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians elected Hicks Chief in 2003. He holds an associate’s degree in accounting from Southwestern Community College and a bachelor’s degree in business management from Western. He became a Certified Public Accountant in 1994.

Western students have participated in archaeological digs on the campus in Cullowhee, which was home to Cherokee settlements lasting up until the Trail of Tears. Jane Eastman, director of Cherokee Studies, will launch a new traveling program this summer to take students to visit Cherokee and other mounds across the southeast.

Did you grow up on the Qualla Boundary (also known as the Cherokee Reservation)? Yes, but my family did live downstate for a few years during my upbringing.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

Did you ever dream about becoming Principal Chief someday?

I have always been interested in business. I never dreamed about becoming Principal Chief. ‘The opportunity just presented itself, and I felt like it was the right path at the right time.

How did you decide to attend Western?

WCU provided a quality education that also allowed me to remain close to my family and the Cherokee community.

How did you decide to major in business management?

This curriculum provided me the broad background to work toward my goal of assisting with or running a large company in the future.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love to fish and hunt and spend time with my family.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food would have to be snow crab legs.

Do you have a motto or words that you live by?

Work hard, be dedicated, and success will follow.

What are people often surprised to learn about the Cherokee Indians?

That we don’t live in teepees. We are educated and successful people who still maintain our authentic culture.

How did you learn to speak Cherokee?

Growing up, I would hear the Cherokee language and pick up a few words here and there. But when I became Chief, I asked Myrtle-driver (a fluent speaker) to tutor me on a regular basis.

What are your hopes for the future of the Eastern Band?

My hope for the future of the Eastern Band is that we continue to be leaders. We have always been progressive, and I think that will continue in both the social and economic arenas. I am proud of the strides we have made culturally in the face of great change, and I expect we will continue to protect and nurture our Cherokee culture so that we never lose our identity as a people.

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Project Songbird Takes Flight

What began as a request to translate “The Star-Spangled Banner” into Cherokee evolved into a new song, the “United Cherokee Nations Anthem,” which was recorded in a studio for the first time at Western Carolina University.

The anthem opens with a translation of “O say can you see,” but then takes its own course into messages of strength and the desire for peace. “It is our own anthem,” said Walker’s mother, fluent Cherokee speaker Myrtle Driver, who was presented with a copy of the finished product this spring. “Recording original songs in the Cherokee language for children and others to learn the language helps fulfill our mission.” This CD is only the first of several projects directed at Cherokee language revitalization, said Carrie McLachlan, WCU Cherokee studies coordinator. Future phases entail recording Cherokee language songs in musical styles from rap to reggae, and there is interest in working with nationally known Cherokee storytellers. Walker said they want to show young people that the Cherokee language is not just for the older generations. “It’s part of our identity,” Walker said.

Bruce Frazier, Carol Grotenes Belk Distinguished Professor in Commercial and Electronic Music, works at a university recording studio with Cherokee musician Paula Nelson.

A music sample is available at:
www.wcu.edu/pubinfo/news/2006/cherokeearthem.mp3

Historical Maps, Documents
Hunter Library has more than 800 reels of microfilm for a “Cherokee Documents in Foreign Archives” collection of documents including letters, diaries, census records, and narratives of Indian captures that directly mention the Cherokee Indians, Cherokee territory or Southern Indians. The library also maintains a Cherokee maps collection with reproductions from Great Britain, Canada and Spain that date primarily to the 17th and 18th centuries.

Resources Preservation
The rivercane, young white oak saplings and clay used by Cherokee artists are in scarce supply on the tribe’s land, and Western Carolina University is part of an initiative to help revitalize those natural resources. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation began funding the Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources, or RTCAR, early last year. Operated through WCU’s Cherokee Studies program under the leadership of director David Conda and program assistant Debra Standingdeer, grants have helped support research on rivercane, butternut restoration and the future availability of bloodroot, an essential dye plant for Cherokee basket makers.

Speaking Up
WCU Boosts Cherokee Language Classes, Immersion Schools

What schools offered Cherokee students 100 years ago in the name of education was a death sentence – a living death. Boarding schools designated for “civilize” Indian children stripped students of their Indian names, cut their traditionally long hair and forbade them from speaking their native languages.

Such schools have closed, but the damage is done: the Cherokee language is at risk of disappearing, and without it, many traditions and history will be lost, said Renaissa Walker, manager of the Kituwah Preservation and Education Program with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Walker’s mother, fluent Cherokee speaker Myrtle Driver, wrote the lyrics, and Cherokee artist Paula Nelson put them to music. The anthem, a gift to all three federally recognized Cherokee tribes, was officially adopted by all Indian tribes.

The library also holds 80,000 microfilm reels of Cherokee and Eastern Band of Cherokee language and community coordinator who is a fluent Cherokee speaker. The staff members will develop language courses and certification programs, recruit students to be Cherokee language teachers and develop a Kituwah Teaching Fellows Program.

Bruce Frazier, Carol Grotenes Belk Distinguished Professor in Commercial and Electronic Music, combined student and faculty horsepower with a Cherokee Preservation Foundation grant in order to record the music at a studio on campus. “We wanted to use the university’s state-of-the-art equipment for instructional purposes and to help support economic growth in Western North Carolina,” said Frazier, who was presented with a copy of the finished product this spring. “Recording original songs in the Cherokee language for children and others to learn the language helps fulfill our mission.”

This CD is only the first of several projects directed at Cherokee language revitalization, said Carrie McLachlan, WCU Cherokee studies coordinator. Future phases entail recording Cherokee language songs in musical styles from rap to reggae, and there is interest in working with nationally known Cherokee storytellers. Walker said they want to show young people that the Cherokee language is not just for the older generations. “It’s part of our identity,” Walker said.

A music sample is available at:
www.wcu.edu/pubinfo/news/2006/cherokeearthem.mp3

New Tools, Research
Sequoyah Assistants offer $12,000 a year each to two graduate students who will work 20 hours a week on a Cherokee of Native American research project. One of the students, Ren Frey (left), is helping create Cherokee language learning tools such as puzzle pieces with words and designing a computer game to help teach the language. Another, Angela Ragan, is collecting oral histories of Eastern Band veterans.

“The Cherokee language will die out within several generations if something is not done.”
— Cherokee Elder Tom Belt

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The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians selected the name “Di-shle-li-agi-a-ni-w” for honorary member Raymond Kinsland. In Cherokee, the word means “helper of young men.”

“It’s a beautiful language,” says Kinsland, 70, whose temporary teaching assignment at a Cherokee school in 1955 transformed into a life vocation.

Today, Kinsland leads the Cherokee Boys Club, which coordinates administrative and support services for the Cherokee Central School System. The club manages a school bus fleet, a charter bus service that serves Western, school food service, and vocational and leadership programs. Additionally, Kinsland, an announcer at high school football games, has decades of perfect attendance.

Freeman Owl ’76 MAEd ’78, a member of the Eastern Band and an elder-in-residence at Western, said Kinsland has long deserved the honorary doctorate Western recently bestowed on him. Kinsland gave everything to young people on the reservation – time, heart, and often his paycheck – to make sure young people could be paid when they first started working, Owl said. “He was just always a guiding light to each and every one of us,” Owl said. “He got us started in the right direction, continued with us and still is with us.”

Kinsland planned to make a career working on his family’s dairy, but, two weeks after graduating from N.C. State University in 1955, was approached about teaching vocational education at Cherokee schools. “The superintendent sent a lady with a portable typewriter over to the farm where I was milking cattle,” Kinsland said. “He agreed to help design the most historically accurate production, from the design of the costumes to the retelling of Cherokee stories. The students adapted the script to change a crawfish to a water beetle, for instance, in order to better reflect Cherokee stories of this region, said Sara Dodson, a senior theatre student and the play’s director.”

