Music Professor Will Peebles Named One of UNC System’s Top Teachers

Will Peebles, professor of music, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system, earning praise for helping students discover how to teach themselves.

Peebles is among 17 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching. The award will be presented at a recognition luncheon May 9 in Chapel Hill. Winners receive a commemorative bronze medallion and $7,500 cash prize.

A faculty member at Western since 1992, Peebles teaches bassoon and also is director of the recently formed School of Music within the College of Fine and Performing Arts. He has taught courses in music theory, history and world music.

Peebles established Western’s Low Tech Ensemble, which now performs on Balinese, Javanese and Sudanese gamelan, in fall 1999. A gamelan is an orchestra of tuned percussion instruments that consists mainly of gongs, zithers and xylophones. The educational activities that Peebles’ students experience while learning to play the gamelan provide a perfect example of Peebles’ teaching philosophy and his goal of teaching students to teach themselves, said Chancellor John W. Bardo.

“When students walk into Professor Peebles’ gamelan class, they immediately take off their shoes, sit on the floor amid varied parts of an Indonesian orchestra and begin practicing. Students not only play their parts, but also assist each other, work to correct troublesome spots and ask insightful questions,” Bardo said. “It is clear that the group is discovering how to learn for themselves, take each others’ leads and try new things.”

Peebles said that he is firmly committed to helping students see learning as “one of the most enjoyable activities yet discovered by the human species.” Toward that objective, Bardo said, Peebles teaches music history classes in story-telling mode, where “weaving threads of narrative is more important than memorizing specific details.” In one assignment, students pretend they are musicians from a specific historical period, and they write about the types of music they encounter.

Peebles also has a reputation for being one of Western’s most accessible professors, because he has an open-door policy, frequently dines with students, and hosts regular study sessions. “He is so available that one student commented, ‘You could ask Will a question in the middle of a hurricane, and he would stop and answer you,’” Bardo said.

Peebles earned his bachelor’s degree in social work in 1979, master’s degree in social work in 1980, master’s degree in music in 1982, and doctoral degree in musical arts in 1994 – all from Michigan State University. He is a three-time recipient of WCU’s James Dooley Excellence in Teaching Award, and a past nominee for the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Peebles and the 16 other UNC system award recipients were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure. Winners must be tenured faculty members who have taught at their present institutions at least seven years.

—By BILL STUDENC
Western presented its top faculty and staff awards for teaching, research and service for the 2007-08 academic year on Friday, April 25, at the annual spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation.

Burton Ogle, director of the environmental health program, is recipient of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award. The Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for faculty went to Mickey Randolph, professor of psychology, while the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for administrative staff went to Bill Studenc, senior director of news services in the public relations office.

Mario Gaetano, professor of music, won the University Scholar Award, while the Academic Program of Excellence Award went to the School of Music. The Integration of Learning Award was given to a living and learning project titled “The Spanish House: A Living and Learning Experience.”

Other major awards recognized at the convocation included the University of North Carolina Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, won by Will Peebles, professor of music; the Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award; the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, the Jay M. Robinson e-Teaching Award, the Scholarly Development Assignment Program awards; and the new Last Lecture Award.

The honors were announced by Chancellor John W. Bardo; Kyle Carter, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Sam Miller, vice chancellor for student affairs.

**DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD**

Ogle, winner of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, is completing his sixth year as a faculty member with the health sciences department, where he has taught courses including “From Black Death to Bioterrorism: The Public Health Solution” and “Bioterrorism and Biosafety.” Ogle is able to excite and empower students to take action to protect human health and the environment in their own communities and around the world, said Bardo. Western’s environmental health graduates go on to work in health departments in North Carolina, with the U.S. Public Health Service, and with the Peace Corps in Africa addressing basic issues such as water quality and deforestation.

“Burt’s passion and enthusiasm is infectious,” said Bardo. “He connects with students and creates strong relationships that last long past their time at Western. It is this quality of teaching and learning that make his students lifelong learners, stewards of the earth, and a continued source of pride for Burt, and for Western.”

**REID SERVICE AWARDS**

Randolph, winner of the Reid faculty award and a faculty member since 1988, has been praised by colleagues as someone who goes above and beyond in all she does. Randolph has served as psychology department head and school psychology graduate program director. Her research interests include development of Life Fit, a program designed to foster a lifelong approach to addressing obesity in pre-teens.

