When Susan Parrot Ward and her husband returned to Western recently for the dedication of a ceramics studio in their names, it was only the latest development in a long and rewarding association with Joan Byrd, professor in what is now the department of art and design.

Byrd, who teaches ceramics, not only hired Ward as a work study student during her freshman year, she also inspired the talented younger artist from Kinston to "do her own thing."

"Here was Joan, as independent as she could be," Ward said. "When students showed an interest, she ate 'em up. She gave them all the attention they needed. She offered them wonderful opportunities, brought friends to class who were potters we had read about, took us to a national pottery conference. She really made a difference in my life."

During her second year when times were tough at home, Ward struggled to support herself. She said she was thrilled to receive a scholarship that allowed her to stay in school and earn her bachelor's degree in 1975. After graduation, she went to work in stained-glass design and production; taught as an artist-in-residence in Kinston, teaching students who were physically and developmentally disabled; and helped with the restoration of a beloved old carousel in Raleigh's Pullen Park. None of that would have been possible without Byrd's early encouragement and her own positive experiences at Western, she said.

They came. They saw. They concurred.

"They" are the nine members of the review team for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which conducted an on-site visit at Western earlier this month. Following two years of self-study of university programs by faculty and staff, the review team was on campus to look at progress being made on meeting requirements for re-accreditation by SACS.

Members of the team concurred that Western has made significant strides toward meeting those requirements, including the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan. In its preliminary findings concerning the QEP, a comprehensive plan for institutional improvement and a key component of the review process, the
team found the plan to be acceptable, with no formal recommendations for changes.

“That is the most desirable outcome that an institution can hope for,” said Carol Burton, director of WCU’s SACS review process. “The team offered three informal suggestions for implementing the QEP, and we will be looking at those suggestions and incorporating them into our final plan.”

Western’s QEP—titled “Synthesis: A Pathway to Intentional Learning at WCU”—is designed to enhance undergraduate-student learning by linking the diverse elements of the entire university experience, in and out of the classroom, and helping students connect their academic and co-curricular experiences in order to better reach their goals after graduation.

The team identified four areas still needing additional attention in the compliance certification section of the review process, which calls for thorough analysis of university compliance with more than 70 core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements.

“To receive recommendations on only four out of 70-plus standards is exceptional,” Burton said. “The university is already at work to follow up on those four areas. Two of the areas relate to faculty credentials, assessment plan, and newly developed mission and goals for some of our support services.”

A written report from the review team is expected in early May. The university’s response to the compliance recommendations and QEP suggestions is due in early September, with a final vote on re-accreditation by SACS in December.

“The preliminary findings of the team are extremely positive. Needless to say, Provost Kyle Carter and I are extremely pleased with the outcome of the review and commend the entire university community for its work in this critical process,” Chancellor John Bardo said.

“Provost Kyle Carter and I are extremely pleased with the outcome of the review and commend the entire university community for its work in this critical process.”

— Chancellor John Bardo

A reception to express thanks to the faculty, staff and students who assisted with the review is planned for Tuesday, May 1, from 3:30 until 5 p.m. in the Grandroom of A.K. Hinds University Center.

SACS is the major accrediting body for more than 790 public and private institutions of higher education in the South. Western has been accredited by SACS since 1946; the last accreditation review took place in 1996.

For more information, visit the SACS review Web site at www.wcu.edu/SACS.

— By BILL STUDENC

Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for classes at this year’s Mountain Dulcimer Week, which will be held at Western from June 24-29.

The mountain dulcimer, one of the original instruments of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, was first developed in the early 1800s by westward-bound Scots-Irish and English pioneers, said Lois Hornbostel, Mountain Dulcimer Week director.

“When a traditional dance tune or ballad is played on the instrument, you can hear those older times,” said Hornbostel. “Nowadays, there is a renaissance of interest throughout the country in the mountain dulcimer.”

Evening concerts open to the public will take place on June 25, 26 and 27. Admission to the concerts is free for registered participants. For others, admission is $12 for each night or $25 for three nights. Students and those under age 20 pay $5 per performance.

The deadline for class registration is June 15. For more information or to register, visit the Web site http://edoutreach.wcu.edu/dulcimer or call (828) 227-7397.