An “ahh” escaped from the fourth-grade audience as Western Carolina University sophomore Rachel All took slow, even steps onto the stage and raised her arms, letting golden rays drape from her costume.

That was when the Spanish education major from Charlotte knew she and the WCU Theatre in Education Company had done their jobs. She was a regal sun, and the students were paying attention to the traditional stories in the play “Young Cherokee.”

The company received help from WCU’s Cherokee Center and its director, Roussama Bolt, and other Cherokee elders and members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. They traveled to Cherokee and consulted with tribal members to help design the most historically accurate production, from the design of the costumes to the retelling of Cherokee stories. The students adapted the script to change a crawfish to a water beetle, for instance, in order to better reflect Cherokee stories of this region, said Sara Dodson, a senior theatre student and the play’s director.

“We learned so much about the Cherokee because we wanted to stay as true to the story as possible,” said Dodson, who plans to return to her home state of Florida after graduation to work with a drama ministry.

The Theatre in Education initiative has attracted attention at multiple conferences. The story of how the program connects college students with younger people in the community and creates opportunities for participants to experience literature, theatre, art and music will be presented again this summer at the American Alliance of Theatre Educators conference.

“Weaving cultural and environmental literacy and service learning into arts-based learning strategies creates so many possibilities for collaborative learning and teaching design,” Henley said. “Our goal is to create a Theatre in Education program that will serve as a model for both artistic excellence and significant learning.”
### Museum Schedule

**Summer 2006**

**WorldViews:** Selections from the Permanent Collection and New Gifts; contemporary art in all media continuing through September 14

**Natalie M. Smith:** HIV/AIDS mixed media installation continuing through May 14

**Lasting Impressions:** Native American Print Portfolio May 15 – June 11

**Master of Fine Arts Degree Program Thesis Exhibitions**

June 20 – July 15

**Host Lorenz Archer:** Black Mountain College Photographer August 15 – September 10

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### Toot Uncommon

WCU’s Resident Brass Quintet Headed to UK

**By BILL STUDNICK**

Certain faculty members at Western aren’t ones to blow their own horns… well, actually, they are, but you can’t really blame them. That’s because they’re the members of the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, the resident faculty brass quintet at WCU, and they’re bound for England, Wales and Ireland this spring.

The United Kingdom excursion in May is the second annual international tour for the SMBQ, which participated last year in the International Romentic Trumpet Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Stops on the upcoming trip include concerts at the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology in Galway, Ireland, the Royal Welch College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales, and the University of Wales—Swansea. The quintet also will be performing a children’s concert at the King Henry VIII School in Coventry, England, and joining the Jaguar Brass Band of Coventry in a benefit concert.

“We are very excited about this tour because it will help Western’s already active relationships with institutions in Galway and Swansea,” said P. Bradley Ulrich, professor of trumpet at WCU. “Since this year has been named the year to promote study abroad, we feel the timing of this tour could not be better.”

Quintet members, in addition to Ulrich, are David Ginn ’92, trumpet; Alan P. Mattingly, horn; Daniel Cherry, trombone; and Michael Schallock, tuba. The group has been in existence since 1993 and performs a wide range of music from early music and classical to ragtime, jazz and contemporary compositions.

The recital performances across WNC and in the UK will feature music from the Southern Appalachian region of the United States, including selections by several past and present WCU composers. Mark Conner, theory and composition teacher at WCU, wrote “Persistent Echoes,” a one-movement piece based on the melody “Sweet Prospect” from the Southern Harmony shape-note hymnbook published in the mid-1800s in the Southern Appalachian region. The ensemble also will perform “Four Hymn Tune Settings” by Paul Baden, a WCU faculty member from 1989 until 1992, and a new three-movement composition based on Cherokee Indian music by Robert Kohsberg, interim dean of WCU’s College of Arts and Sciences.

“We are especially proud and excited to be performing Dr. Kohsberg’s latest piece, which was commissioned by the SMBQ, especially for this occasion,” said Ulrich. “This multi-movement piece reflects on the recorded music of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee and creates new music based on the rhythmic and melodic material found in these recordings.”

For more information about the SMBQ, visit the Web site www.smbq.com.

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### Just the Ticket

Performing Arts Center Raises Curtain on New Summer Series

Are you looking for an excuse for a mountain getaway this summer? The folks at Western’s Fine and Performing Arts Center may have just the ticket, as the university is launching a new summer series of Sunday afternoon shows.

Highlighted by a Fourth of July weekend performance of “Mark Twain Tonight,” starring motion picture and television star Hal Holbrook, the series includes a Memorial Day weekend performance of “A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline,” a father’s Day production of a musical revue of the music of World War II, and a nostalgic variety show centered on the 1950s.

“As our inaugural season of shows is nearing a close, we are getting many, many requests from patrons to keep the programming coming during the summer months,” said Paul Lormand, director of performance facilities for WCU’s Fine and Performing Arts Center. “We have scheduled four wonderful shows for what we are calling our Sunday Sizzlin’ Summer Shows Series.”

The series will kick off Sunday, May 28, with “A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline,” featuring Erica McGee performing 20 of the country music legend’s most popular songs, followed by the musical cabaret “War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II” on Sunday, June 18.

Holbrook will bring his critically acclaimed portrayal of Mark Twain to Cullowhee on Sunday, July 2, and “Laughing with the Legends,” featuring music, memories and merriment from the fabulous ‘50s, will close the summer series Sunday, July 30.

All shows will begin at 3 p.m. in the main performance hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Center. Season summer subscriptions are on sale. Subscriptions are $75 each.

For more information, call the box office at (828) 227-2479.

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### Museum Visit

The Fine Art Museum at the Fine & Performing Arts Center

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**Speaker Series Resumes Ex-Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff on Campus in Fall**

The Chancellor’s Speaker Series will resume in the fall semester as Gen. Richard B. Myers, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits campus Monday, Sept. 11, for a conversation with Western students and an evening presentation in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The speaker series is designed to bring significant national and international leaders to campus to discuss major issues of the day, and to provide Western students with an opportunity to interact with some of the people who shape and influence the world. Past speakers have included former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, vice presidential candidate John Edwards, former U.S. Surgeon General M. Joycelyn Elders, Nobel Peace Prize-winning Polish reader Lech Walesa and actor Danny Glover.

Myers, who served as the nation’s 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will meet in an informal afternoon session designed for Western students only. The session, to include opening remarks followed by a question-and-answer period, will begin at 3 p.m. in the performance hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Center. His public address, “World War ‘X’: What’s At Stake in the Global War on Terror,” is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and also will be held in the performance hall. (Times of both events are subject to change.)

Myers, former principal military adviser to President George W. Bush, was the nation’s highest-ranking military officer from 2001 until 2005, serving during a period of unprecedented and global unrest.

He led American forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, and guided the U.S. military’s response to the massive domestic and international relief efforts following 2004’s Asian tsunami and 2005’s Hurricane Katrina.

Admission to Myers’ evening presentation is free of charge; there is a limit of four tickets per person. To reserve a seat or for more information, contact the Fine and Performing Arts Center box office at (828) 227-2479.
Western Students Provide $4.2 Million In Volunteer Work to Local Communities
By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Western students will provide about $4.2 million worth of volunteer work for Western North Carolina communities this academic year as they participate in co-curricular volunteer activities and course-based service learning projects. That’s the word from Glenn Bowen, director of Western’s Service Learning Program.

More than 30 percent of Western students — about 2,460 people — currently participate in volunteer work and service learning projects, and average three hours of service each week. “Using the latest independent sector figures for the value of volunteer work, which are based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, each of these students contributes $1,664 in service during the 52-week academic year,” Bowen said.

