Western’s new One Stop Student Support Center, set to open on Valentine’s Day, will provide the kind of convenience a college student could learn to love.

When the One Stop opens for business on Monday, Feb. 14, students will be able to come to one location, the One Stop “Express Center” desk, located in the newly renovated Killian Annex, to receive help and conduct a wide range of personal business. That includes financial aid, registration, cashier services, Cat Card activity, advising, career services and student support services, said Allen Lomax, director of advising and student success, and chairman of the task force that planned One Stop.

“Rather than students going from one office to another to take care of basic business, they can take care of it in one place, at one time and with one person, and avoid the office runaround,” Lomax said.

One Stop is a concept that has been talked about on campus for about eight years, Lomax said. One of the few universities in the nation that has been able to implement a one-stop shop for student services is the University of Minnesota, which has provided valuable expertise to Western’s One Stop planners, he said.

The Express Center staff should be able to assist a student in most situations, but if more in-depth assistance is needed, a student will be directed to the nearby Advising Center to receive help from advising staff.

$1 Million Professorship, Cleaner Creek To Result From Developers’ Gifts

Developers of a new lakeside golf club near Cashiers are leaving a lasting mark on the Western Carolina University campus in more ways than one – and to the tune of $1.5 million.

Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club, a 731-acre golf course and residential development under construction south of Cullowhee, has contributed $500,000 to Western, which will enable the university to leverage an additional $500,000 in state funding to create a new $1 million Mountaintop Distinguished Professorship in engineering. It marks the 10th distinguished professorship to be announced at Western since 1996, and the fifth at the million-dollar level.

“It was just last year that we were granted approval by The University of North Carolina system to begin offering engineering,” Chancellor John W. Bardo said. “This generous gift from our neighbors just up the road will enable us to bring to campus a level of excellence for the engineering program that is typically found only in programs that have been established for years. This contribution will help an academic program that has already hit the ground running be able to move even faster.”

The contribution for the distinguished professorship and the creek restoration project are the result of an agreement between Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club, and North Carolina environmental officials. As part of a permit allowing the company to disturb a streambank within its development, the state is allowing Mountaintop to mitigate the environmental impact of its project in Cashiers by restoring the stream located in Cullowhee.

The General Assembly to encourage private support of public institutions of higher education, Western will request $500,000 in matching funds to create the $1 million Mountaintop Distinguished Professorship in engineering. It marks the 10th distinguished professorship to be announced at Western since 1996, and the fifth at the million-dollar level.

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Nominees Sought For Reid Distinguished Service Awards

Nominations for the annual Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Awards are being accepted through Thursday, Feb. 17. Two $1,000 cash awards, one for distinguished service by a faculty member and one for distinguished service by a member of the administrative staff, are among the most prestigious honors conferred by the university. The awards will be presented at Western’s spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation on Friday, April 22.

Nominations for awards may be made by members of the faculty, administration, staff, student body, board of trustees and alumni of Western.

The awards were established in 1978 through an endowment from Paul A. Reid of Pilot Mountain, former president of Western Carolina.

Nominees for the awards are evaluated on “the extent and quality of service that contributes to the general welfare of Western Carolina University and enhances its reputation as a regional institution of higher education,” said Patricia Smyth, chair of the awards selection committee.

The awards are based on service during the year of the award as well as sustained efforts over several years. A recipient is not eligible for the award more than once in a five-year period.

Selection committee members are faculty members Newt Smith, Christine Stevens, and Maridy Troy; board of trustees members Rick Carlisle, Jerry Kiser and Rosemary Wyche; and administrative staff members Troy Barksdale and Tammy Haskett.

For more information, contact Patricia Smyth at the department of nursing, Moore Building, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723; telephone (828) 227-7467; or e-mail psmyth@wcu.edu.

One Stop Center continued from page 1

The entire staffs and resources of the offices of the registrar, financial aid and Cat Card will be just a few steps away. All three of those offices have moved, or will soon be moving, to Killian Annex from their previous locations in H.F. Robinson Administration Building.

Other offices that have relocated to Killian Annex are career services, student support services, advising and student success, orientation and the Catamount Tutoring Center, Lomax said.

Work also is under way on an online One Stop, which will pull together at one Web site several basic student services the university now offers online, but not at the same Web address, Lomax said. The first phase of online One Stop should be ready to go by the end of the spring semester, he said.

In the meantime, the hours of operation for the One Stop Student Support Center in Killian Annex will be 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

For more information about One Stop, contact Allen Lomax at 227-7170.

$1 Million Professorship continued from page 1

Chancellor Bardo and David Rhoades, vice president of development for Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club in Cashiers, look over a portion of Cullowhee Creek that will be the subject of an environmental restoration project.

“This project is a win-win. It is an outstanding example of the good things that can be accomplished when people work together to address the potential impacts of a large development activity,” said Bill Ross, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Although details of the new professorship are still being finalized, it is intended to attract a nationally recognized authority in electrical engineering with expertise in the area of advanced optical components, said Duane Dunlap, head of Western’s department of engineering and technology.

Western began offering electrical engineering as a joint degree program in partnership with UNC-Charlotte this fall, an arrangement designed to take advantage of existing collaborations in the high-technology areas of photonics and optoelectronics, a $170 billion-a-year industry often called “electronics at the speed of light.”

Through Mountaintop’s stream project, environmental engineers will restore much of the campus portion of Cullowhee Creek to its natural condition, resulting in improvements to water quality and aquatic life habitat, including trout. The restoration project, expected to begin this spring and be completed by spring 2006, will include mitigation of a portion of wetlands on the Western campus and will provide storm-water protection for 13.5 acres of parking areas. The mitigation also will provide field research opportunities for students from Western’s departments of chemistry, biology and natural resources management.

