“The Met” Comes to the Mountains

The wait may not yet be quite over for Western North Carolina opera-lovers singing the blues since the loss of the Metropolitan Opera from the local airwaves several years ago, but the fat lady is warming up her vocal chords.

That’s because Western’s FM radio station, WWCU-FM (Power 90.5), has joined the prestigious ChevronTexaco Metropolitan Opera International Network for the 2002-03 season.

The radio station will carry the entire upcoming twenty-production season, beginning December 7 with Beethoven’s Fidelio and continuing on successive Saturday afternoons until the season-ending The Rake’s Progress by Stravinsky on April 19. A season preview will be broadcast November 30. Other shows on the schedule for 2002-03 include Carmen, Elektra, Die Fledermaus, Don Giovanni, La Boheme, La Traviata, and Faust.

“We had several people ask why the Met wasn’t available anywhere in this area, including people who moved here from other places and who are used to being able to hear the Met wherever they are,” said Don Connelly, assistant professor of communication at Western and faculty adviser to WWCU-FM. The ChevronTexaco Metropolitan Opera broadcast, the longest-running sponsored radio show, has been on the air for sixty-three consecutive years, Connelly said.

“We began looking into it, and we were surprised to find that no one else in the region was carrying this prestigious broadcast,” he said. “It was our station manager and program director—both are students—who said, ‘We have to get that here.’ It was our student managers who realized that, by broadcasting the Met, we would be reaching a completely different audience.”

The addition of the Metropolitan Opera season is only the latest example of major

Dole Visits Campus

North Carolina’s United States Senator-elect Elizabeth Dole and Aaron Ball, associate professor of engineering technology, discuss some of the university’s high-tech initiatives during Dole’s tour of the campus November 16. Dole visited the Belk Building to see the university’s Center for Rapid Prototyping and other facilities and checked out work at the new Workforce Leadership Development Center, a federally funded building now under construction. Dole visited Western North Carolina as part of a two-day “thank you” tour around the state.
changes in programming at WWCU-FM. In late 2001, the station became an affiliate of the ABC Direction network, carrying live news at the top of the hour, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The national network also features Paul Harvey news and commentary.

“It’s kind of unusual for a non-commercial station to be granted the privilege of joining the ABC radio network,” Connelly said. “Because we are a non-commercial station, we do not air the advertisements that come with the newscasts; we simply air the news. ABC is allowing us to do this as a professional learning experience for our students and as a service to the community.”

By adding such high-profile programming as the Met and ABC news to what has long been referred to as “the campus station,” Western is extending the radio station’s community service and helping open future doors for students who get their early broadcast training at WWCU-FM, he said.

WWCU-FM is a broadcast service of Western Carolina University. For more information, call 227-7454 or 227-3851.

Concert To Be Rebroadcast

As a holiday treat, UNC-TV will rebroadcast “The Manhattan Transfer: Live From Cullowhee” at 9 p.m. Monday, December 2 and at 10 p.m. Saturday, December 14. This is the concert enjoyed by attendees of the inaugural CulloWHEE! ArtsFest last June.

Time to Get Moving

Western to Participate In Physical Activity Event

Western faculty, staff, and students have been invited to join other North Carolinians participating in some type of physical activity for at least a few minutes on Friday, December 6, between 10 and 11 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join in the one-hour scheduled activities—tai’chi, Breese Gym (upstairs); aquarobics, Breese and Reid pools; polarity yoga, Scott blue lobby; kickboxing, aerobics area of Reid Gym; weightless workout, Catamount Room, University Center; walking and jogging, starting at clock tower; and fitness assessments, including flexibility, body composition, blood pressure, muscular endurance, and cardiovascular fitness, main floor of Reid gym. All activities are free of charge.

“We know that one session of physical activity is not enough to elect a change in anyone’s health, but we hope this one session can bring attention to the benefit of physical activity in everyone’s life,” said David Claxton, professor and head of the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Governor Mike Easley has proclaimed December 6 a time for “North Carolina Moving Together” as a way to focus attention on the need for physical activity. Spearheading this endeavor is the North Carolina Alliance of Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, which is made up of some 2,000 teachers and other allied professionals. Claxton is president of the alliance. Collaborating in the project are Western’s Fitness Center and the Wellness Program. For more information, contact Claxton at 227-7360.

Young Named Director Of Macon Facility

Rob Young, associate professor of geology, has been appointed director of the Helen Patton Environmental Research Center, a ten-acre facility in Macon County that provides opportunities for Western students and faculty to conduct field-based environmental research projects.

The research center, located in the scenic Patton Valley just south of Franklin, was a gift to the university in 1997 from Helen Patton, a Western alumna and retired art educator. Born and raised in the valley, Patton purchased the ten-acre estate in 1978.

Since her retirement in 1981, Patton has nurtured the property as a showcase of conservation and natural beauty. The tract was originally part of land settled in 1820 by her great-great grandfather, George Patton, for whom the valley is named.