— By JONI KENYON

Mountain Dulcimer Week Opens Registration for Music Students

Participants of a previous Mountain Dulcimer Week at Western take part in a dulcimer-playing course.
WCU students Mallory McVey and Alan Malpass execute a fish dive lift from “Swan Lake” while dancers in the background perform a classic moment from “Les Sylphides,” one of the first famous abstract ballets of the 20th century. The choreography of Darryl Clark, head of the dance program, and instructors Amy Dowling and Amy Kohler will be featured in the Spring Faculty Dance Concert in Hoey Auditorium on Friday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. “The audience will be exposed to a wide range of dance styles from modern jazz to classical ballet,” said Clark. “The performance will be highly entertaining and insightful into how we see the world as choreographers.” Admission is $5. For more information, call (828) 227-3672.

Western's Fine Art Museum will host a meet and greet reception for rock ‘n’ roll photographer George Shuba at about 9:15 p.m. on Friday, April 27. The reception, which follows a sold-out 7:30 p.m. performance of political comedy by the Capitol Steps, honors Shuba, whose black-and-white photographs of artists from Aretha Franklin to The Beatles are featured in the exhibit “Cleveland Rocks—The Birthplace of Rock and Roll” on view at WCU’s Fine Art Museum through Saturday, May 12. The event includes an appearance by Capitol Steps performers and an opportunity to order the forthcoming Cleveland Rocks exhibit catalog featuring other George Shuba photographs. Western’s Fine Art Museum organized the exhibit of 48 photographs from Shuba’s collection of more than 6,500 negatives of rock ‘n’ roll events and performers in Cleveland, the first or second stop on the musicians’ national tours. “Shuba was always there to capture the moment, and his earliest photographs featured in the exhibit date back to 1964 when he was the photographer for Cleveland’s famous Upbeat Show,” said Martin DeWitt, director of the Fine Art Museum.

The reception is open to Fine Art Museum or Fine and Performing Arts Center “Friend” members at the $25 level or higher and Fine and Performing Arts Center season subscribers. Membership applications will be available at the event. Also currently showing at the Fine Art Museum is “Worldviews,” selections from the permanent collection; new acquisitions that include ceramics, wood sculpture and work on paper by area artists; and New York School artists Rosemarie Beck, Robert LaHotan and Lois Dodd. In addition, the WCU department of art and design Annual Juried Art Student and Award Winners Exhibition will be on view through May 4.

For more information about museum hours or becoming a Friend member of the Fine Art Museum, call (828) 227-3591 or visit www.wcu.edu/fapac.

Jimi Hendrix at the Cleveland Convention Hall, 1968; photograph and copyright by George Shuba
Despite College Student Budgets, Young Alum, Grad Assistant Make Gifts

Two recent college graduates who are eking out a living, one as a graduate assistant and the other as a part-time employee preparing for law school, were so moved by what they heard at the State of the University Address earlier this semester that they decided to contribute to The Campaign for Western.

Brandon Robinson, a 2005 WCU graduate who is working part-time in Hunter Library and the Office of Public Relations, and Jason Coggins, a second-semester WCU graduate student in public affairs, said they feel compelled to give back to a university that has given them so much.

Robinson, who will enter law school at North Carolina Central University in the fall, is directing his gift to the history department. As the only freshman to receive the department’s History Excellence Award (in 2001), he said he wants his contribution to go to the very fund that helped him pay for college.

“When I sat in the Ramsey Center listening to Chancellor John Bardo’s speech, he did not know it then, but he was speaking directly to me. When I heard him talk about merit-based opportunities, I thought of myself, who grew up in a single-parent family,” he said. “I received several scholarships, but I still had to take out loans, and I thought, ‘No student who loves learning as I do should have to indebted himself for that love. I decided, right then and there, that I would do something to help future history majors. That’s why I believe in this campaign for Western’s future.”

Robinson said he plans to make annual contributions to the History Excellence Award scholarship even while he’s in law school. “I intend to do so until my death,” he said. “I don’t make a lot of money right now, but when I am a man of means, I also plan to support the department of philosophy and religion, the Honors College and the Friends of Hunter Library.”

Coggins, a 2006 political science graduate of the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill now working toward his master’s degree in public affairs at WCU, said he had been thinking about making a gift to the campaign ever since he attended Bardo’s State of the University Address, and receiving the association’s scholarship provided the spark. “I just know what the NCCMA Scholarship is doing for me by allowing me to continue going to school and to meet professionals in my prospective field who could mentor me,” he said. “That would never have happened had it not been for WCU. That’s why it’s important to me to be able to play a role in enabling others to better themselves.”

