Western Students Providing $4.2 Million In Volunteer Work to Local Communities

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 department, who recently spoke to a Sylva civic organization about the impact of student volunteerism across Western North Carolina.

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, Bowen said. “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 $1,684 in service during the 32-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-

New Collection Brings Old Materials Into Sharp Focus at Library

Working with four heritage partners, Western’s Hunter Library is creating a virtual collection of objects, documents, letters, photos and oral histories that tell the story of an effort to revive mountain crafts during the late 1800s and early 1900s. That movement generated widespread interest in mountain culture and continues to influence Western North Carolina tourism and economic development more than 100 years after the revival began.

“The Craft Revival at the turn of the 20th century helped to shape a strong, ongoing interest in crafts and tourism throughout the region,” said Anna Fariello, visiting associate professor who is leading the project for Hunter Library. “I think it is exciting that the latest digital technology is bringing together hundreds of widely scattered handmade items and photographs from the past via the Internet while the original local collections will be preserved, intact.”

Beginning around 1890, the Craft Revival highlighted the home-based skills of mountain pioneers who had made their own woven fabrics, carvings, baskets, pots, metal implements, toys, chairs and other items required for survival and comfort in their isolated mountain farms and villages. The early
Western Nursing Professor to Receive Award from National Allergy, Asthma Group

Betty Gwen Carlton, assistant professor of nursing at Western Carolina University, is recipient of the 2006 Allied Health Recognition Award presented by the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology. The award is presented annually to an AAAAI allied health member who has made substantial contributions to education, research or the practice of allergy and immunology. Carlton will receive the award at the annual meeting of the AAAAI in March in Miami Beach, Fla.

Carlton, who joined Western’s faculty in August, is a family nurse practitioner at Regional Allergy and Asthma Associates in Asheville. Her entire professional career has been focused on the education and treatment of patients with asthma and allergies.

She received the Secretary’s Award for Innovations in Health Certificate of Merit in 1990 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for her Tennessee project to increase asthma knowledge in five target groups—patients with asthma, their families, schoolteachers, the community at large and allied health professionals.

While studying at Vanderbilt University, she worked as program director for the American Lung Association of Tennessee, where she developed a statewide asthma camp program. She has worked as national program director of the Asthma Care Network, a program that delivers asthma education to health care professionals at the point of care in primary care physician offices.

Carlton has served on numerous committees for the AAAAI, the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States, representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others with a special interest in the research and treatment of allergic disease. Established in 1943, the AAAAI has nearly 6,300 members in the United States, Canada and 60 other countries.

Volunteer Work continued from page 1

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, Bowen said.

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 partners recently began an eight-week series of classes to prepare participants for that trip, Bowen said.

Also, a group of Western students, faculty and staff participated in a Day of Service to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. by volunteering at the Community Table in Sylva, Bowen said.

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 entire 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.”

—by Randall Holcombe

Collection continued from page 1

settlers passed those skills from generation to generation until innovations in machinery, rising prosperity and the spread of towns and stores in Western North Carolina made it possible for families to buy most of the things they needed, ready-made.

Just when it seemed that the traditional handcrafting skills were dying out, regional economic development, tourism and an interest in preserving the past were coming alive, Fariello said.

Those forces sparked the Craft Revival, with its emphasis on encouraging mountain people to continue making items by hand, not only for their own use but also for sale, and to pass those skills along. The revival in turn triggered the growth of handicap guilds, weaving centers and folk schools; attracted tourists, scholars and artisans to the region; helped to promote the sale of traditional mountain crafts; and shaped the development of new ones.

Hunter Library is working on the Craft Revival project with four partners—the John C. Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Crafts, Western’s Mountain Heritage Center and the library’s Special Collections section—and three advisers—the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching; the Center for Crafts, Creativity and Design; and Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual.

Fariello recently organized a workshop on digital imaging equipment set-up and operation. Over the next year, the partners will digitize images from the schools’ collections in Mitchell and Clay counties, as well as items from various smaller repositories in museums and local historical societies throughout the region. The completed Web-based collection will be available online.

Western’s Craft Revival Project is funded in part by a grant of $85,000, renewable for three years for a potential total of $250,000, from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the North Carolina State Library. Western received the only Heritage Partners Grant awarded by the State Library in 2005.

—by Leila Tvedt

■ NewsFile

Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs and interim director of the college student personnel graduate program, was the opening speaker at the annual conference of the North Carolina College Personnel Association recently in Greensboro. The topic of Caruso’s speech was “Student Affairs Meets Academic Affairs: Arenas for Collaboration and Practical Tips.” Caruso also was honored as the NCCPA Distinguished Scholar for the past year as the result of his co-development of the master’s program at Western, and his teaching, writing and service to the student affairs profession. He is the lead author of a forthcoming article on student affairs, service learning and student engagement, and is a chapter author for a 2007 book on collaboration between student affairs and academic affairs professionals. NCCPA is a state division of the American College Personnel Association, a national professional organization that supports student affairs administrators.

Glenn Bowen, director of service learning, has been appointed to the review board for the International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. The journal provides a forum for the dissemination of knowledge focused on the improvement of higher education across all content areas and delivery domains. IJTLHE includes research, instructional and review articles targeted to higher education faculty, staff, administrators, researchers and students who are interested in improving post-secondary instruction.

Irene Mueller, health information administration program director and assistant professor of health sciences, has been appointed to the program committee for the MERLOT International Conference, which will be held in Ottawa, Canada, in August. She will serve as the health and medical sciences track coordinator. MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) is a free, indexed resource listing of more than 14,000 open learning materials available at www.merlot.org.