Young, a WCU faculty member since 1997, has conducted extensive research into Southern Appalachian wetlands ecosystems and various coastal issues, including coral reef environments and hurricane impact. Young said he plans to increase the center’s focus on educational outreach by creating a science education center for public school students and teachers, focusing initially on Macon County schools. That project is being supported through a collaboration with Western’s College of Education and Allied Professions and a new graduate assistant’s position provided by WCU’s Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

For more information, contact Young at 227-3822.
Monday, November 25
Concert—WCU Technology Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Tuesday, November 26
Training Tuesday—“Customer Service III—Advanced Connections (part 3)” Professional Development Track, 6 credits. Participants must attend all three sessions to receive credits. Registration required, 9 a.m.–noon., Room 404, BB. (227-2388 or www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Recital—Phi Mu Alpha American music recital, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Thursday, November 28–Friday, November 29

Thanksgiving Holiday
Offices Closed

Saturday, November 30
Catamount basketball—vs. Southeastern College, 2 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

December
Slide Show Spotlight, Mountain Heritage Center—“Irons in the Fire” explains the role of blacksmithing in pioneer and Cherokee culture in the southern Appalachians.

Monday, December 2
Lady Catamount basketball—vs. UNC Asheville, 5:30 p.m., Asheville Civic Center, Asheville. (227-7338)

Dance classes—ballroom dance, including basic steps for tango, foxtrot, and waltz; rumba and cha-cha; and East-Coast Swing, 6–7 p.m.; shag class, 7–8 p.m. Mondays through December 9. Second Floor, Breese Gymnasium. $ (227-7397)

Catamount basketball—vs. UNC Asheville, 7:30 p.m., Asheville Civic Center, Asheville. (227-7338)

Tuesday, December 3
Training Tuesday—“Time Management I: Taking Control of Your Workday (part 1),” 6 credits. Registration required, 9–noon, Room 404, BB. (227-2388 or www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Activity—Kwanzaa Celebration, 7 p.m., HA. (227-2276)

Recital—faculty recital by Eldred Spell, flute, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Friday, December 6
Special observance—North Carolina Moving Together Day, includes variety of physical activities, 10 a.m., various campus locations. (See article, page 2. (227-7360)

Friday, December 6–Saturday, December 7
Dinner—Madrigal Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; patrons must be seated by 6:25 p.m., Grandroom, UC. $ (227-7206)

Sunday, December 8
Concert—annual Holiday Concert, 3 p.m., RH. $ (227-7242)

Exhibitions:


People of Fire. Joel Queen, WCU freshman and member of the pottery-making Bigmeat family of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, is working to recreate the technology and patterning of ancient pottery and continuing the tradition with his own designs. Opening December 3 through December 13. Opening reception December 3, 4–6 p.m., Chelsea Gallery, UC. (227-7206)

North Carolina Women Making History. The trials, triumphs, and changing roles of women during the past 400 years. Through December 2003. MHC. (227-7129)

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People. (Permanent exhibition). Information, illustrations, artifacts, and murals. MHC. (227-7129)

Key: $ - Admission fee; HA - Hoey Auditorium; HFR - H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF - Hennon Stadium/Childress Field; MHC - Mountain Heritage Center; NSA - Natural Sciences Auditorium; RRAC - Ramsey Regional Activity Center; RH - Recital Hall, Coulter Building; BB - Belk Building; UC - A.K. Hinds University Center; UOC - University Outreach Center; WS/BW - Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field; SSF - Shrader Soccer Field.
▲ Robert A. Vartabedian, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of communication and theatre arts, and Laurel Vartabedian, assistant professor of communication and theatre arts, will have the essay “Clinton’s Address to the Nation: A Case Study of Apologetic Goals” published in an upcoming issue of Speaker and Gavel.

Robert Vartabedian also will be presenting the paper “Funding Smart Classrooms: Administering Technological Advances” at the National Communication Association Conference in New Orleans.

▲ Linda Riouff, Jackie McHargue, Ryan Williams, and Bill Haggard of the Student Affairs Division recently presented “Resolving Cases of Fraternity/Sorority Misconduct: A Collaborative Model” at the annual conference of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

▲ Fred Hawley, professor of criminal justice, was quoted in a November 2 Washington Post article on cockfighting.

▲ William Perry, professor of computer information systems, attended the Southeast Government Technology conference in Atlanta. The conference is for state and local government officials. Perry presented “Critical IT Infrastructure Protection: Using the National Security Agency’s Information Security Assessment Methodology at the State and Local Level.”

▲ Michelle Lynch, University Center, and Allen Taylor, president of Last Minute Productions, recently presented “There’s a First Time for Everything: Beginning a Late Night Program Series” at the National Association of Campus Activities South Regional Conference held in Winston-Salem and at the Association of College Unions International Conference held at James Madison University.

▲ Lillian Buss Pearson, pianist and associate professor of music, was the featured soloist with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra on October 5. Pearson performed George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue in the orchestra’s fall pops concert of music by American composers. The concert took place in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

Everyone knows it is a hectic time of the year, and to help keep folks on campus healthy, University Health Services staff members accommodated work schedules by making a house call to the H. F. Robinson Administration Building last week. Barbara Starnes, staff nurse, finds a willing customer in Bill Studenc, associate director of the Office of Public Information. Assisting Starnes was Heidi Sears of Health Services. Twenty-two people took advantage of the opportunity to fend off a winter ailment. Flu shots also were made available in the University Center last Thursday. Health Services had received a number of calls inquiring about the shots. Callers indicated busy work schedules made it difficult to make it over to Health Services, prompting the house call.