Western’s service learning department, part of the Division of Student Affairs, promotes volunteerism and coordinates traditional community service. An important part of the department’s work is to collaborate with faculty to integrate community service into the curriculum. “Community service connected to the curriculum is what we refer to as service learning,” Bowen said. “Service learning enriches coursework by providing opportunities for students to use their academic knowledge and skills in ‘real-life’ situations.”

The community partners for Western’s service learning program include nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, community-based organizations, local government, nongovernmental organizations, schools, church-related groups and service clubs. Since the service learning program began at Western about five years ago, the number of its community partners has grown significantly, with a total now of 83.

As an example, Western’s program is partnering with the Rotary Club of Sylva, the Interact Club of Smoky Mountain High School and St. David’s Episcopal Church in “Project Panama,” an alternative spring break trip to work on school renovation and health care in rural communities in the Latin American country. The services provided through Western’s service learning program are just one facet of the university’s engagement with the region’s communities, Bowen said. “The engaged campus is unable to separate its unique responsibility for the development of knowledge from the role of knowledge in a democratic society to form the basis for social progress and human equality,” he said. “That’s why we value and cherish the partnerships between our campus and the wider community — partnerships involving various centers and departments of the university with organizations and institutions in the community. These are partnerships designed to improve the social, cultural and economic life of our community and our region.”

A Breed Apart
Professor Ponders Pet Popularity
By BILL STUDENC

Here’s one professor whose research truly has gone to the dogs.

Hal Herzog, professor of psychology at Western, had long wondered why people choose the types of dogs they select for pets. Working with university colleagues in London and California, Herzog examined American Kennel Club records of more than 40 million purebred puppies registered in the United States over the past 50 years.

His findings? Man picks man’s best friend not on the basis of reason or because the breed inherently makes a good pet. Instead, it’s a matter of what’s trendy, Herzog says. The results of the study, originally published in the Royal Society’s Biology Letters (a scientific journal in Great Britain), attracted quite a bit of attention in the British press before being picked up by USA Today and other American news media.

Dogs were originally selected for domestication for such utilitarian reasons as hunting or herding, but since most people aren’t shepherders, service has been replaced by fashion, he said. “Dogs become popular through the same mechanisms that impel, say, wearing baseball caps brim-backward,” he said. “A person selecting a pet dog seems to be highly influenced by choices being made by others at about the same time, without his or her knowing it. In this respect, dog breed popularity is no different than changing tastes in food — remember fondue past?”

“Swings in popularity of certain breeds can be dramatic, and some times can be traced to a specific event, such as the rise in popularity of Dalmatians after recent Disney movies, said Herzog, who won WCT’s Distinguished Scholar Award for his work. “More often, however, there is no apparent single cause of swings in popularity, such as the boom that occurred in Doberman pinchers, chow chows and saint Bernards. The popularity of some breeds can just take off, much like a social epidemic.”

In their study, Herzog and his colleagues say they have demonstrated that most shifts in the popularity of dog breeds in the United States can be attributed to a process called “random drift,” in which individuals simply copy the choices made by others. The result, they say, is that many breeds become popular just by chance. Similar studies have linked “random drift” to other cultural trends, from popular baby names to designs on ancient pottery.

So, what are the current trends in dog breed popularity? In 2005, the most popular breed in the United States was the Labrador retriever, followed by the golden retriever, German shepherd and beagle. Breeds on the rise include the Havanesee, cavalier King Charles spaniel, Brussels griffon and French bulldog, while the Dalmatian, chow chow, rottweiler, akita and Pekinese are on the decline.

Others are picking up on the work of Herzog and his colleagues. A team of Columbia University researchers studying popular music tastes, which also pointed to random drift and the impact of social influences on personal preferences, recently cited the earlier study as “ingenious.”
Record Crowd Honors Baseball Legend
LeClair at Jersey Retirement Ceremony
By BILL STUDENC and MIKE CAWOOD

A Hennon Stadium–record crowd of 2,832 fans, including more than 50 former Western athletes representing three decades of Catamount baseball, rose to its feet when baseball legend Keith LeClair ’89 arrived on the field for an April 11 ceremony marking the retirement of his No. 23 Catamount jersey – the first jersey to be retired in Catamount baseball history. Western’s athletics program chose to bestow the honor on the former WCU player and coach in appreciation of his contributions to the sport and in recognition of his courageous battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

In front of a capacity crowd that packed the stands and overflowed into a parking lot behind the centerfield fence, the current Catamount squad formed a tunnel of baseball bats through which Lynn LeClair helped her wheelchair-bound husband enter the playing field. Surrounded by his children, parents and in-laws, LeClair watched as a large replica of his gold jersey, painted on the outfield wall affectionately known as “the Purple Monster,” was unveiled. The No. 23 also was emblazoned onto the grass behind home plate. The LeClair children, Audrey and J.D., threw pre-game first-pitches, and current WCU head baseball coach Todd Raleigh ’91 MEd ’94 presented the family with gifts, including a framed No. 23 jersey. The emotional ceremony took place prior to the Catamounts’ annual game against the nationally ranked Clemson Tigers, coached by former WCU skipper Jack Leggett, who recruited LeClair, a fellow New Englander.

Leggett commended the university, the athletics department and the baseball program for choosing to honor LeClair. “It is not easy to make a decision to retire someone’s number. There are a lot of great players in the past here, but when you do make that decision to retire someone’s number, you are making a statement. That statement is simple – that it is difficult for someone else to fill those shoes and to fill that uniform. In Keith’s case, that is certainly the truth,” Leggett said. “I have had a lot of players in 20 years, and if you put together an All-Leggett ‘Team’, Keith would be my captain. That says everything that you need to know about Keith LeClair.

Raleigh, who both played with LeClair at Western and coached under him at Western Carolina and East Carolina, reminisced about being a young freshman athlete learning from the older LeClair, who was then a senior leader on the team. “Every time I did something wrong, Coach Leggett would always say, ‘You need to do things more like Keith,’” Raleigh said. “He is a tremendous coach, but more importantly, he is a tremendous human being. He has everything that I want all my players to have. He has everything I want my son to have – courage, integrity, the work ethic, the competitiveness. He’s the ultimate team player and the ultimate team coach.”

In remarks read to the crowd by family friend Chuck Young, LeClair thanked his protege, his mentor and his alma mater for the special day. “It’s hard to believe that 22 years ago I arrived at Western Carolina University. I remember riding in from the airport with my one big green Army duffle bag, all set to walk on and make the baseball team. I had only met Coach Leggett once before, but I figured a guy from Vermont would give a kid from Walpole, N.H., a fair shake,” LeClair said in his statement. “Much has changed between then and now. I pray that in the years to come, when people see this No. 23, they will not think of an individual, but of a team of unity,” he said. “Without the support of many others, none of this would have been possible.”

LeClair, who was inducted into the WCU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002, came to Western in 1985 and helped lead the Catamounts to four consecutive conference championships. He ranks among the top 10 in six different WCU hitting categories. After his Western playing days, he signed as a free agent with the Atlanta Braves organization, playing the 1988 season for Idaho Falls in the Pioneer League. In 1989, after spending spring training with the San Francisco Giants organization, he returned to Cullowhee as an assistant coach on Leggett’s Catamount staff, a position he held for three seasons.

When Leggett left for an assistant head coaching job at Clemson in 1992, LeClair became WCU’s head coach at age 25, guiding the Catamounts to regular season and tournament championships. The team advanced to the NCAA tournament, reaching the regional championship game and getting to within one out of advancing to the College World Series. In his six seasons at Western, he posted a record of 229-135-2, led WCU to four NCAA tournament berths, and was SoCon Coach of the Year in 1992, 1994 and 1997.