Terry Nienhuis, professor of English, had a role in the Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of “The Water is Wide,” that was scheduled to air Sunday, Jan. 29, on CBS. It marks the fourth time Nienhuis has worked on a Hallmark Hall of Fame production, widely acknowledged as one of the highest quality series on television. “The Water is Wide,” based on the novel by Pat Conroy, tells the semi-autobiographical tale of an enthusiastic young school teacher who hopes to bring literacy and self-respect to uneducated children on a small island off South Carolina’s coast. Nienhuis played the role of the boat owner who transports the teacher and others to and from the island.

■ NewsFlash
Monday, Jan. 30
Learning for Fun art classes—for adults, 10–11:30 a.m.; for middle and high school students, 3:30–5:30 p.m. $ Room 150, FAPAC. (227-7397)
Catamount basketball—vs. Furman. Southern Conference game. $ 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, Jan. 31
“Airing of the Quilts” presentation and book signing—folklorist Laurel Horton. 6–7 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)
Catamount Concert Series—faculty recital, flutist Eldred Spell and friends. 8 p.m. RRAC. (227-7331)

EXHIBITS
Fine Art Museum, FAPAC
• “Worldviews.” Selections from Western Carolina University’s art collection.
• “Jeff Oestreich: New ceramics.” Through March.
• “Pivot Points: Six Painters Six Poets.” Through March.
• “Strange Beauty.” Showcasing Western Carolina University art alumni works. Continuing series.

Fine Art Museum hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (227-3597 or http://fapac.wcu.edu)

Mountain Heritage Center
“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.” Includes text panels, illustrations, artifacts and vibrant murals that trace Scotch-Irish Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, through the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina. Permanent exhibition.

“Airing of the Quilts.” Includes more than 40 quilts from the center’s collection, ranging from 25 years to more than 150 years in age. Through February 28.


“After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains.” Portrays how wars have shaped the lives of people in Western North Carolina. Through May 2007.

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

Slideshow Spotlight, MHC
FEBRUARY: “New Threads in Old Patterns” features coverlets and relates the story of the revival of handicrafts in Southern Appalachia.

Key:
FAPAC—Fine and Performing Arts Center; HA—Hoey Auditorium; HFR—H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF—Hennon Stadium/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; UOC—University Outreach Center; WS/BW—Whitmore Stadium/Booie Waters Field.

Concert—hip-hop powerhouse Nappy Roots, with special guest Below Zero. $ 8 p.m.
RRAC, (227-7722 or 866-WCU-FEST or http://ramseycenter.wcu.edu)

Thursday, Feb. 2
Visiting scholar presentation—“My First Big SoTL Project: Ethics and the Development of Professional Identities of Undergraduates,” Michael C. Loui 4 p.m. Multipurpose Room A, UC. (227-3950)

FILMS THAT MATTER
• “Sunset Boulevard” (Billy Wilder, 1950). 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2342)

Friday, Feb. 3

Friday, Feb. 10

Saturday, Feb. 4
Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Davidson. Southern Conference game. $ 5 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Sunday, Feb. 5
ArtiFacts!—“Quilting.” 2:30–3:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Monday, Feb. 6
Learning for Fun art classes—for adults, 10–11:30 a.m.; for middle and high school students, 3:30–5:30 p.m. $ Room 150, FAPAC. (227-7397)

MFA artist talk series—William Clements. 4:30 p.m. Room 223, FAPAC. (227-3597)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Appalachian State. Southern Conference game. $. 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, Feb. 7
“‘Airing of the Quilts’ demonstration—the Carolina Quilters. 12:30–2:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Wednesday–Sunday, Feb. 8–12
Theatre—The University Players present “The Tempest” by William Shakespeare. $ Wednesday–Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. HA. (227-2479 or http://theatre.wcu.edu)

Monday, Feb. 13
Films That Matter—“Out of the Past” (Jacques Tourneur, 1947). 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2324)

Sunday, Feb. 12
Performance—The von Trapp Children. $ 3 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-2477)


Films That Matter—“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.” Includes text panels, illustrations, artifacts and vibrant murals that trace Scotch-Irish Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, through the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina. Permanent exhibition.

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Submissions: Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, 125 College Drive, 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.

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Nomination Process Under Way For Reid Distinguished Service Awards

Nominations for the annual Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Awards at Western Carolina University are being accepted through noon Friday, Feb. 24.

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.

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

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

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 Maridy Troy, 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.

Other selection committee members are faculty members Al Proffitt, Lawrence Kolenbrander and Newt Smith; administrative staff members Larry Hammer and Patty Harley; and board of trustees members Rick Carlisle, Rosemary Wyche and Steve Metcalf.

For more information, contact Maridy Troy at (828) 227-2428.

Phi Beta Delta Inducts New Members

Western’s Delta Zeta chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars recently welcomed several faculty and staff members into its ranks.

The honor society inducted Bruce Carroll (political science and public affairs), Jane Adams-Dunford (student affairs), Cynthia Deale (hospitality management and tourism), Aster Dewanti (chemistry and physics), John LeBaron (educational leadership and foundations), Judy Mallory (nursing), Niall Michelson (political science and public affairs), Masafumi Takeda (Asian studies), Michael Thomas (management and international business), Sandra Tomsen (educational leadership and foundations), Beth Wilson (anthropology and sociology), Laura Wright (English), Jayne Zanglein (marketing and business law) and James Zhang (engineering technology).

The Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars is an organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of international issues. Its members include students, faculty and staff who have an interest in promoting international efforts. Its annual activities include monthly International Brown Bag Lunches, weekly international socials each spring, sponsorship of Folkmoot USA activities on campus each summer, and participation in the university’s spring International Festival and fall International Education Week.