Wallace Hyde Gift to Endow Social Work Professorship

A gift from Raleigh businessman Wallace Hyde, former chairman of Western’s board of trustees and long-time university benefactor, will enable establishment of an endowed professorship in gerontological social work in honor of his wife and current board vice chair, Jeanette Hyde.

Announcement of the $250,000 gift to Western came as the university’s board of trustees gathered for committee reports and dinner prior to its March meeting.

Although Jeanette Hyde is a successful businesswoman and banking executive who is perhaps best known as U.S. ambassador to the seven Eastern Caribbean nations of Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis from 1994 until 1998, she always has called social work her “true calling.”

“Wallace and Jeanette Hyde have long been among this university’s closest friends and advocates, and this gift is a wonderful testament to their commitment to Western,” Chancellor John W. Bardo said. “The establishment of the Ambassador Jeanette W. Hyde Distinguished Professorship will greatly enrich our social work curriculum.”

Wallace Hyde Gift to Endow Social Work Professorship

Through a program initiated by the General Assembly to encourage private support of public institutions of higher education, Western will request $250,000 in matching funds to create the $500,000 professorship in gerontological social work.

Mrs. Hyde attended Wake Forest University and graduated from Delta State University. She taught school for two years on Thomas L. Franke, chief information officer at Western since December 2001, is leaving that position immediately to begin a special assignment in the University of North Carolina system’s division of information resources.

The first member of Western’s administration to hold the title of CIO, Franke is now the first “senior research fellow” appointed to work in the area of information technology for the UNC Office of the President, said Robyn Render, UNC vice president for information resources.

Franke will be working on research projects in the areas of identity management, shared and hosted information technology infrastructures for electronic learning, and Internet 2 resources for all levels of education, from kindergarten through graduate school.

“This is a great opportunity for Tom, as he will be working with one of the most forward-thinking CIO groups in the country. I understand the attraction of the assignment and know that he will profit by the experience and add value to the UNC system,” said Provost Kyle Carter in announcing Franke’s appointment.

“Tom arrived on campus during a time of unprecedented growth,” Chancellor John W. Bardo said. “He is responsible for moving Western from a ‘computer center’ campus to one with an information technology division. We are now well poised for the future.”

Western’s head librarian Wilson “Bil” Stahl, former director of information technology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, will serve as interim CIO. Stahl was a member of the administration at UNC-Charlotte for 17 years prior to coming to Western in August 2000. He served as acting associate vice chancellor for library and information services and director of information technology.

CIO Franke Takes UNC Assignment; Stahl Named Interim Head

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Western has named a staff to lead the 2005 edition of Mountain Heritage Day, the university’s annual autumnal celebration of mountain culture.

Chairing this year’s festival will be Jim Rowell, senior director of marketing and promotions in the Office of Public Relations. Zeta Smith, assistant to the vice chancellor in the Division of Advancement and External Affairs, will serve as vice chair.

Mary Lou Millwood, formerly licensure assistant in the College of Education and Allied Professions, has joined the staff of the Mountain Heritage Center and will serve as resource assistant for Mountain Heritage Day.

The festival features a full day of traditional Appalachian music, dance, food and contests, along with demonstrations of authentic folk arts. This year’s event will be held Saturday, September 24.


Wallace Hyde Gift

the Greek island of Crete before going into social work and counseling with the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts. It was there that she gained an eternal appreciation for social work.

“As a former social worker, I have seen first-hand the contributions social work professionals are making to our society each and every day. The increasing number of senior citizens in our nation’s population will require social workers with enhanced levels of education and training, and I hope this endowed professorship can enable Western to bring in a nationally recognized expert in gerontology who can help address those needs,” she said.

“Although I have been away from the profession for many years, I still have an incredible passion for social work. The social work training I received prepared me well for many other endeavors, in business, politics and diplomacy. It helped me learn to better understand situations from others’ perspectives,” she said. “And I believe that we all, as human beings, have an obligation to do whatever is in our power to help our fellow human beings.”


A former member of the N.C. Board of Transportation, she is a current member of the boards of trustees at Wake Forest and Elon universities.