Following his reign at WCU, LeClair continued his coaching career at East Carolina University. Joining the Pirates in 1997, he spent five seasons as head coach and tallied an impressive record of 219-96-1. In 2002, LeClair relinquished his coaching duties due to health concerns related to ALS. Upon his retirement and after compiling a career record of 448-231-3 at Western Carolina and East Carolina, he was honored as first recipient of the Conference USA Student-Athletic Advisory Committee’s Coaches Choice Award. In addition, the Conference USA Baseball Coach of the Year Award was named in his honor.

“ If you have any pride at all, you always want to leave a program in better shape than you found it. Even though leaving Western was a tough decision, I knew I was leaving the program better than when I arrived by knowing Keith would be taking over the program,” Leggett said during the jersey retirement ceremony. “If our team ends up in Omaha (site of the College World Series), or Western Carolina ends up in Omaha, or East Carolina ends up in Omaha sometime, Keith LeClair will be there with them.”

Coach Raleigh agreed, saying that much of the baseball Cats’ tradition of success is due to the legacy of LeClair. “Facilities don’t make the program,” he said. “The bats don’t make the program, and the uniforms don’t make the program. The people make the program. I’ve been a part of this program for nearly 20 years, and I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this honor than Keith.”
Taking It All in Stride
SoCon Awards WCU’s Emily Pierce with Graduate Scholarship

By GARY TAKACS ’06

Emily Pierce battles against a Campbell player.

As the introduction to “All Western,” the halftime segment that airs during broadcasts of many WCU sporting events, points out, in addition to most valuable players on the fields and courts of competition, the university also boasts MVPs in the classrooms, laboratories and libraries. And sometimes a student earns MVP status both athletically and academically.

WCU soccer standout Emily Pierce, a senior biology major, is one of those students. Pierce is recipient of the 2006 Southern Conference’s Davey Knight Graduate Scholarship through an academic award with Graduate Scholarship Program in 2005, and football’s Jason Whaley ’03 won a scholarship from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in 2003.

An NCAA student advisory committee, all while maintaining a 3.85 grade point average. “Emily is so ‘head and shoulders,’” said Tammy DeCesare, head women’s soccer coach. “Her work ethic never waivers. She’s always willing to put the soccer program and the team ahead of her own agenda. It’s no surprise that she received the award. She does it all with a smile and she’ll be tough to replace.”

After graduation, Pierce plans to continue her education and pursue a career as a physician’s assistant, specializing in orthopedics. “I’ve always wanted to go into the medical field,” she said. “Through my work experience I narrowed it down to a physician’s assistant.” Pierce already has more than a casual familiarity with orthopedics. Last spring, she tore her medial collateral ligament (MCL) in her leg, keeping her out of play for three months.

Pierce also plans to coach soccer and remain competitive after graduation. “Being competitive carries over to everything,” she said. “Sometimes it’s a curse. My friends and I can’t play board games because we all have to win. On the other hand, it can be a good thing. When I start looking into the job market, I’ll have the competitive edge.”

Pierce joins a host of former Catamount student-athletes who have earned postgraduate scholarships. Last year, Rans Brempont ’04 became the second consecutive winner of the Mike Wood postgraduate scholarship honoring a men’s basketball player, following in the footsteps of Emre Atsuer ’04. Lady Catamount basketball player Yonseko Allen ’04 also was awarded the Mike Wood Scholarship in 2004. Track and field athlete Tonya Edmonds ’05 won a scholarship through the NCAA’s Ethnic Minority and Women’s Enhancement Postgraduate Scholarship Program in 2005, and football’s Jason Whaley ’03 won a scholarship from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in 2003.

Former-Cat Martin Excelling as Starter for NBA’s Kings

“Past draft was a huge statement for Matt and the program.”

Former Catamount Kevin Martin looks for the ball as a Sacramento King.

First, Bonzi Wells went down with an injury. Then Sacramento traded Peja Stojakovic. The Kings’ best writers and bloggers began to buzz, wondering who would help veterans Mike Bibby and Brad Miller generate enough offense for the Kings.

Former Catamount standout Kevin Martin has tried to provide an answer. The second-year player out of Western averaged 17.5 points during a nine-game streak earlier this season. Although he’s still the third or fourth option on most of the Kings’ offensive possessions, Martin scored 20 or more points in three consecutive games. At press time, he was averaging 11.2 points and nearly four rebounds per game as the Kings mounted a late-season playoff run. “It feels great, especially after we win,” Martin said. “When you put good numbers up and lose, it doesn’t matter much. But it feels good when the team’s winning.”

After struggling from the field while playing limited minutes as a reserve, Martin has found his NBA range. He’s shooting better than 50 percent from the field as a starter (53.3), and he’s raised his overall 3-point percentage to nearly 40 percent—a team-high. “Kevin is coming out aggressive and taking the shots that are there,” Kings coach Rick Adelman said. “We see it every day. Now he’s just transferring it from practice to the games.”

At one point during the season, when Martin scored 20 points or more, the Kings went 9-1. While the national media frequently mention that stat, Martin’s personal coach downplays its significance. “Of course you’re going to be winning when your third offensive option is scoring that many points,” said David Thorpe, who has worked with Martin since the summer after his freshman year at WCU. “The key for Kevin now is to keep knocking down his shots and earning the trust of his teammates and coaches so that he’ll get more opportunities.”

Since being drafted 26th overall (first round) in the 2004 draft, Martin has learned there’s no instant pathway to NBA stardom. “There are a lot of layers to it. When you’re drafted, you’re on top of the world. Then you come into a veteran world, and you have to work hard and get experience. Last year, as a rookie, it was tough mentally. I felt like when I got extended minutes, I showed flashes of what I did in college,” said Martin, who ranks fourth on WCU’s all-time scoring list (1,838 points) despite leaving after his junior season.

“This year, I started out not shooting very well even though I did have a couple of good games early. Since Bonzi went down, though, I’ve been pretty consistent. Right now, they’re relying on me to score. I’m shooting a high percentage, and I want to keep getting better.”

Besides helping the Kings become a playoff contender, Martin has another reason to shine over the coming months. His agent, Miami-based Jason Levien, said the Kings could pick up the option on Martin’s fourth season before Oct. 31. Martin signed a three-year deal worth at least $2.43 million shortly after being drafted. That contract has a one-year arm that can be exercised at the Kings’ discretion.

“The bigger issue for me is not for him to continue playing at this level,” Levien said. “Some people in the Kings’ organization have told me they feel he’s an All-Star, so we’re just hoping this is the tip of the iceberg.”

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Western Carolina sophomore Matt Cook is the 2006 Southern Conference Men’s Golfer of the Year, the first Catamount in team history to earn the honor after winning the SoCon men’s individual golf championship in tournament play in April. It marked only the second time a WCU men’s golfer has claimed the SoCon men’s crown. “Being named Golfer of the Year is a huge statement for Matt and the program,” Gorham Bradley ’04 said. “The honor recognizes the best player from both the fall and spring. Matt played at a high level versus some of the best competences in the nation. The honor well open doors for both him and the program.”
Making Tracks
Danny Williamson Racks Up Coaching Accolades

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Throughout his younger years, the siren song of the gridiron kept calling the name of Danny Williamson '84 MAEd '86. But track and field won out at the end, and WCU athletics turned out the big winner.

A Sylva native who played "just about every sport" in high school, Williamson was drawn most strongly to football as a young athlete. After high school graduation in 1980, he had his eye on a football career at WCU, but found himself on the sidelines as a student assistant while he worked on his degree in physical education. "It was then that I started thinking more about being a football coach, instead of a player," Williamson said.