She is a member of the board of directors for the REACH domestic violence shelter in Sylva and of Full-Spectrum Farms, which provides advocacy and assistance to families of children with autism. Bardo said that one family has described Randolph’s work as “nothing short of amazing,” and “thanks to the distinguished service provided by Dr. Randolph, the chances of success are far greater than they were before she agreed to become our child’s friend, advocate and ally.”

Studenc, winner of the Reid staff award and a member of the staff since 1988, gathers information about the university from faculty, staff and students, and writes, edits and distributes it for publication in newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, the Web and other venues. Faculty and staff credit Studenc for his outstanding ability to communicate university news in a way that appeals to a wide audience and to generate local to national publicity for events, programs or achievements — a job he does
“with competence, integrity and a keen sense of humor,” one colleague stated.

“Another colleague explained that when he expressed appreciation to Bill for helping publicize a project, ‘Bill just said that he was doing his job. In my opinion, Bill went way beyond simply doing his job,’” said Bardo.

**SCHOLAR, SUPPORT AWARDS**

Gaetano won the University Scholars Award, which recognizes faculty who sustain research and creative activities recognized at the regional or national level. A member of the faculty for more than 29 years, Gaetano has taught, performed solo, researched percussion pedagogy and methodology, and composed more than 40 original music compositions and arrangements that have been performed extensively throughout the United States and in 17 countries.

“Nearly all of these works were premiered here on campus with performances involving Mario, his fellow WCU faculty and his students,” said Bardo. “Many of his compositions and arrangements are designed for teaching a particular compositional device or performance technique. His compositions and arrangements have been performed in formal concerts at 65 universities and schools of music throughout the United States, including UCLA, Harvard and Brigham Young.”

Bardo also presented the Academic Program of Excellence Award to the School of Music, which he described as one of the top music schools in North Carolina. The award comes with a $10,000 cash prize to enhance program services.

“The School of Music collaborates with a variety of entities such as the Jackson County Arts Council and the Asheville Symphony Orchestra,” said Bardo. “Musical theatre productions include faculty and students on stage, in the orchestra, and conducting. Members of the faculty have served as guest clinicians and performed workshops nationwide. The marching band logged more than 9,000 community service hours, and members of the Concert Choir and Trumpet Studio have performed in Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.”

“The accomplishments of the talented faculty and staff of the School of Music are incomparable in our community,” said Bardo.

**PROVOST AWARDS**

The Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award honors a faculty member for regularly promoting significant student learning in teaching liberal studies. Provost Kyle Carter presented the award to April Tallant from the health sciences department.

Carter said she challenges her students to think critically, to write well, to collaborate with others and to synthesize their learning experiences.

“April’s deep connection with her students allows her to shape their transition to college life and to instill a lifelong love of learning,” said Carter.

The provost also presented the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award – which emphasizes the integration of research about teaching and learning and the practical application of that research to teaching itself – to Cynthia Deale of Business Law, Hospitality and Tourism and Sports Management.

Deale earned the award for her study of a semesterlong project in an undergraduate tourism planning class. As students worked in groups and collaborated with the Mountain Heritage Center to help develop a Scots-Irish Heritage Trail, Deale examined the process of learning as students interact with the subject matter, an outside partner and with each other.

The Jay M. Robinson e-Teaching Award for an online teacher who represents the best the university offers was awarded to Sharon Dole of human services.

“Dr. Dole was selected on the basis of excellence in online instructional design, exceptional course organization and enduring, imaginative engagement with her students,” said Carter. “Dr. Dole employed a rich variety of techniques for course delivery, and led her scholars to the highest standards of academic performance.”

Carter also announced faculty selected for the Scholarly Development Assignment Program – Nyaga Mwaniki, Constance Victoria Faircloth, Maurice Phipps, Annette Debo and Mimi Fenton.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS AWARD**

The Integration of Learning Award recognizes faculty members who work directly with student affairs professionals both to promote the integration of teaching with student affairs activities and to achieve jointly developed student learning outcomes consistent with the mission of student affairs and Western’s teaching-learning goals.