Her husband, Wallace Hyde, attended Western on scholarships for football and basketball, earning his bachelor’s degree in physical education from Western in 1949 and his master’s degree in public school administration in 1953. He earned his doctorate at New York University in 1959.

A teacher, coach and athletics director in North Carolina public schools early in his career, he was instrumental in establishing North Carolina’s drivers’ education program.

Listed in “Who’s Who Among American Politics,” Hyde was a member of Western’s board of trustees for 16 years, including a record 11 years as chairman. He headed Gov. Bob Scott’s statewide committee to restructure the N.C. higher education system, from which the 16-campus University of North Carolina system evolved in 1971. He was elected to the first Board of Governors in the new UNC system in 1972, and received the WCU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award that year. Western presented him an honorary doctorate in 2002.

“In making this gift, I wanted to help the university I love the most in its efforts to achieve excellence, and I wanted to honor the woman I love the most,” Hyde said.

“I feel very strongly that everyone should help his or her university. Too many people go away after getting their degree and never give anything back to the university.”

Franke Moves to UNC

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planning at the Charlotte campus.

Stahl also held a special assignment of developing an information technology plan for UNC-Charlotte, served as a member of a UNC system committee responsible for examining Web-based services for students, and chaired a state advisory committee that set technical standards and directions for electronic bibliographic and reference resources.

“We are fortunate to have Bil Stahl to take over the leadership of information technology as Tom Franke leaves for Chapel Hill,” Carter said. “He made a career change to Western because of quality-of-life issues. I know being CIO was not in his plan, but Bil is a team player who wants the best for the university. He has extensive IT knowledge and experience, great interpersonal skills and is a great strategic planner. I couldn’t have found a better person to lead IT during this interim period.”

Stahl will remain university librarian throughout the transition, and will rely on the library’s executive leadership team to assist him in the day-to-day management of the library, Carter said.

Western will conduct a national search for a new CIO, but will delay the beginning of the search process until the completion of several high-priority information technology projects currently under way.
March
Monday, March 28
Funding for Research workshop—Talking with the Foundations: Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the Golden LEAF Foundation. 2-4 p.m. Room 143, Outreach Center. (227-2921)

Tuesday, March 29
Women’s History Month—Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility, recognition reception honoring women of hope and possibility. Refreshments, certificates, and prizes. 3-5 p.m. Multipurpose Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-3839)

Catamount Concert Series—piano trios by Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich, performed by faculty pianists Bradley Martin and Lillian Buss Pearson, with guests artists Inez Redman, violin, and Ron Clearfield, cello. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Wednesday, March 30
Women’s History Month—Career Equity: Transforming Gender Roles, Fourth Annual Gender Research Conference. Keynote address by documentary film producer Jocelyn Riley, 9 a.m. Hour-long sessions, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2627)

Women’s History Month—Plagued: The Secret Life of Sororities, with Western sorority women discussing negative stereotypes linked to sisterhoods. Noon. Rogers Room, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-3839)

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

Appalachian Folklife Series—string band musicians Bill Pruett of Robbinsville and George Kraushaar of Brasstown. 7 p.m. Auditorium, Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Recital—Trumpet Studio. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Thursday, March 31–Friday, April 1
Conference—twelfth annual Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders. (227-3379 or ogletree@email.wcu.edu)

Thursday, March 31–Saturday, April 2
Film—Alexander. 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)

Catamount baseball—vs. Brown. 3 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Films That Matter—Ashes and Diamonds (Andrej Wajda, 1958). 6 p.m. Room 130, Fine and Performing Arts Center. (227-2324)

April
Friday, April 1
Edible Book Fair—entries will be on display from 3-4 p.m. for photos, judging and prizes. Lobby, Hunter Library (227-3413)

Concert—Western Carolina Civic Orchestra. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Saturday, April 2
Catamount track and field—Catamount Classic. Volunteer officials needed. (227-2026)

Sunday, April 3
Arti-Facts!—Throwing a Pot, for children ages 6 through 12 to explore our natural and cultural heritage. Free, but reservations required. 2:30–3:30. Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Tuesday, April 5–Thursday, April 7
Spring Literary Festival—for event locations and times, click on http://www.wcu.edu/as/english/litfestival (227-7264)