"Around that time, I did my student teaching at Cullowhee High School, a K-12 school (that was housed on WCU's campus in the building that now serves as the University Outreach Center). There was no coach for the boy's high school track team, so I became the coach," Williamson added.

The rest, as the saying goes, is history. During his tenure (including 21 seasons coaching the women's program, and 20 seasons guiding the men's team), Williamson has led Catamount track and field athletes to 12 Southern Conference team championships, including the men's indoor championship this past February. Williamson has witnessed more than 400 of his athletes receive All-Southern Conference awards and more than 150 athletes be named individual conference event champions.

Williamson's work has not gone unnoticed by his peers. Following the men's recent indoor conference championship, Williamson was named men's SoCon Indoor Coach of the Year, marking the 13th time Williamson has been named conference track and field coach of the year for either men's or women's teams, indoor or outdoor seasons. Shortly after that honor was announced, Williamson was named the NCAA Division I South-east Regional Men's Indoor Track and Field Coach of the Year, the third time he has won that accolade.

WCU's track and field program now includes about 85 athletes, but in terms of athletic grants-in-aid, the program receives the equivalent of 14.5 in-state scholarships. For the most part, the WCU track and field athletes are paying their own way — "for the love of the sport," Williamson said.

Although the university does not have an indoor track and field facility, Williamson said his teams are able to compete successfully during the indoor track season because Cullowhee's relatively mild climate does not often interfere with the team's outdoor training. "Our philosophy is: Just because we don't have something doesn't mean we can't do this," he said. "You've got to get the kids to believe in what you're doing. If they see good results, they will work harder. And if they see the coaches working hard, they latch on to that."

Paul Jones '69 MA '70 of Forest City has seen a lot of Catamount track and field action over the years — as co-captain of WCU's first track and field team, then as head coach for those teams from 1967 to 1981 (winning numerous conference and district titles), and now as a fan. The former Catamount Club president, who is a member of the university's athletics Hall of Fame, said Williamson is "not only a great recruiter, but he has the right demeanor and the personality it takes to coach track and field teams."

Upon graduation from WCU in 1984, Williamson began work on his master's degree in physical education while serving as a graduate assistant for the football team. When the university's first women's track and field team was established, Williamson assisted with that program, and the following year, he coached the WCU women's team for free. Then, the men's coach resigned and Williamson signed on to coach both the men's and women's teams full-time for the 1987-88 season for $4,000 per year.

"The pay was part-time, but the work was full-time," Williamson said. "It was around that time that I decided that I wanted to be a college track and field coach."

Giving Credit Where It’s Due
Reliability, Sympathy Help Catamount Succeed

Bill Stallings '61 may not live far from the farm where he has born in Johnston County, but he has come a long way.

Stallings, who worked his way through Western selling ice cream in the summers, went on to found a business valued at more than $180 million when it sold in 1996.

Stallings started Regional Acceptance Corp. in the late 1970s, which raised $20 million in its initial public offering in 1985. The company found a niche making loans to people who, because of a hardship such as a family illness, had less-than-perfect credit. "It takes hard work, doing what you say you will do, treating employees the way you want to be treated, and a little bit of luck to go with it," said Stallings, who was honored with Western's most recent Professional Achievement Award.

Today, he is president of the Stallings Group.

Stallings credits his experience at Western, where he majored in history, as what helped him "spread his wings."

"I had never been anywhere hardly — not more than 50 miles away," Stallings said. "Running into different people with different backgrounds just expanded my horizon."

Stallings' friends say that, despite succeeding in the sometimes cutthroat business world, he remains one of the most tender-hearted and down-to-earth people they know. "He's the same today as when he was just as poor as a church mouse," said Bob Barbour, owner of a Honda dealership in Greenville. "Once you get to know him, he's like a brother."

People do not have to ask him to help. "Bill just does it," Barbour said. Driving around a few years ago, the two friends came across a woman sitting outside a motel with four children playing nearby. Stallings stopped and sent Barbour over with some money to give them. "The lady just started crying," Barbour said. "She said, 'We have been praying for something.'"

Bill Stallings '61

Stallings' first job out of school was as a collector for Home Finance Co. in Charlotte. From there, he moved into a position as an accounts manager with Ford Motor Credit Corp. and then a branch office manager and loan officer with Atlantic Discount in Greenville.

In 1977, he took a risk opening a Grady White boat dealership in Greenville that emerged as the second-largest in sales and the top Cox Trader dealer in the country. He realized personal lending, though, was more profitable and shifted his focus to that industry.

David C. Darby, president of Darby and Associates, said he met Stallings about 20 years ago through his business providing support services and products to the finance industry. "Bill treats customers very fair and gave them the service they were looking for," Darby said. "He has done extremely well in business, and, personally, he is a very compassionate individual."
Former History Student Intern Returns
To Lead WCU’s Mountain Heritage Center

By BILL STUDENC

Scott Philyaw ‘83

A historian who rumbled through Appalachian Mountain artifacts and archives as an undergraduate student at Western Carolina University has been tapped to lead the museum where he once toiled as an intern. Scott Philyaw ‘83, WCU associate professor of history, is the new director of the Mountain Heritage Center.

A member of WCU’s history faculty since 1996, Philyaw has assisted the Mountain Heritage Center with several exhibits. He has served as scholar-in-residence at Old Salem’s Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and as an exhibit consultant with The Orchard at Altapass in McDowell County. Working with WCU students, he co-authored two pamphlets for the Blue Ridge Parkway, including “The Natural Diversity of Linville Falls,” which won the 2002 Excellence in Interpretation Award for Trail Guides from the National Park Service Cooperating Association.

Although he’ll be directing a museum that focuses on traditions of the past, Philyaw has plans to take its activities into the future. “The Mountain Heritage Center already has a successful record, and one of my goals for the center is to build on its successful outreach efforts by doing more community programming and educational programs for the public schools, from kindergarten through the 12th grade,” he said. “I also wish to continue the outreach work the center has done with other regional museums and historic societies.”

The company that brings “The Apprentice” and CBS’s “Survivor” to TV, Dickenson served in the U.S. Army for eight years as a pilot. He flew Blackhawk helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft while serving as a company commander. “It’s essentially running a business within a business,” he said. After leaving the armed forces, Dickenson moved into the corporate environment of Kraft Foods, a Fortune 500 company.

One man’s reality is another man’s weekly reality television show and, for Erick Dickenson ’96, that spelled opportunity.

Dickenson, who recently moved to the Dial Corp. as associate brand manager, was in charge of executing the entire project. He worked closely with AIM Productions, which served as the liaison between Kraft Foods and Burnett Productions, the company that brings “The Apprentice” and CBS’s “Survivor” to the screen. The unusual promotional strategy was Dickenson’s idea, and it marked Kraft’s first time attempting to introduce a new product in such a splashy fashion.

“One of the reasons the show was so successful was that people that never ever perished, especially because he was so damn good! He’s a true professional,” Dickenson said.

Dickenson attended WCU in 1983 and has now rubbed elbows with “the Don,” he says it all has to start somewhere. “You can do really great things after Western,” he said. “But you have to do great things at Western.”

Mountain Heritage Center

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Permanent exhibition.


“After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains.” Through May 2007.


Mountain Heritage Center hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 2-5 p.m. Sunday, June-October.
(828) 227-7129 or www.wcu.edu/mhc

Erick Dickenson ’96 and Donald Trump

Erick Dickenson ’96

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Dickenson said. “I’ve always admired his accomplishments, and I am very proud of him. Between his business degree from Western and his officer training from the Army, he’s one of the best employees a company can ask for.”