Miller presented the award, which comes with a $2,000 cash prize, to James Davis, modern foreign languages; Mistie Bibbee, residential living; and Lynn Mathis, residential living; for their proposal “The Spanish House: A Living and Learning Experience.”

Sixteen students enrolled in Spanish 481 will live together in Central Drive Residence Hall and have peer mentors who are native speakers of Spanish. They also will develop and complete a service-learning opportunity with the community’s Hispanic population.

“The program will be administered in an authentic educational environment, in which students can put language skills acquired in class to immediate use in meaningful contexts,” said Miller. “Moreover, it will augment cultural awareness and understanding of students’ roles as bilingual individuals in changing demographic environments.”

—Compiled by TERESA KILLIAN
Other Awards
In addition to the major university awards presented at the spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation, numerous other faculty awards are presented at the end of the semester. Here is a list of the awards and recipients:

Office of the Provost
Provost’s Instructional Improvement Awards
— Candace Roberts, Jayne Zanglein

College of Arts and Sciences
Board of Governors’ College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award — Sloan Despeaux

College of Business
College of Business Professor of Excellence — Robert Carton
Board of Governors’ Creative and Innovative Teaching Award — Stephen Jamel and Jayne Zanglein

College of Education and Allied Professions
Botner Superior Teaching Award — Terry Rose
BOG Awards for Superior Teaching — Mary Jean Herzog, Gayle Wells, Kelly Kelley, Alvin Malesky
CEAP Dean’s Research Award — Meagan Karvonen
Exemplary Service Award — Mary Deck, Denise Royer

College of Fine and Performing Arts
James Dooley Excellence in Music Teaching Award — Brad Ulrich
Board of Governors’ College of Fine and Performing Arts Teaching Award — Claire Eye

Graduate School
Faculty Research Grants — Kathleen Brennan, Todd Collins, Cheryl Johnson, Jeffrey Lawson, Peter Niekarz
Hunter Scholar Award — Marsha Lee Baker
Teaching-Research — Meagan Karvonen

College of Health and Human Sciences
Board of Governors’ Innovative Teaching Award — Georgia Hambrecht
Donald C. Morgan Faculty Scholar Award — Tracy Zontek
Faculty Student Engagement Award — April Tallant
Faculty/Staff Leadership Award — Marie Huff
Faculty Service Award — Lisa Briggs
Faculty Scholar Award — Billy Ogletree

New Award Honors Faculty For Support of Undergraduate Research
The Honors College presented the first-ever RODIN Awards this spring to three faculty members for their support of undergraduate researchers. RODIN stands for the Recognition of Distinguished Instruction and Nurturing. Honorees Hal Herzog, professor of psychology; John Whitmire, assistant professor of philosophy and religion; and Jill Manners, athletic training program clinical education coordinator, each received a replica of sculptor Auguste Rodin’s “The Thinker” and a $1,000 stipend.

Developed by Honors College student leaders, the new award will be presented every year at the Undergraduate Expo held on campus.

“In recent years, Western has become a leading institution for undergraduate research, and much of that success is because of our outstanding faculty,” said Brian Railsback, dean of the Honors College. For three consecutive years, WCU students have ranked in the top 10 nationally for the number of research projects accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research; in 2008, WCU was ranked sixth in the nation.

Service Worth Celebrating
The 13 EPA staff and faculty who are retiring or entering phased retirement together have given 334 years and 7 months of service to WCU. Pictured from left is Duane Davis, professor of applied criminology, retired; A. Michael Dougherty, dean and professor of education and allied professions, phased retirement; Terry L. Kinnear, associate professor of management and international business, phased retirement; Nancy M. Kolenbrander, associate professor of Hunter Library, retired; Scott W. Minor, professor of psychology, retired; presenter Beth Tyson Lofquist, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs; Max M. Schreiber, associate professor of management and international business, retired; Linda K. Eargle, assistant professor of physical therapy, retired; Lawrence G. Kolenbrander, associate professor of geosciences and natural resource management, retired; Myron J. Leonard, professor of marketing, retired; and presenter Chancellor John W. Bardo. Not pictured is Stephen Ayers, associate professor of theatre, retired; Patrick Hays, associate professor of accounting and finance, retired; Jim Rowell, senior director of marketing and promotions for advancement and external affairs, retired; and Gordon Mercere, professor of political science and public affairs and director of the Public Policy Institute, phased retirement.
Camp Western
The following camps will be held this summer on the Western campus.

