Western Building Third Residence Hall, Studying Long-Range Housing Needs

With construction under way on the third new residential facility to be built in the past two years, Western is taking a long-range look at the housing needs of a growing campus.

The newest residence hall, a 290-bed facility located off Norton Road, is scheduled to be completed in fall 2005. University officials say the hall is needed to help meet the demand for student housing on a campus that has seen its enrollment jump by 16.23 percent in two years, from 7,033 students in 2002 to 8,396 students last fall.

A $9.7 million project, the hall is being built by American South, the same company that completed the 300-bed Central Drive Residence Hall in time for the beginning of the 2004 fall semester. A four-story building with a brick facade and a metal roof, the facility will consist of a 50-50 ratio of single rooms and double rooms with semi-private bathrooms.

The building will be divided into eight wings, housing approximately 35 students per wing. Each wing will have a common study room and a multi-purpose living room with a small kitchen area. “The design is intended to provide thematic housing for communities of students with common academic or extracurricular interests, providing a true living and learning environment for residents,” said Keith Corzine, director of residential living. “It’s part of our emphasis on linking academic programs to the place where they spend...continued on page 2

¡Se Habla Español Aquí! (We Speak Spanish Here!)

What do several high-ranking Western Carolina administrators, a medical doctor, a few administrative assistants and some of the Talent Search staff have in common? All are members of the Division of Student Affairs, and they all volunteered to take Spanish lessons this semester.

The idea grew out of a conversation with a staff member about the needs of the university’s Hispanic population, said Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs. “As we begin to serve increasing numbers of Spanish-speaking students and their families, we need to become more comfortable with their language and culture,” Caruso said.

He approached Mark Couture, head of the department of modern foreign languages, who...continued on page 2
Quality Enhancement Plan is Key

A quick stroll across campus during these days of increasing student enrollment, numerous new faculty and staff faces, and the mud and detours of construction, reveals the obvious – Western is engaged in a process of significant transformation.

The university’s ability to identify changes and how they impact student learning is key to developing the section of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools re-affirmation process called the Quality Enhancement Plan, said Carol Burton, SACS review director.

One of three major committees that are part of the SACS review process, the QEP committee is responsible for development and implementation of plans for the university’s direction and focus for the future.

“We need to make some critical decisions about our future as an institution,” Burton said. “These changes must be reflected in our QEP. In addition to guiding our course for the next decade and beyond, this plan also will require resources, both financial and human, for its sustenance.”

That’s why it is important for members of the university community to be active in the selection of an appropriate topic and engaged in its implementation and evaluation, she said. Among the steps required to accomplish the goal:

• A thorough review of the university’s mission.
• Communication of suggestions about possible QEP topics to stakeholders, including staff, faculty, and students.

Residence Hall Construction

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most of their time on campus.”

The first two floors of the building are expected to be ready for occupancy in time for the opening of the 2005 fall semester, with the top two floors finished about a month later. When the Norton Road facility is complete, it will bring the total number of student beds added since 2003 to 842.

While trying to keep up with current student housing demands, the university also is attempting to determine its future housing needs. Western’s Division of Student Affairs is conducting a survey of faculty, staff and students as the first step in the development of a 10-year master plan for campus residential facilities.

The university, working with the firm Brailsford & Dunlavey, is reviewing its existing on-campus housing services, analyzing the off-campus housing markets, and examining the anticipated demands for housing from all members of the university community – students, faculty and staff.

“We need to take a look at the ability of the off-campus housing market to keep up with the demand that will be created by the growth of the university, and we need to research the on-campus housing needs of faculty and staff of the future,” said Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Consultants recently conducted an on-line survey of faculty and staff to seek input on housing needs. The residential life master plan, a 10-year road map for potential new campus housing developments, is expected to be complete by May.

Spanish Class

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agreed to teach a basic Spanish language class at lunch time for eight weeks. The people who are taking these classes have varying levels of proficiency in Spanish, ranging from none, to a-little-but-rusty, to conversational.

The class carries no academic credit, so everyone is able to learn or brush up on basic phrases and greetings without the pressure of grades and exams.