During his time at Western, Dickenson demonstrated a type of business potential that would please even a boss like Donald Trump. He graduated summa cum laude (with highest honors) and was the recipient of the Outstanding Business Management Student Award that same year. “He was such an upstanding and hard-working individual,” said Terry Kinneer, associate professor of management at Western. “He’s one of those people that you never forget, especially because he was so damn good! He’s a true professional.”

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Dickenson attended WCU in 1983 and has now rubbed elbows with “the Don,” he says it all has to start somewhere. “You can do really great things after Western,” he said. “But you have to do great things at Western.”

That’s one way to avoid hearing that dreaded phrase: “You’re fired.”

Erick Dickenson ’96 and Donald Trump

Erick Dickenson ’96

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The latest assignment sends Army Lt. Col. John T. “Tim” Ryan ’85 off to work in a tank at the Pentagon—a think tank. Ryan, who is assigned to the Army’s chief of plans and operations, fire off ideas as he explores strategic analysis and information. Part of his job involves speech writing, “which is a bit odd for a guy with an undergraduate degree in industrial arts education,” he said.

But it was his writing that captured attention from around the world last year. Ryan was serving in Iraq when the way reporters were covering the war got to him. He wrote to his family and friends about it, and his words became an essay. “Print and video journalists are covering only a fraction of the events in Iraq,” he wrote, “and, more often than not, the events they cover are only negative.”

His statements were picked up by the World Tribune. From there, Rush Limbaugh and Michael Savage both read the essay on their radio shows, and Ryan was interviewed by NBC, Fox News, Time magazine and others. “His assignment at the Pentagon follows more than 20 years of service and earning a master’s degree in military arts and sciences from the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Even before that, he was a member of the N.C. Army National Guard and a leader in ROTC when he was a WCU student.”

“If I had to point to a couple of attributes that have helped me to be successful over the last 20 years since graduation, I’d say a strong work ethic and people skills have to be at the top of the list,” Ryan said. “Growing up in a rural environment where folks are friendly, work hard together and share the bounty with neighbors and strangers alike has helped me to get along with just about anybody and make a positive impression through hard work.”

Ryan pointed out that three of the U.S. Army’s 30 tank battalions at one point had Western Graduates at the helm. “There must be something in the water there in Cullowhee,” he said light-heartedly.

Poli Sci Grad Builds Career on Capitol Hill

Amanda Farris ’97 took her political science degree from Western and a passion for politics all the way to Capitol Hill, where she serves as lead staff for the House Republican Conference on such issues as implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act.

“She’s up there where the action is taking place,” said Don Livingston, professor of political science. “She is helping make very important decisions with far-reaching implications. Amanda is a go-getter, no doubt about it.”

Farris works with a range of issues including education reform, educational testing, literacy, education technology and teacher quality. “There is truly no typical day in my job,” she said. Farris gives speeches, talks to interested parties about policy, drafts legislation, gathers information about policies, and selects witnesses for congressional hearings. Her mission is translating the ideas of members of Congress into practice.

“Sometimes this is easy because everyone can agree that a problem has been identified and that it can be solved in a particular way,” Farris said. “Other times, it is much more difficult.”

She had previously worked as professional staff in the U.S. Senate and as a correspondent for U.S. Sen. Michael B. Enzi, who represents Farris’ home state of Wyoming. Farris staffed a subcommittee on education, welfare, childcare, arts, humanities, national service, faith-based and human resources issues.

“I always wanted to work in politics,” said Farris, who traces her involvement in political organizations to high school.

“Though born and raised in Laramie, Wyo., Farris said she chose to study at Western where a friend of her family, Benny Dees, was the basketball coach and a good friend, his daughter, was a student. The university’s political science program and instructors such as Livingston helped prepare her for the work she does now. "Dr. Livingston is so passionate about politics and political science that it was infectious," Farris said. "He constantly made me want to learn and understand more about the political process."

While completing a degree at Western, she interned on Sen. Bob Dole’s 1996 presidential campaign and in the office of Republican Congresswoman Barbara Colon of Wyoming, solidifying her interest in political work and staying in Washington, D.C. Farris got established in the capital working with a media consulting firm that made political commercials and then landed a job on Enzi’s staff. Farris said she really enjoys her work but has an interest, too, in state-level politics, advocacy work for increased early childhood literacy and getting her master’s degree.

Internship Program Places Students in Washington

Western alumni aren’t the only Catamounts making their marks in Washington, D.C., as several WCU students spent much of the spring semester inside the beltway, gaining valuable hands-on experience in their fields of study through the University of North Carolina Washington Internship Program.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for students,” said Niall Michelson, head of WCU’s department of political science and public affairs. “This gives students the chance to experience the political world both nationally and internationally. It exposes them to the ‘nitty gritty’ of political advocacy and policy making.”

Rebecca Gardner of Sanford, a senior majoring in English with a minor in political science, is doing an internship at Cardinal Bank; Winston-Salem resident Jessica Jarrard, a senior political science major who completed her internship with Women Work, history and political science major Lisa Cameron of Stanford, who interned at the Woodrow Wilson House, Raleigh resident Annie Decker, a junior political science major who worked at NASA, and Rachel Hunnicutt of Canton, a senior communications major who did an internship in the office of U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor.

WCU is among 14 of the 16 UNC campuses that participate in the program. During their internship in Washington, students earn up to 22 credit hours toward their degree. The Washington Internship Program is open to juniors and seniors of every major in the UNC system.
John “Duck” Mosbey ’69 looked out at such a new graduating class of the Jordanian International Police Training Center knowing many would not live through the year. Many would not survive three months, and that was the toughest part of his job directing training efforts there. “Our graduates were returning to the most dangerous police job on the planet,” said Mosbey, who retired earlier this year and returned to his Georgia hometown. “Many, many had already been killed or wounded in the line of duty.”

But he and about 400 instructors from 15 countries stayed focused on the mission: Build a foundation for a police service in Iraq based on service to all citizens. “All of us that have been involved in this effort are waiting and watching with great concern to see if the new government in Iraq can continue the momentum and direction that has been established in these past two years at the center,” Mosbey said.

Bernard J. Dougherty, WCU assistant professor of criminal justice and former federal anti-terrorism agent, said policemen and those who train them are targets for insurmountable dangers trying to keep the new government from succeeding. “Training new policemen has challenges on many levels, both personal and professional, and the danger is both personal and professional,” Dougherty said.

Mosbey has seen danger. During his 34 years of military service, he logged more than 2,000 hours as a weapons systems officer and instructor in the Phantom fighter aircraft. “There was no room for error,” Mosbey said. He began his military career as an enlisted soldier in the Army, later joined the Air National Guard and ultimately rose to the rank of colonel in the Air Force. His military service included an assignment to the joint staff at the Pentagon as a lieutenant colonel in the Counterdrug Operations Division. He has helped police in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with anti-smuggling strategies, worked on the crisis action team during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and served as chief of all National Guard counterdrug operations, domestically and in Central and South America. He was executive director for the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., when asked to go to Iraq in 2004 to advise police service rebuilding efforts. He later moved to the Jordanian police training center.

“In every job I’ve had since graduating from Western has been challenging and rewarding – and I feel like Western did a great job of preparing me for life in the real world,” Mosbey said. A “deviant behavior” sociology class convinced him to explore law enforcement, and his professors and coaches taught him to push himself and never give up, he said. What brought him to Western as a transfer student was partly a desire to play football, though he had to forget his senior year when he received his draft notice. “I had to get a deferred enlistment just to be able to go to summer school and graduate in August of 1969,” Mosbey said. He now holds additional degrees in criminal justice from the University of Alabama in Birmingham and a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, but he has never forgotten Western. “I loved my time in Cullowhee, and it’s been a life-long ambition to get back there for more than just a ballgame here and there.”