**DAY CAMPS**

www.wcu.edu/2401.asp

**Creativity Camp** – Campers can learn about multimedia software, digital video recording, robotics and more. For first- through eighth-graders. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 16-20. Killian Building; $109 (Register by May 16.) Contact Susan Fouts at 227-7397 or sfouts@email.wcu.edu.

**Eco-Adventures in Your Backyard** – Natural history camp that allows children to explore insects, flowers, trees and other aspects of the mountain environment, includes art-based activities and a field trip. For rising second- and third-graders. 8:30 a.m.-noon June 23-27. Mountain Heritage Center. $30 Contact Susan Fouts at 227-7397 or sfouts@email.wcu.edu.

**Mini-Camp for Middle Schoolers** – An exploration of cultural history of the Cherokees and early settlers in the region, includes field trip and creating mountain history exhibits. For rising sixth- and seventh-graders. 8:30 a.m.-noon July 9-11. Mountain Heritage Center. $30 Contact Susan Fouts at 227-7397 or sfouts@email.wcu.edu.

**Mountain Mysteries Day Camp** – Explore the heritage of southern Appalachia beginning with the Native Americans and continuing through the pioneer experience, includes crafts, music, field trip and artifacts. For rising fourth- and fifth-graders. 8:30 a.m.-noon July 14-18. Mountain Heritage Center. $30 Contact Susan Fouts at 227-7397 or sfouts@email.wcu.edu.

**Catamount Adventure Camp** – Hiking, rock climbing, kayaking and rafting in an environment that encourages goal setting, leadership and communication. For rising seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. July 14-18. Meets at Base Camp Cullowhee office, Brown Cafeteria. $199. Contact Susan Fouts at 227-7397 or sfouts@email.wcu.edu.

**ATHLETICS**

catamountsports.crtv.com/camps/wcar-camps.html

**Catamount Baseball Day Camp** – WCU baseball staff and players lead campers in development of hitting, throwing, pitching, fielding and base running through skill stations and scrimmages. For ages 8 and older. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 24-27. Hennon Stadium/Childress Field. $275. Contact Grant Achilles at 227-2510 or gachilles@email.wcu.edu.

**Catamount Baseball Defensive Skills Camp** – WCU baseball staff and players lead campers in development of defensive skills, including groundball work, cut offs and relays and turning double plays. For ages 8 and older. 9 a.m.-noon June 30-July 2. Hennon Stadium/Childress Field. $135 (Get $30 off for dual registration in offensives and defensive skills camps.) Contact Grant Achilles at 227-2510 or gachilles@email.wcu.edu.

**Catamount Baseball Offensive Skills Camp** – WCU baseball staff and players lead campers in development of offensive skills, including hitting fundamentals, speed training, strategy and base running. For ages 8 and older. 1-4 p.m. June 30-July 2. Hennon Stadium/Childress Field. $135 (Get $30 off for dual registration in offensive and defensive skills camps.) Contact Grant Achilles at 227-2510 or gachilles@email.wcu.edu.

**Larry Hunter Basketball Day Camp** – Individual instruction; ball-handling, shooting and passing drills; defense fundamentals; and competition under the direction of head coach Larry Hunter. For boys grades 4-12. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 16-18; 9 a.m.-noon June 19. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. $190, includes lunch. Contact Anquell McCollum at 227-2020 or amccollum@e-mail.wcu.edu.

**Western Carolina Basketball Team Camp** – Skill development and competition under the direction of head coach Kellie Harper and WCU assistant coaches and players. For grades 2-12. Noon-9 p.m. June 22; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday June 26; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 24. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. $175 day camp; $220 residential, available for grades 3-12. (Add $25 after June 6.) Contact T’Lona Lamonte at 227-2994 or lamonte@wcu.edu.

**Boys and Girls Youth Soccer Day Camp** – Developing players will learn the technical and tactical aspects of soccer under the direction of WCU head coach Tammy DeCesare. For ages 4-11. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 21-24; 9-11:30 a.m. July 25. Catamount Athletic Center. $170 full-day; $85 half-day. (WCU discount available.) Contact Tammy DeCesare at 227-2025 or tdecesare@email.wcu.edu or Chad Miller at 227-2391 or millerc@wcu.edu.