Caruso said about 15 people are taking the Division of Student Affairs Spanish class. They’ll evaluate the results at the end of eight weeks and decide whether to continue. The need to focus on Hispanic issues is important, and Caruso believes the Spanish language class is just a first step.

“Damos un pequeño paso adelante,” he said. “We are taking a small step forward.”

Buckner Inducted Into Hall of Fame

For Bob Buckner, after this year the word “march” will no longer simply be a command that the longtime director of athletic bands at Western Carolina issues to the 300 members of the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band.

“March” likely also will become the name of Buckner’s new favorite month.

That’s because over the span of two days in mid-March, Buckner will receive the highest award given in the field of music education and will be inducted into a national band hall of fame.

MENC: The National Association for Music Education announced in October it would present Buckner with its Lowell Mason Award during its national conference on March 10. As Buckner was making plans to travel to Washington, D.C., to pick up his award, designed to recognize significant contributions to music education, he learned he would be inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame, just two days after the MENC event.

“Bob’s fingerprints are all over Bands of America,” said Scott McCormick, president and chief executive officer of Bands of America, the nation’s largest performing arts organization for high school bands. “His contributions to the organization span four different decades.”

The Bands of America Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have greatly impacted the BOA organization, the nation’s band activity, and music education in general, McCormick said. Buckner and other members of the class of 2005 will be inducted during a ceremony Saturday, March 12, in Indianapolis as part of the National Concert Band Festival Honors Concert.

Buckner is in his 14th year as director of athletic bands at Western. Under his leadership, the university’s marching band has grown from 82 members to more than 300 during the 2004 season. Western now boasts the biggest marching band in the Carolinas.
Monday, March 14

Visiting scholar — Online Learning for a Small, Connected Planet: Opportunities and Challenges in Global Education. Jyrki Pulkkinnen, special adviser to the Finnish government’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs and researcher at the University of Oulu in northern Finland. 2 p.m. Multipurpose Room B, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2454)

Workshop — Safe Zone, Part I. Program designed to educate and create allies for LGBT individuals and issues. Registration required. 2–5 p.m. or 6:30–9:30 p.m. Room 104, Killian Building. (227-2276)

Speaker — Alex Rivera, Rockefeller Fellow, Sundance Fellow and recent recipient of the Best Emerging Filmmaker award from the International Documentary Association. Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series event. 7:30 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7206)

Tuesday, March 15

Presentation — Overview of current fiscal and political climate in Washington and discussion of tools necessary to navigate Washington maze by Bob Samors. Limited seating; reservations required by March 14, 10–11 a.m. Multipurpose Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (Information, 227-2921; reservations, 227-3177)

Roundtable Discussion — “Service Learning.” For individuals with service-learning experience. 12:30–1:30 p.m. Dogwood Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7147)

Women’s History Month Presentation — Marcia Ann Gillespie, president of Liberty Media for Women and editor-in-chief of Ms. magazine, keynote speaker for Women’s History Month. Reception following presentation. 7 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2627 or 227-3839)

Wednesday, March 16


Workshop — Safe Zone, Part II. Program designed to educate and create allies for LGBT individuals and issues. Registration required. 2–5 p.m. or 6:30–9:30 p.m. Hospitality Room, Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-2276)

Appalachian Folklife Series — Walker Calhoun and Bo Taylor of Cherokee present traditional Cherokee songs. 7 p.m. Auditorium, Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Thursday, March 17—Saturday, March 19

Film — Team America. Admission: $2 with student identification; $4 without student identification (includes small soda and popcorn). 9 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7206)

Thursday, March 17

Films That Matter — The Searchers (John Ford, 1956) 6 p.m. Room 130, Fine and Performing Arts Center. (227-2324)

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam — Local musicians share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. 7–9 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)

Women’s History Month Presentation — Producer Cynthia Salzman Mondell, presenting and discussing her documentary, The Spirit of Women, which chronicles the 1977 national women’s convention. 7 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2627 or 227-3839)

Friday, March 18

Open House — For prospective students and their families. Registration 8:30 a.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7317)