Coggins said he hopes his modest contribution to the public affairs program will open doors of opportunity for someone the way the NCCMA Scholarship has opened doors for him. “Education is often heralded as the great equalizer, but you first have to be able to get into the classroom, and sometimes scholarship assistance makes all the difference,” he said. “That’s where I hope to aid a future student.”

For more information about The Campaign for Western, a historic effort to raise more than $40 million for scholarship and program support, contact Brett Woods, campus campaign director, at 227-7124 or bwoods@wcu.edu.

—By BILL STUDENC
Communication Disorders Students Benefit from New Scholarship Fund

A Candler woman is the first recipient of a new $1,500 scholarship for graduate students studying communication sciences and disorders at Western awarded through a fund established by the founder of a Greensboro-based communication and rehabilitative therapy clinic.

Margie Gibbs Motsinger, a Western alumna and founder of the Cheshire Center Inc., recently presented the inaugural Cheshire Center Scholarship to Susan Foringer-Burk, who is working toward a master’s degree in communication sciences and disorders.

Motsinger, who graduated from WCU in 1975 with a degree in speech and hearing, founded the Cheshire Center in 1980. It is now the largest private clinic in the Greensboro area, with a staff of more than 90 professionals providing speech therapy and community-based rehabilitative services, primarily to children.

“I have always told everyone about what a great start I got at Western, where I experienced a lot of one-on-one interaction with my professors and where I served in many different internship-type experiences,” she said. “I remember being assigned a clinic caseload as a junior, which was frightening at the time but of tremendous value in the long run. It certainly taught me to ‘think on my feet’ and gave me an edge when I attended graduate school.”

Motsinger said it was personally important to be able to give back to the university where she got her start in her career. “I have certainly been mentored and helped along the way by leaders in the profession and in business. It is critical that we reach out to young clinicians and foster their training and development,” she said. “I felt that setting up the scholarship program would be a way to both say ‘thank you’ to WCU and to mentor therapists early in their careers.”

Foringer-Burk, recipient of the scholarship, is a native of Syracuse, N.Y., who graduated from Hobart and William Smith College with a degree in French language and literature in 1996. The daughter of Dean and Jane Foringer of Brevard, she is married to Christopher Burk and has a son, Hunter, 11. On schedule to earn her master’s degree from WCU in December, she plans to work in the field of communication sciences and disorders for several years, and then pursue her doctorate.

The contributions from Motsinger initiating the Cheshire Center Scholarship Fund come as Western is in the midst of The Campaign for Western, a three-year effort to raise $40 million in private support for scholarships, professorships and programmatic resources. The first comprehensive fundraising campaign in university history was officially launched in February after an initial “silent phase.”

“The Campaign for Western provides the opportunity for people who see a need in a discipline near and dear to their hearts to make gifts that will have a significant impact on the students who will one day be working in those professions,” said Brett Woods, WCU director of development.

“The generous support of Margie Gibbs Motsinger and the Cheshire Center will make it possible for deserving students to successfully achieve their goals of helping others cope with communication disorders.”

—By BILL STUDENC

For more information about The Campaign for Western, contact Brett Woods at (828) 227-7124 or by email at bwoods@wcu.edu or check out campaign.wcu.edu.

Bill Ogletree, director of the communication sciences and disorders program, watches as alumna Margie Gibbs Motsinger (center) presents a $1,500 scholarship to Susan Foringer-Burk.

FUND LEADS AREAS OF EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN SUPPORT

I wasn’t able to do, and to be able to support a scholarship that could help her or someone like her go to college feels good. I hope others will consider giving, too.

Some contributors are not staff members, such as Hal Herzog, a professor of psychology. His gift was born of appreciation.

“The university relies on the incredible amount of work put in by people that are diligent and bright,” said Herzog. “Our department would fall apart if not for our secretary and other members of the staff. I would like for their kids to have the same opportunities that I had in going to college.”

The scholarship fund recently reached the first $10,000 threshold needed to be able to award the first $500 annual scholarship this fall, and Staff Forum members say they are determined to grow that amount.