1952
Lt. Col. Robert Clifford Brown, MAEd, the first person to receive a diploma for a graduate degree at Western, died Jan. 25 at the age of 88. At commencement in 1952, Western Carolina Teachers College awarded 22 people the institution’s first master’s degrees in education, and Brown was the first in the alphabetically arranged line to be given his diploma. His career in education included nearly 40 years of teaching physics, chemistry and biology with Asheville City and Buncombe County schools. He also taught in Charlotte and Largo, Fla. Fifty years after Brown earned his master’s degree, Western welcomed him back to campus for commencement as his daughter, Linda Brown Adams, MPA ’92, received a master’s degree.

1968
At the Cattle Industry Annual Convention in February, Haywood cattleman John Queen was elected president-elect of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the largest organization representing America’s cattle industry. Queen is president and owner of John Queen Farms, a third-generation cattle operation founded in 1917. Commenting on his election, he said, “I am so proud of what NCBA and its affiliates and councils have done for producers over the years, particularly last year to support producers hit hard by the hurricanes. That’s what NCBA is all about for me: producers helping producers.” Queen also owns and operates Southeast Livestock Exchange, a video-telemarketing service covering the southeast region. He is a past president of the N.C. Cattlemen’s Association and is a member and director of the Haywood County Cattlemen’s Association.

1974
The board of directors of Pardoo Cattle Company in Hendersonville recently elected as its chair for 2006, Marcia Caserio MAEd ’76, associate regional director of Education Outreach for Western Carolina University. A member of the board since 2000, she previously served as vice chair of the hospital board and chair of the board for Western Carolina Medical Associates, an affiliate of Pardoe.

1955
President Emeritus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Harvey L. Haynes MA ’64 (above) recently was elected chairman of the board of trustees of the college. Western’s nursing program in Asheville is located on the Erka campus of A-B Tech in a building named in honor of Haynes.

1960
At the Cattle Industry Annual Convention in February, Haywood cattleman John Queen was elected president-elect of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the largest organization representing America’s cattle industry. Queen is president and owner of John Queen Farms, a third-generation cattle operation founded in 1917. Commenting on his election, he said, “I am so proud of what NCBA and its affiliates and councils have done for producers over the years, particularly last year to support producers hit hard by the hurricanes. That’s what NCBA is all about for me: producers helping producers.” Queen also owns and operates Southeast Livestock Exchange, a video-telemarketing service covering the southeast region. He is a past president of the N.C. Cattlemen’s Association and is a member and director of the Haywood County Cattlemen’s Association.

1973
Principal at Oak Hill Year-Round Elementary School in High Point for six years, Bill Holke has been with Guilford County Schools for 16 years. He also has taught at Oak Ridge Military Academy and Randolph County Schools.

1976
The North Carolina Nurses Association has named Carol Durham (above) the 2005 NCNA Educator of the Year. For 17 years, she has been director of the Clinical Education and Resource Center and a clinical associate professor at UNCG-Chapel Hill School of Nursing. In her letter of support, the dean of the School of Nursing said, “Carol is first of all a brilliant and beloved teacher. She continually updates her content and pedagogical strategies, which has kept the school as a leading innovator in clinical education for the past 17 years. She is single-handedly responsible for recruiting more future nursing faculty than anyone else at the school, and she is a role model for students, faculty and other administrators and someone I would always want to have on my team.” When she accepted the award, Durham said, “One of my greatest desires in life has always been to make a difference in the lives of those around me. As a nurse educator, I have been given the privilege to do just that…. Helping people, whether a student or patient, be all they can be, is one of the highest callings.”

1979
Previously a commercial banker, in February Kyle Garrou (above) was promoted to community banker by SunTrust Bank in Lenior, where he has...
Western's nursing alumnii, including some who graduated more than 30 years ago, are turning their attention back to the campus and asking an important question: “What can we do to help?”

Aware that talented students and well-qualified practitioners are needed to meet a growing national shortage of nurses, these experienced professionals have just launched a new Nursing Alumni Association to raise money for scholarships and equipment and to create a supportive network for recent graduates.

Diane Gupton Oakley ’73, a member of Western’s first nursing class, was elected president at the newly formed association’s meeting in March. Oakley said the foundation is especially interested in welcoming recent nursing graduates to future meetings so they can exchange ideas and information with alumni who have been in the profession for years. “The time is right,” she said. “Together, we can help to strengthen Western’s nursing program.”

Sue Lynn Ledford ’79, elected vice-president of the association, said, “We need to encourage students to enroll in the nursing program and give them someone who is behind them with encouragement so they will get a good start and stay in the profession.”

Ledford, who says she has worked the full range of nursing assignments, added, “When students see that you’ve been there and done that and you understand what it feels like to experience some of the challenges they are facing, they know you’re someone who can understand what they’re going through. Leaders in the field who can offer advice or expertise can make a difference.”

Rebecca Warren ’89, who will serve as the association’s secretary/treasurer, agreed. “Dropped suddenly into a supervisory position in her first job, Warren said, “It would have been great to have someone to call for advice.” Now, with 17 years of experience in hospital and home health settings, she’s pleased that she and other alumnae will have an opportunity to help new nurses.

Also elected to the executive committee were Susan Kresmeyer ’90, alumni/volunteer coordinator; and Mabel Carlyle ’73, bylaws. Judy Mallory served as faculty liaison as the new group was forming, and Shawn Metcalfe has now assumed that role for the association.

Want to join? Contact Metcalfe at Metcalfe@wcu.edu or call (828) 677-8810. Updates on the organization’s progress and programs will be available on the Alumni Affairs Web page at http://alumni.wcu.edu/.

Nursing Grads Looking for Ways to Help

Joshua Sanders has returned to his native Western North Carolina. A technical sales support engineer for Eaton Electrical at the company’s Avery Creek Academy in Arden, she recently moved to Valley Healthcare with husband Gary, who works as a building inspector for Henderson County, and daughters Rachel, 11, and Katie, 7.

1991 Jean Ellen Sutton Snipes MAEd is serving her fifth year as principal of the LEAP Academy in Burke County Schools. Recently appointed to the five-school county school system, students at the academy complete two years (eighth and ninth grades) of study during one year and then enter high school as sophomores.

At the North Carolina Conference for Excellence in December, plant manager Scott Fullbright was honored because his plant, Rockwell Automation in Marion, was recognized by Industry Week as one of the 10 best plants in North America for 2004. Bill Payne MBA ’84, an existing industry specialist with the N.C. Department of Commerce, presented Fullbright with a N.C. state flag in the name of Gov. Mike Easley and Commerce Secretary James Fain III. In his comments, Payne said, “Rockwell Automation’s Marion facility is a leader because it uses state-of-the-art tools, and its employees are cross-trained to perform at least three jobs.”

It benchmarks itself against the top companies in the world. It provides its employees with the tools and training to get their jobs done and get them done right. Rockwell Automation is the kind of company that North Carolina strives to recruit, retain and help grow.”

1993 Son Shadrack Garrett Kanistras was born to Autumn Nelson and Todd Kanistras ’95 in September.

1996 J. Michelle Gurley accepted a faculty position as clinical instructor for the school of nursing at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.

1997 In October, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush appointed as county judge Edwin Jagger. Jagger was vice-president of the 50th reunion committee of the class of 1947, electrode in educational psychology from the University of Kentucky.

1998 After spending 15 years in the textile industry as a sales representative for 9 Corporations in South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, Audrey Arrington

Members of Western’s first nursing class gather for a group photograph.

SANDERS has returned to her native Western North Carolina. A technical sales support engineer for Eaton Electrical at the company’s Avery Creek Academy in Arden, she recently moved to Valley Healthcare with husband Gary, who works as a building inspector for Henderson County, and daughters Rachel, 11, and Katie, 7.