Tuesday, April 5
Hearing screenings—at the Speech and Hearing Center. Free. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Ground floor, McKee Building. (227-7251)

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

Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions series—All the Great Books (abridged), performed by the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Admission: $15 general; $10 staff, non-Western students; $0 Western students. 7:30 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (227-7206)

Catamount Concert Series—Percussion Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Wednesday, April 6
Appalachian Cultural Luncheon Series—banjoist Clarke Buehling. Attendees are invited to bring lunch. 12:15–1 p.m. Auditorium, Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

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

Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series—Josephine Humphreys, Charleston author noted for sensitive evocations of family life in the South. Admission: $5 general; $3 staff, non-Western students; $0 Western students. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7206)

Thursday, April 7
Films That Matter—Pickpocket (Robert Bresson, 1959). 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. (227-7129)

Thursday, April 7–Saturday, April 9
Film—National Treasure. 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)

Friday, April 8–Saturday, April 9
Concert—Western Carolina University Honor Band. Various times. Recital Hall, Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Relay for Life—students, faculty, staff, and alumni raise money for cancer research. 7 p.m. Friday–7 a.m. Saturday. Lawn, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-2621)

Friday, April 8
Catamount baseball—vs. East Tennessee State. Southern Conference game. 7 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Saturday, April 9
Lady Catamount tennis—vs. Elon. Southern Conference match. 2 p.m. Reid Gymnasium tennis courts. (227-7338)

Catamount baseball—vs. East Tennessee State. Southern Conference game. 4 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Sunday, April 10
Catamount baseball—vs. East Tennessee State. Southern Conference game. 1 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Lady Catamount tennis—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference match. 1 p.m. Reid Gymnasium tennis courts. (227-7338)

Crafts at the Center—cornshuck creations. 2–4 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Southern Circuit Film Series—filmmaker Richard Gordon’s Morning Sun. Director will be present to discuss film. Free. 7 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7206)

Submissions
E-mail news items and calendar notices to Reporter@email.wcu.edu. Submit items at least three weeks prior to the event.
Imagination, ideas, insight, ingenuity, innovation, invention and inspiration. Those will be the guiding themes behind a day of intensive discussion and brainstorming about the future of Western North Carolina as hundreds of “thought leaders” come together at Western on Wednesday, April 13.

Christened the i7 Futures Forum, a name derived from seven guiding themes, the event will be held in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 4:30 p.m.

“We are bringing together a mix of creative thinkers from science, government, technology, education, arts and the humanities to collectively imagine what our region will look and feel like 20 years from now,” said Paul Evans, director of Western’s Center for Regional Development, which is hosting the forum. “The structure is dialogue – poets talking with economists, engineers talking with painters, philosophers talking with entrepreneurs, and every combination in between – to see what type of future we might envision for our region.”

The i7 Futures Forum is designed as the first part of an on-going effort to help shape the direction of Western’s recently announced Millennial Initiative, a comprehensive regional economic development strategy that includes the addition of 344 acres of property adjacent to the main campus, Evans said.

“The Millennial Initiative represents the university’s creative engagement with the economy, culture and aesthetics of the region and its global counterparts. It will enable the application of the best ideas of the region while also serving as a center of inspiration for students and other regional citizens determined to turn their creativity and education into a viable livelihood,” said Chancellor John W. Bardo. “The i7 Futures Forum represents our hopes for the inclusive and dynamic scope of the Millennial Initiative.”

Participants in the forum are anticipated from a variety of backgrounds, including health care, biotechnology, tourism, environment, government, engineering, architecture, education, business, communications, philosophy and art.

The forum will consist of numerous panels – or “strands” – held throughout the day on a wide variety of topics: allied health industries; applied science, biotechnology and native botanicals; recreation, tourism and environment; government policy and research; creative and performing arts; engineering, technology and green construction; architecture and design; new economy workforce; the creative class; teaching and learning; entrepreneurial creation and financing; communications and broadband; the search for meaning; sociology and native culture; and student ingenuity and ideas for the future.

Registration for the event is free of charge. The deadline to register is Friday, April 8. For more information about the i7 Futures Forum or to register, contact the Center for Regional Development at 227-7492 or go to www.wcu.edu/crd.