“The greater the fund grows, the larger the amount of the scholarship and the more scholarships that can be awarded,” said Elizabeth Frazier, assistant to the dean of research and graduate studies, who is chairing the Staff Forum’s scholarship committee. “This is just the beginning.”

The Campaign for Western has garnered support from one former faculty member, 32 faculty members and 58 staff members with gifts and pledges worth more than $57,000. The largest campaign commitments in addition to the Staff Forum Scholarship Fund are approximately $9,100 for the Loyalty Fund, $8,300 for the Catamount Club, $2,500 for the Marty Ramsey Summer School Scholarship, $2,200 for the Alumni Scholarship, $3,300 for the police department, $1,600 for the psychology department and $1,400 for the marching band.

For more information about The Campaign for Western, contact Brett Woods at (828) 227-7124 or by email at bwoods@wcu.edu or check out campaign.wcu.edu.

—By TERESA KILLIAN

For information on The Campaign for Western, visit the Web site at campaign.wcu.edu or call (828) 227-7124.
Registration is under way for Western’s summer Tiny Tot and Youth swim programs.

The Tiny Tot Swim Program, designed for children ages 6 months to 5 years old, will be offered May 7–11 and May 14–18; June 11–15 and June 18–22; July 23–27 and July 30–Aug. 3 and from Aug. 6–10 and Aug. 13–17.

Children ages 6 months to 3 years old meet weekdays from 5:15 to 6:05 p.m. Children ages 3 to 5 meet weekdays from 6:10 to 7 p.m.

Three-year-olds may take either class, based on skill level. Each child must be accompanied by at least one adult in the pool.

The May, July and August sessions will be held at WCU’s Reid Pool. The June session will be held at WCU’s Breese Pool. The Youth Swim Program for children ages 6 and older will be offered in two separate sessions at Reid Pool, weekdays June 11–29 and again from July 2–20. No classes will be held July 4.

Classes are offered at various times from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m., based on the student’s skill level, from beginner through advanced. The cost for the Youth Swim Program is $65 per session.

Michael Creason, instructor for the programs, is retired as an assistant professor in the department of health, physical education and recreation at WCU. He is certified by the American Red Cross to teach infants and children and has been a swimming instructor for 30 years.

Early registration is encouraged. To register, contact Western’s Division of Educational Outreach at (828) 227-7397 or visit the Web site http://edoutreach.wcu.edu/community.
Western faculty and students recently presented their research findings at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Louisiana. Faculty members whose work was highlighted include Scott Minor, professor of psychology; Millicent Abel, associate professor of psychology; Tom Oren, associate professor of human services; David McCord, head of the psychology department; and Alvin Malesky, associate professor of psychology.

A paper Minor co-authored, "Eating Attitudes and Body Dissatisfaction in Jamaican Adolescent Females," was a finalist for the Outstanding Paper Award for Professional Members.

Children Invited to Creativity Camp

Elementary and middle school students are invited to attend the fourth annual Cullowhee Creativity Camp, to take place in the Killian Building from Monday, June 18, through Friday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of the camp is to offer children challenging but fun learning activities that encourage creative thinking and problem solving. Activities include courses in multimedia software, digital video recording, robotics and other technology.

Participants are urged to apply by May 20. The program costs $85 per student and covers lunch and materials. Additional family members may participate at a discounted rate. Scholarships are available based upon need.

For more information, contact Sharon Dole, assistant professor of human services, at (828) 227-7310.

Newsfile

• An article by John Whitmire, assistant professor of philosophy and religion, titled "Questioning the Self: Kierkegaard and Derrida" was published in Philosophy Today. Another article, "The Double Writing of Les Mots: Sartre's Words as Performative Philosophy," will be printed in Sartre Studies International.

• The 34th annual Conference of the North Carolina Association for Institutional Research highlighted the work of members of the WCU Office of Institutional Research and Planning. Raymond Barclay, director of institutional research and planning, gave a presentation titled "What If? An Integrated and Goal-driven Campus Enrollment and Revenue Projection Model" and was asked to develop a series of workshops based on the session that will serve as the focus of a summer professional development series. Kirsten Huscusson, social research assistant, presented "Identifying the Tipping Point: Development and Use of Accept/Decline Surveys" and Alan Socha, applications programmer, and Keith Stiles, social research associate, co-presented "Banner Conversion, SAS Conversions: Utilizing SAS to Reform our Data and Reporting Structure."