**Boys Elite and Team Soccer Camp** – Competitive players will hone skills with tactical knowledge in competitive training environment under the direction of WCU assistant coach Chad Miller. For ages 11-18. July 31-Aug. 3. Catamount Athletic Center. $275. Contact: Tammy DeCesare at 227-2025 or tdecesare@email.wcu.edu or Chad Miller at 227-2391 or millerc@wcu.edu.

**Individual Skills Volleyball Camp** – Skill development in all aspects of the game, including serving, passing, setting, attacking, blocking and transition. For grades 6-12. July 11-14. Camp Building Gymnasium. $275 day camp; $325 residential. (WCU discount available.) Contact Allison Magnner at 227-2390 or amagner@email.wcu.edu.

**Catamount Softball Camp** – Small groups will receive instruction in the fundamentals of hitting and defense, mental approach and base-running and sliding. For ages 10-18. July 6-10. Catamount Softball Complex. $275 day camp; $360 residential. Contact Kari Mills at (971) 218-0144 or kmills@email.wcu.edu.

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Compiled by Jill Ingram
Professor Starts Scholarship in Geology, Earth Sciences Education

For more than 30 years, geology professor Steve Yurkovich has taught students history – ancient history. Yurkovich takes them back more than 450 million years to the collision of the North American and African plates that formed the Appalachian Mountains. He has shown them how to read geological clues in the rocks during field trips to rock formations near the Jarrett House in Dillsboro, Arby’s in Sylva, Mount Rogers in Virginia and points further west.

Acting on his love of teaching and of geology, and his late wife Valerie Yurkovich’s passion for teaching earth sciences at the high school level, he established an endowed scholarship at Western that will be given annually to geology or earth sciences education students.

“Both of us had good experiences with the institution, and I thought it was time to give something back,” said Yurkovich. He came to work at WCU in 1971, and his wife earned her master’s degree in science education.

The inaugural winner is Don Livingston of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

“Both of us had good experiences with the institution, and I thought it was time to give something back,” said Yurkovich. He came to work at WCU in 1971, and his wife earned her master’s degree in science education.

The newly created Last Lecture Award, which is sponsored by the Committee on Student Learning, honors faculty who inspire students with passion and enthusiasm in their teaching. The winner will give a “last lecture” – the words they would share if it was the last lecture they were ever going to give – this fall during Homecoming week.

The inaugural winner is Don Livingston of political science and public affairs. His students say that he takes the time to make a personal connection with them, and is enlightening and energetic. Provost Kyle Carter in announcing the award quoted a student who said, “He brings a great deal of excitement to class and easily keeps your attention.”

WCU Launches Last Lecture Award

The United States Department of Agriculture awarded $144,066 to Jayne Zanglein, visiting instructor of business law, for the North Carolina Agriculture Mediation Program, which assists in the resolution of disputes between participating USDA agencies and their program participants. Zanglein is the program’s director.

The North Carolina Biotechnology Center awarded $52,410 to Lori Seischab, assistant professor of elementary and middle grades education, for a project that will focus on sustained professional development in the areas of inquiry-based science and integrated curriculum for participating third- through eighth-grade teachers. WCU is partnering with Asheville City Schools and Yancey County Schools on the project.

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Grants Awarded for New Research

Amy Kunst, a senior majoring in earth sciences education, is the first recipient of a scholarship started by geology professor Steve Yurkovich.

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Branding Process Moves Forward

A three-year university branding and marketing initiative launched in the fall to help raise the public perception of WCU to match the reality of the university’s increasingly award-winning programs, students and faculty is well under way as the spring semester comes to a close. Raising the perception will enable the university to compete more effectively for faculty, students and funding support.

Consultants with Stamats, the firm coordinating the branding initiative in a team effort with a representative committee of WCU faculty and staff, have conducted focus groups and surveys with students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, community members and others as well as completing comparative research with other institutions. The most recent survey in late April asked respondents to consider several possible “promise statements,” which are simple declarations of what the institution promises to do.