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

WCU Calendar

March 14 - 27

Tuesday, March 22

Workshop — “Service Learning: How To Use It.” 12:30–1:30 p.m. Dogwood Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7147)

Workshop — “Coaching for Improvement,” Day 1 of two-day workshop. Day 2 scheduled for March 29. Registration required. 2–4 p.m. Tom Young Room, Field House. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training/professional.asp)

Women’s History Month — Beyond the Butterfly, film in which middle school girls speak out on issues that affect young girls. Discussion after film. 3:30 p.m. Room 115, McKee Building. (227-3839)

Performance — Peking Acrobats. Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series event. Admission: $15 general; $10 Western faculty and staff; $5 Western students and children under age 13. 7:30 p.m. Ramsey Center. (227-7206)

Concert — All American Trombone. Faculty trombonist Dan Cherry presents a recital of music by American composers, with pianists Lillian Buss Pearson and Pavel Wlosok. Features the trombone sonata by faculty composer Ken Archer. Catamount Concert Series event. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Wednesday, March 23

Women’s History Month — Western Women on Wednesdays guest Melissa Young discusses “Institutionalized Activism? Contemporary Activism Revisited.” Noon. Rogers Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-3839)

Catamount baseball — vs. UNC Asheville. 7 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Thursday, March 24–Sunday, March 27

Easter Holiday — For students.

Coach Kellie Harper receives a victory ride after the Lady Catamounts win the Southern Conference Tournament Championship.

E-mail news items and calendar notices to Reporter@email.wcu.edu. Submit items at least three weeks prior to the event.
▲ Glenn Bowen, director of service learning, has authored an article “Community Capacity for Social Development: Examining Social Fund Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean” in Social Development Issues (Vol. 26, No. 2&3). Another article by Bowen, “Preparing a Qualitative Research-Based Dissertation: Lessons Learned,” has been accepted for publication in The Qualitative Report (Vol. 10, No. 2) in June.

▲ Art lecturer Mariea Caudill Dennison’s “The American Girls’ Club in Paris: The Propriety and Imprudence of Art Students, 1890-1914” is published in the spring issue of Woman’s Art Journal. The article blends women’s history and art history in a study of female students in Paris at the turn of the 20th century.

▲ Frederick A. Coyle, professor emeritus, published an article titled “The Lampshades” in the February issue of Wildlife in North Carolina. The article, about lampshade spiders, discusses this rare spider’s weaponry, how its web differs from those of other spiders, and its lively sex life.

▲ Gregg Gustafson has been appointed as the assistant chief information officer. Gustafson’s primary duties will be in information technology project management with the Banner project his highest priority. He holds degrees from James Madison University and the University of Virginia.

▲ Bill Haggard, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, and Fred Cantler, senior associate director of athletics, presented a session “The Value of Collaboration: Working with Athletics for Teams of Integrity” at the annual national conference of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs in Clearwater, Florida. At the same conference, Brian Nieft, master’s student in college student personnel and graduate assistant in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, competed in the conference Case Study Competition.

▲ Sgt. Yang Cheng Her of the University Police Department has been approved for the Intermediate Professional Certificate by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Sgt. Her is a 2003 Western graduate. The certificate is awarded based on a combination of years of service and points received for training programs beyond the Basic Law Enforcement Level.


▲ Robert S. Young, associate professor in geosciences and natural resource management, co-authored an article in the November issue of Architectural Record titled “After the storms: Geologists look at coastal zone building.”

▲ The National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Committee on Athletics Certification recently announced that the intercollegiate athletics program at Western is unconditionally certified. Western is one of 12 Division I member institutions receiving notification of certification of athletics programs by the NCAA in an announcement from its headquarters in Indianapolis. Announcement of certification brings to a close a yearlong study of Western’s athletics program designed to ensure integrity in the athletics programs of NCAA institutions and assist colleges and universities in improving their athletics departments. NCAA certification involves a thorough process of self-study by members of the university community, followed by a rigorous review of the athletics program by a team of professionals and educators from other NCAA institutions.