“The university is pleased that Mountaintop will have a permanent presence on our campus in two distinct ways,” Bardo said. “Through the stream restoration project, the company will play a role in our vision of campus and in the long-term appearance of campus. And through the distinguished professorship, it will be improving the quality of education for students in a discipline we believe will have a positive impact on the economic development of Western North Carolina.”
January

Tuesday, January 18
Town Hall meeting—“What Would Dr. King Do Now?” Martin Luther King Jr. Week event. 4 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2276)

Wednesday, January 19
Town Hall meeting—to discuss current health insurance plan using results from recent health care satisfaction survey conducted by the Office of the President and Hewitt & Associates and to receive input on the design of a new health care model for university employees. 10 a.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7218)

Day of Service—Highway 107 cleanup and service project at Zion AME Zion Church. Sign up, Multicultural Center. Martin Luther King Jr. Week event. 2 p.m. Lawn, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2276)

Catamount basketball—vs. Davidson. Southern Conference game. 7:30 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7338)

Thursday, January 20
Exhibition opening—What’s Cookin’? Two Centuries of American Foodways. American culture explored through the foods we eat as well as how we prepare and serve those foods. Gallery B, Mountain Heritage Center, Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)

Speaker—Tonya Williams, General Counsel for N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, will speak about “Keeping the Dream Alive: Striving for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Throughout the World.” The WCU Inspirational Choir also will present several musical selections. A reception will immediately follow the program. Martin Luther King Jr. Week event. Sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor. Admission is free. 7 p.m. Grandroom, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2276)

Thursday, January 27
Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—informal gathering designed to provide local musicians an opportunity to share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. 7–9 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)

Friday, January 21
Up All Night—Food, games, poetry, and reflection. Martin Luther King Jr. Week event. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2276)

Saturday, January 22
Road trip—to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Atlanta. Space available for 25. Martin Luther King Jr. Week event. Sign up, Multicultural Center, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2276)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference game. 4 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7338)

Catamount basketball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7338)

Fund-raiser—V-Day: Until the Violence Stops. Live performances of The Vagina Monologues excerpts. All proceeds will go to REACH of Jackson County, the WCU Women’s Center’s anti-violence efforts and the V-Day Foundation. Admission: $10, $5 for students and low-income guests. 9 p.m. Soul Infusion, Sylva. (227-2627 or 227-7450)

Sunday, January 23
Crafts at the Center—weaving. 2–4 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)

Tuesday, January 25
Catamount Concert Series—Faculty Showcase. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (772-7242)

Wednesday, January 26
Workshop—van safety; required for all employees, including student employees, to be eligible to drive 15-passenger vans. Registration required. 2:30–4:30 p.m. Tom Young Room, Field House. Also offered February 10. (http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp) (227-2388)

Friday, January 28
Workshop—first aid; for faculty, staff, and students. Registration required. 9:30–11:30 a.m. Tom Young Room, Field House. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp) (227-2388)

Recital—music students. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Workshop—CPR; for faculty, staff, and students. Registration required. 2–4 p.m. Tom Young Room, Field House. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp) (227-2388)

Saturday, January 29
Catamount basketball—vs. Elon. Southern Conference game. 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7338)

February 10. (http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp) (227-2388)

Mountain Heritage Center

Slideshow Spotlight
Corn: Milling, Tilling, and Stilling tells the story of corn as used by Native Americans and frontier settlers in the southern Appalachians.

Gallery B:
What’s Cookin’? Two Centuries of American Foodways explores American culture through the foods we eat as well as how we prepare and serve those foods.

(227-7129) or www.wcu.edu/mhc/

Submissions:
Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 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.
WNC Real Estate Firm Donates To Western

Sixteen departments at Western are benefiting from more than $10,163 in contributions made to the university during 2004 by a Jackson County real estate company.

Jack and Gail Debnam and Todd Baucom, owners and agents of Western Carolina Properties, developed an innovative method of giving to the university and have pledged to contribute a percentage of their proceeds from the sale of property involving a Western faculty or staff member to the department where that employee works.

In the past year, Western Carolina Properties has made gifts to the offices of advancement, athletics, auxiliary services, biology, business, chemistry, criminal justice, distance and continuing education, human services, Hunter Library, industrial technology, international student scholarships, middle school education, music, physics and the Ramsey Regional Activity Center. The amount of the contribution depends on the price of the home or property, and gifts to date have ranged from a few hundred dollars to more than $1,500.

“The university community has been good to us over the years,” said Jack Debnam. “A lot of folks who work at Western have bought or sold property through our company, and we want to show our appreciation for their business and loyalty by giving something back to the university.”

Ron Rash Wins O. Henry Prize For Short Fiction

Ron Rash, the John and Dorothy Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies, is the recipient of a prestigious O. Henry Prize for 2005.

Rash received the award for his short story Speckle Trout, published in the spring 2003 edition of The Kenyon Review. His is one of 20 stories selected for the prize from more than 1,000 submitted by magazine editors from across North America.

The Atlantic Monthly says that O. Henry Prizes are “widely regarded as the nation’s most prestigious awards for short fiction.” The prize is named in honor of William Sidney Porter, who adopted the pseudonym of O. Henry.

Among past winners of the O. Henry Prize are such influential writers as Ernest Hemingway, Dorothy Parker, F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Thurber, James Baldwin, Woody Allen, Mary McCarthy, Alice Walker, Chaim Potok, J.D. Salinger, Philip Roth, Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow, Andrea Barrett, John Irving and Stephen King.