“A promise statement is purposefully not a creative ‘wow’ statement,” said Eric Sickler, the principal consultant from Stamats working with WCU. “It’s not a tagline or slogan, and it’s not even a creative concept for a promotional campaign. Rather, it is a working tool for campus marketers and leaders to use as a behind-the-scenes clarifying statement designed to bring consistency to the development of promotional messaging.”

Sickler studied communication, marketing and higher education at Central College, Creighton University and Drake University. His work experience includes nearly 15 years at Central College as director of alumni and college relations, director of admission and vice president for admission and marketing. He has served on two national commissions for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, chaired national CASE institutes and has presented workshops and conference sessions nationwide on integrated marketing, institutional brand development, marketing trends and creativity in management.

Sickler said the faculty and staff at WCU rank among the most engaged, collaborative, constructive and energized teams with whom he has worked.

“They’re collective energy and forward-thinking approach is powerful evidence of the extraordinarily visionary culture that we sense is so prevalent at WCU,” said Sickler.

Representatives of Stamats and the university are analyzing the data to develop the kinds of clear, compelling messages in words, pictures and graphics that highlight the university’s existing strengths and future potential in essence articulating Western’s brand image.

“The ‘wow’ piece of the WCU program will come later when we work with your campus-based marketing pros to develop an innovative and highly creative campaign that brings the promise statement to life for your many key audiences,” said Sickler. “Showcasing WCU people, WCU programs, WCU heritage, WCU achievements and WCU’s truly distinguishing features and benefits will provide the ‘wow.’”

By TERESA KILLIAN

English Professor Rick Boyer Pens New Sherlock Holmes Tales

Some 30 years after developing his writing skills through a series of literary exercises imitating a storyteller he calls the greatest of the past century, award-winning novelist Rick Boyer of the English department faculty has seen his career come full-circle.

A resident of Waynesville, Boyer is author of the newly published “The Quintessential Sherlock Holmes,” a collection of five full-length stories based upon the legendary detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Returning to his literary roots was well, simply elementary for an author whose career highlights range from an Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Novel presented by the Mystery Writers of America for the first work in his popular Doc Adams mystery series, to critical acclaim and commercial success for his best-selling nonfiction work “Places Rated Almanac.”

“Basically, Sherlock Holmes is and remains the greatest consulting detective the world has ever known,” Boyer said. “I thought that since I was going to give it my best to become an author, I had better select the ideal author to act as my example and my mentor.”

Boyer’s debut novel, “The Giant Rat of Sumatra,” was first published in 1976 in paperback. Based on a famous Sherlockian adventure mentioned in passing in Doyle’s “The Sussex Vampire,” the story was hailed by the late John Bennett Shaw as “the best and most authentic modern Sherlock Holmes tale yet written.”

“I never thought this book would last over a year’s time in the marketplace – especially in the crime and suspense marketplace, which is very, very tough,” Boyer said. “But 30 years have come and gone, and guess what? ‘Giant Rat’ has been continuously in print for 33 years, and it remains published all over the globe in many languages.”

Even as he turned his attention to the Doc Adams mystery series – a sequence of nine novels centered on the misadventures of a New England oral surgeon who frequently finds himself in the midst of murder, mayhem and mystery – Boyer continued to also write novellas featuring Sherlock Holmes.

“I wanted to open cases never seen before in the public eye,” he said. “Those works are now published together for the first time in “The Quintessential Sherlock Holmes,” a limited edition tome featuring leather binding and Kevlar slipcase.

“I have had no major feelings of apprehension about following in the footsteps of Arthur Conan Doyle,” Boyer said. “I had some trepidation, to be sure, but soon found myself engaged and engrossed with Victorian England, London and the English countryside. After all, Sherlock Holmes will never die. He’ll never even catch a cold.”

Boyer said he sees the continuing adventures of Sherlock Holmes as a refuge for those readers seeking an alternative to the sensationalistic, violence-ridden fare being offered up by so many of today’s contemporary authors.

“There are millions – no, tens of millions – of Sherlockian fans out there all over the world, speaking all sorts of languages and dialects. The enthusiasm and excitement never wanes,” he said. “Frankly, I am disappointed with America and all she is producing lately. The BBC is tenfold better than anything on American TV. Their books are better, and their sense of decency and fair play (all exemplified by Sherlock Holmes and faithful sidekick John Watson), will never leave the literary stage.”