• An article by Malcolm Abel, assistant professor of business law, titled "Victoria's Secret's Secret Redux: Post Decision Effects of the Trademark Dilution Proof Requirement and the Trade Dilution Revision Act of 2006" has been accepted for publication in the Business Law Review.

• An article co-authored by Ronald Mau, assistant professor of construction management, titled "Bayesian Networks: A Decision Tool to Improve Portfolio Risk Analysis" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Applied Finance.

• Anna Fariello, visiting associate professor and project leader for Hunter Library’s Craft Revival Project, authored the recently published "Blue Ridge Roadways: A Virginia Field Guide to Cultural Sites."

• Dr. Claire DeCristofaro, associate professor of nursing, recently presented "Pain Management: Use of Analgesics" as part of a professional continuing education course for community nurses, community nurse practitioners, graduate nursing students and nursing faculty. The class was hosted by the Division of Educational Outreach, which now has provider status for continuing education in nursing, and had funding including an unrestricted educational grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

Psychology Research Wins Regional Attention

Poster sessions featured research that faculty worked with students to complete. McCord co-presented "Examining the Clinical Utility of the MMPI-2 Restructured Clinical Scales" and "Relationships Between Religious Fundamentalism and FFT Personality Factors." Abel co-researched "Employee Sex and Level of Attractiveness on Promotion Opportunities." Malesky co-presented "Facebook and Personality," "Facebook Usage on College Campuses" and "Facebook Usage and Unwanted Advances;" and Oren co-researched "Social Interaction and Play Skills are Critical for Kindergarten Readiness."
April 23—April 29

**Monday, April 23**
*Concert*—WCU Brass Ensembles. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

**Tuesday, April 24**
*Luncheon*—Honoring EPA retirees. $ noon. West Wing, Dodson Cafeteria. (227-3039)
*Ceremony*—Memorial Tree Planting to honor deceased WCU students of the past year. 3:30–4:30 p.m. Brown Cafeteria plaza. (227-7254)
*Dinner*—Annual Faculty Appreciation Banquet sponsored by Coulter Faculty Center. Wine social 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and entertainment. Grandroom, UC. (227-7196)
*Catamount Concert Series*—Michael Lanford, piano. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

**Wednesday, April 25**
*Catamount softball doubleheader*—vs. East Tennessee. 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

**Thursday, April 26**
*Observance*—“A Celebration of Learning and Service to the Community,” third annual Service Learning Awards. Lisa Keyne, executive director, North Carolina Campus Compact, guest speaker. 7–9 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7184)
*Concert*—WCU Wind Ensemble/Symphony Band. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

**Friday, April 27**
*Legends on Stage*—The Capitol Steps, musical political satire. $ 7:30 p.m. FAPAC. (227-2479) Sold out.

**Saturday, April 28**
*Learning for Fun*—“Art Day for Kids: Fimo Bead Making” $ 9 a.m.—noon. Room 150, FAPAC. (227-7397)
*Orientation*—Freshman session. Opening session 9:45 a.m. RRAC. (227-7087)
*Catamount softball doubleheader*—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference games. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)
*Celebration*—Inaugural Community Appreciation Awards Gala, celebrating Jackson County’s commitment to Relay For Life for the past 10 years. Semiformal; dinner, music, and presentation of Angel Awards in 10 categories. $ All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. 7–10 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (586-2221)

**Sunday, April 29**
*Catamount softball*—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference game. 1 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)
*Presentation*—“The Connoisseurship of Collecting Cherokee Baskets,” Vicki Ledford and Betty Dupree, former and current directors of Qualla Arts and Crafts, Inc. 2:30–3:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)
*Concert*—Western Carolina Civic Orchestra. 4 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

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**KEY:**
- $ Admission fee
- BB—Belk Building
- CAC—Catamount Athletic Center
- CAT—Center for Applied Technology
- CCB—Cordelia Camp Building
- CSC—Catamount Softball Complex
- FAPAC—Fine and Performing Arts Center
- HA—Hoey Auditorium
- HFR—H.F. Robinson Administration Building
- HS/CF—Hennon Stadium/Childress 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

**Submission:** Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723 or e-mail to: Reporter@email.wcu.edu. Submit items for the university’s online calendar at least one week prior to the event.