Van D. Stamamy ’85 used to earn up to $30 a week filling bottles of salon products after school at his family’s business in Kannapolis. “I thought I was making a lot of money, and I was, considering I was a 12-year-old in 1973,” Stamamy said. “We only had one tank and no filling machines, so we literally filled bottles right out of the tank by cranking the valve and allowing gravity to let the product run into the bottles. Gravity wasn’t always so friendly, though. A high school-age Stamamy neglected to secure a tank’s valve one day and 300 gallons of conditioner spilled onto the floor. He was determined to stay all night to make things right. That determination continues to grow the success of the business today. Stamamy, CEO of ThermaFuse, said the company has grown to nearly 50 employees working at the production facility and another two dozen who visit and work with 1,500 salons nationwide. The company has earned industry recognition, too, with recent nominations for “ABBEY,” which are awards from America’s Best Beauty Industry Efforts for Salons that some consider the Oscars of the beauty industry.

Upon graduating from Western, Stamamy went to work full-time at the business that his father started after returning home to Kannapolis after the Korean War. His dad was intent on not going to work at the cotton mill. Instead, he went to barber school, launched his own salon and, in 1967, won the National Hairstylist of the Year award. Fratruzione with manufacturers of personal care products for salons inspired him to take a new direction and make his own products.

Now, ThermaFuse continues to cater to salon and spa owners, declining to sell to large chains or “big box stores” in order to be sensitive what independent salon owners need. They also have improved the quality of their product with help from technical director Mark Ragan ’85, a chemistry graduate from Western. Ragan helped develop formulas for new products that use a combination of a wheat protein molecule and a molecule from a type of silk. “Mark combined this technology with other cutting-edge chemistry to create HeatSmart Complex,” Stamamy said. “HeatSmart Complex protects and repairs heat-styled hair and it works better at an elevated temperature than one would get from a blow dryer, curling iron, or flat iron. It’s the first ingredient in all our formulas.”

The products are top-notch, says Sandy Powell, owner of It’s All About You at North Chase in Wilmington, but what really makes the company stand out to her is its service. When she bought a starter color kit, ThermaFuse offered free training whether two employees or 10 could attend. The company hosts regular events in which customers can tour the facility, visit their plants and participate in training or discussion forums. Powell said she brought up a frustration with the packing material—peanuts. Today, her bottles come packed in air pillows. When salon owners asked for a more stylish pomade, ThermaFuse formulated one that fits the product line. Powell said she has never had that type of service before. “You know how they do business,” she said. “You meet their parents, children and spouses. You see their baby pictures. I’m a mama just a number. They know me by name. They know my family. They know my business. If they are successful, they deserve to be.”

Styling Success

By TERESA KILLIAN

Alums Leave WCU Well-Conditioned for Business

Van D. Stamamy ’85 has had the development of a new line of ThermaFuse hair products for salons and spas...

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“Coach A.J.” Helps Inner City Kids Find Direction

Hundreds of kids call Anthony James ’94 “Coach A.J.” at practice most weekdays. James opened the door of track and field to them through what originated as a track and field club for Charlotte inner-city youth, and over the past decade, 42 became national champions in events ranging from the long jump to the 800-meter run. “But more important,” James says, “is that most became productive citizens.” Between 1992 and 2004, 124 of the kids he has worked with through Charlotte Flight Track and Field Club have gone to college on athletic or academic scholarships.

As athletic coordinator for Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, James is responsible for working with the Police Athletic League and overseeing county activities at the track at Johnson C. Smith University. But he also co-founded Charlotte Flight Track and Field Club, and last year won an award for volunteer service from the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials.

At Western, James was a long jump and triple jump champion. He also starred as tailback for the football team and has been inducted into the school’s athletic hall of fame. He is a certified Track and Field Coach, and says track and field gives many kids a chance to see a life they never knew about. “What we teach them isn’t just athletics,” said James, of the organization started in 1991. “We tutor them for school, teach them about taking the SAT test, tell them to eat healthy foods and take them to see college campuses.”

In December, Deborah Neal (above) was promoted to financial services manager at First Citizens Bank in Fletcher.

2002
Charles White MA ’04 recently celebrated the publication of “The Broken Sword,” his second historical novel. Like his first book, “The Loyalty’s Son,” this one is set during the Revolutionary War. The sequel to “The Broken Sword” is scheduled for publication in 2006 under the title “Men of War: White,” a visiting instructor in Western’s English department, also is researching two other historical novels: “Ghosts of the Last War.”

2003
A resident of Franklin, Shaun Moss (above) publishes Expressions magazine and says it is “a great way to stay in touch with your mountain experiences” (www.expressionsmag.com). He is married to Nalann Suon.

2005
Motivated to join the Peace Corps by her desire to “help others and the desire to become an advocate for developing countries,” Clare Sabo left in March for Senegal, West Africa. A significant part of her service will include instilling and developing a program aimed at empowering urban and peri-urban farmers to use appropriate technologies to increase agricultural production.

You can help change a life.

Contribute to The Loyalty Fund

As the academic qualifications of students at Western continue to rise, so does the need for scholarships. Last year, gifts to The Loyalty Fund provided more than 200 academic scholarships. Your gift will enable us to attract and retain today’s scholars and tomorrow’s leaders.

2001
Now in her third year as a student at the Julliard School of the Arts in New York City, Bobbi “Tokili” Baker (above) has had roles in numerous productions at the school. She portrayed Ruth in “A Raisin in the Sun,” Agnes in “A Bright Room Called Day,” and Madam Glafira Glumova in “Diary of a Sōundhit.” In addition, she originated several roles for Julliard playwhrights. Baker’s upcoming roles include Thaisa in Shakespeare’s “Pericles” and a feature in four selections in the Julliard Annual Cabaret.

2002
In her second year as a student at the Western Carolina University Music School, Lindsay Metcalfe MAC ’02 worked with the Music School’s Wind Ensemble at the MTAC Music Festival. Employed by Sam Underwood, CPA, in Waynesville, Lindsay Metcalfe MAC ’02 married Charles Dills Jr. last October.

2003
As a bombardier, flying 35 missions in North Africa. After that, he was sent as a trainer to New Mexico, where he met the woman who became his wife of 62 years, Hazel Thomas. In early 1946, they moved with their son to her home state of Texas. Young got a job as an insurance sales- man and stayed in the business until he retired in 1982.

2004
Young returned to Western just once, in 1992, when he came back for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1942. “They had just built the Alumni Tower,” he remembers. “The campus had changed so much I hardly knew the place – different roads, different buildings.” But he liked what he saw then, and he still is pleased with what’s going on.

2005
“On its right track. No doubt about that,” Young says. “I get the newsletters and read what’s going on. I didn’t come into town on a load of turnips – I can see that it’s going up, up, up.” His desire to support that progress prompted him to join the Catamount Club. Young says, “They needed funds. I hadn’t been able to send any for a long while. Now that I’m able, I wanted to support the university.”

In a similar situation, he makes this appeal: “If you went to school there, think about your school days and what it meant for you to go to Western and what it can be in the future. Let your heart dictate what you can do.”

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Your gifts make the difference.
Farewell to a Friend

Clarence Presley, the unofficial “Mayor of Cullowhee” who owned and operated a barbershop on campus for decades, died Feb. 3, 2006, at the age of 63. Presley had retired from his barbershop in 2004 as a result of declining health from Parkinson’s disease. He was a long-time supporter of youth sports and the campus for decades, died Feb. 3, 2006, at the age of 63. Pressley had retired from his barbershop in 2004.
The cast of Western’s production of “Oklahoma!” kicks up its heels in a scene from the big spring musical in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. For information about the schedule of summer events in the center, see Page 14.