–By BILL STUDENC
Monday, May 5–Wednesday, May 7
Swing and salsa class — For teens and adults. No partner or experience necessary. 6–7:30 p.m. Breese Gymnasium. $ (227-3688)

Wednesday, May 7–Saturday, May 10

Saturday, May 10
Spring commencements — 10 a.m. for graduate students; 4 p.m. for undergraduates. RRAC. Graduate student schedule: 8 a.m. rehearsal, 9 a.m. procession. Undergraduate student schedule: 12:30 p.m. rehearsal, 3 p.m. line-up, 5:30 p.m. reception in RRAC. (227-7216)

Inaugural Triangle-Area Catamount Golf Tournament — Proceeds donated to WCU athletics. 1 p.m. Neuse Golf Club, Clayton. ((919) 602-6863)

University Club — Graduation party for members and their guests. 6:30–11:30 p.m. UClub house, Central Drive. (227-3683)

Monday, May 12–Tuesday, May 27
Summer school — mini-session. (227-7495)

Tuesday, May 13–Tuesday, May 20
Mountain Landscapes Initiative — Public workshop to create planning and development guidelines for landowners, builders and communities in Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Clay, Cherokee and Graham counties and the Qualla Boundary. Schedule online at www.mountainlandscapesnc.org. UC. (508-5002)

Thursday, May 15
Catamount baseball — vs. College of Charleston. 7 p.m. HS/CF. $ (227-7338)

Friday, May 16
Wired Workshops Computer Training — File management with Gordon Pike. Basic folder operations, basic file operations, finding lost files, backing up, installing new programs and an overview of anti-viral programs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Room 137, CCB. $. (227-7397)

Catamount baseball — vs. College of Charleston. 7 p.m. HS/CF. $ (227-7338)

Saturday, May 17
Catamount baseball — vs. College of Charleston. 2 p.m. HS/CF. $ (227-7338)

Monday, May 19–Thursday, May 22
Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning — For faculty and EPA staff members with teaching or teaching-support responsibilities. (227-3427)

Monday, May 19
Wired Workshops Computer Training — Powerful Presentations. Techniques to improve presentations with emphasis on PowerPoint. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Room 137, CCB. $. (227-7397)

Wednesday, May 21–Sunday, May 25

Friday, May 30–Sunday, June 1
Symposium — Plain-Style Furniture. MHC. (227-7129)

Saturday, May 31
Power outage — Power to campus, BB&T building and Young Drive Apartments off for electrical switchgear testing. 8 a.m.–8 p.m. (227-7224)

Exhibits
Mountain Heritage Center
“After the War” — Slideshow spotlight. May.
“Mountain Trout” — Slideshow spotlight. June.
“A Quilter’s Garden” — A selection of whimsical, handmade textile pieces by fabric artist Laura Nelle Goebel based on traditional quilting. Through Friday, May 23. Gallery B.
“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People” — Text panels, illustrations, artifacts and murals that trace the Scotch-Irish Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, through the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina. Permanent exhibit. Gallery A.

Mountain Heritage Center hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. (227-7129 or http://www.wcu.edu/mhc)

Fine Art Museum
“Worldviews” — Selections from WCU’s permanent collection. Ongoing.

Fine Art Museum hours:
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays; and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Donations appreciated. (http://fapac.wcu.edu or 227-3591)

Hunter Library
Art education exhibit — Artwork by students in the art education program on display through July on the main floor. (etapley@wcu.edu or 227-7210)

Submissions:
Send news items, calendar notices and address changes to Reporter@email.wcu.edu or WCU Calendar, 420 H.F. Robinson Building, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Submit items for The Reporter calendar at least three weeks prior to the event.

KEY: $—Admission fee; BB–Belk Building; CAC–Catamount Athletic Center; CAC–Center for Applied Technology; CCB–Cordelia Camp Building; CFC–Catamount Softball Complex; FAPAC–Fine and Performing Arts Center; HA–Hoey Auditorium; HFR–H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HU–Hunter Library; HS/CF–Hennon Student/Children’s Field; MHC–Mountain Heritage Center; NSA–Natural Sciences Auditorium; RH–Recital Hall, Coulter Building; RRAC–Ramsey Regional Activity Center; UC–A.K. Hinds University Center; WS/BW–Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field.