Western presented its top faculty and staff awards for teaching, research and service for the 2004-05 academic year at its annual spring General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation.

Laura Cruz, assistant professor of history, won the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award. The Paul A. Reid Service Award for faculty went to George DeSain, professor of electronics engineering technology, while the Paul A. Reid Service Award for administrative staff went to Tom Frazier, manager of Western’s print shop.

Hal Herzog, professor of psychology, received the University Scholar Award, while the Support Program of Excellence Award went to the Coulter Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and the Integration of Learning Award was given to Elizabeth McRae, assistant professor of history, who co-developed the project, “A Retrospective of the Civil Rights Movement and Its Continued Reverberations,” with Tanisha Jenkins, director of multicultural affairs.

The honors were announced by Western Chancellor John W. Bardo; Kyle Carter, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Other major awards recognized at the convocation include The University of North Carolina Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, won by LeVon Wilson, professor of business law; the Collaborative Education Experience Award; and the Scholarly Development Assignment Program awards.

Laura Cruz, winner of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, is completing her third year as a member of the Western faculty.

“One of Dr. Cruz’s strongest and most frequently used teaching techniques is the use of simulations and role playing to make instruction more realistic. One day, for example, she wore a full toga, complete with a crown of leaves, to discuss the expansion of the empire as if she were the emperor Trajan. Students describe Dr. Cruz as original, enthusiastic, fun, open-minded, extremely helpful, energetic, outgoing, understanding, interesting, wonderful teacher,” Bardo said.

George DeSain, winner of the Reid faculty award, is a former department head who led engineering technology through its transformation of industrial arts into industrial technology, and finally into engineering technology, Bardo said.

“Notably, George wrote the permission to plan and permission to establish the electrical engineering joint degree program with UNC-Charlotte,” Bardo said. “In addition, George led proposals for the creation of the telecommunications engineering technology and construction management programs at Western. George has shared his wealth of knowledge and experience willingly. The quality of his contributions has definitely enhanced Western’s reputation as a regional comprehensive institution of higher education.”

continued on page 3
LeVon Wilson Named One of UNC System’s Top Professors

LeVon Wilson, professor of business law, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system, drawing acclaim from students and faculty colleagues for his enthusiasm, energy and effectiveness in the classroom.

A faculty member at Western since 1991, Wilson is among 16 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching. The award will be presented at a recognition luncheon in May in Chapel Hill. Winners receive a commemorative bronze medallion and $7,500 cash prize.

Wilson teaches graduate and undergraduate courses focusing on business law and the legal environment of business. His students have praised him as “a gentleman and a scholar, but above all, a friend” and as a professor who “inspires thought and creativity and a greater desire to learn well the subject of law.”

“I do not believe that students should be ‘spoon-fed.’ I am of the opinion that learning can actually be fun,” Wilson said. “Getting students to think and develop an awareness of the availability of information is an important aspect of what I do. Throughout my career, and particularly most recently, I have engaged in those pedagogical activities that are designed to foster creative thinking in students.”

Wilson’s scholarship addresses the teaching of law and ethics, the use of case methodology, the introduction of multicultural perspectives into legal education, and law-related education for higher education administrators. He involves students in his research and also sponsors students participating in Western’s annual undergraduate and graduate research conferences and at professional conferences.

An alumnus of Western, Wilson received his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1976 before earning his law degree at N.C. Central University in 1979 and doctorate of education from N.C. State University in 2001. He returned to his alma mater after teaching at N.C. A&T State University and serving as assistant county attorney for Guilford County.

Wilson is a two-time winner of Western’s College of Business Jay I. Kneedler Professor of Excellence Award. A frequent nominee for the university Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, he also is a two-time finalist for that honor.

Wilson and the 15 other award recipients, representing an array of academic disciplines, were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure, chaired by John W. Davis III of Winston-Salem.

Established by the Board of Governors in April 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the university, the awards are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. Winners must have taught at their present institutions at least seven years.

Western to Bestow Honorary Doctorates at Spring Commencement

Western Carolina University will bestow honorary doctorates on two St. Louis residents and present a major alumni award as the university holds spring commencement exercises Saturday, May 7.

Commencement will begin at 2 p.m. in Ramsey Regional Activity Center. Approximately 840 students are candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees, pending final examinations and review.

The recipients of honorary doctorates of humane letters, Blanton J. and Margaret S. Whitmire, are longtime benefactors of education and established an endowed professorship in environmental sciences at Western in 1997. James F. Causby, recipient of the Alumni Award for Academic and Professional Achievement, is an icon in North Carolina education who now serves as executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Chancellor John W. Bardo will preside over commencement and deliver the charge to the degree candidates.

A required rehearsal for the graduating students will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. the day of commencement in the main arena of the Ramsey Center.

Graduating students will line up for the processional at 1 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium on the lower level, west side of Ramsey Center. The processional will begin at 2 p.m.

Receptions for degree candidates and their families and friends will be held in the Ramsey Center following commencement. Receptions for undergraduate students (recipients of bachelor’s degrees) will be held on the Ramsey Center concourse in a designated area for each college, while a reception for graduate students (master’s and doctoral degrees) will be held in the Ramsey auxiliary gymnasium.

Western’s Cat Tran shuttle service will be operating on commencement day.

Spectators should enter the Ramsey Center through one of four upper concourse doors. Those with physical disabilities should use the northeastern upper entrance, adjacent to the stands of E.J. Whitmire Stadium.
his study were published in the Royal Society’s Biology Letters, a scientific journal in Great Britain. It also attracted quite a bit of attention in the British press, as well as in USA Today newspaper.”

The Collaborative Education Experience Award is designed to support well-rounded student learning experiences that go above and beyond traditional course requirements and support Western’s mission related to teaching and learning, Carter said. Emphasis is on collaborative activities that promote holistic student development.

The 2005 winners are engineering and technology faculty members Aaron Ball, associate professor, and James Zhang, assistant professor, and graduate students Michael Clare and William Extine for their proposal on “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improving Teaching and Learning Effectiveness of Engineering Education Using Integrated Web Services and Wireless Technology.”

Recipients in the Scholarly Development Assignment Program, announced by Carter, are Marilyn Chamberlin, assistant professor of sociology; Matt Liddle, art department head and associate professor; Marty Fischer, professor of communication disorders; and David Westling, Adelaide Worth Daniels Distinguished Professor of Special Education. The Scholarly Development Assignment Program provides leave from usual work commitments to full-time tenured faculty so they may pursue concentrated scholarly work. Recipients are chosen on a competitive basis by a faculty committee.

In presenting the Support Program of Excellence Award to the Coulter Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Bardo said the center “promotes the exchange of innovative ideas and experiences among faculty in a dynamic, supportive environment; provides leadership and support for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Western; and assists faculty with learning-centered methods of instruction.”

“Since 1988, the Coulter Faculty Center has been an advocate for the continuous improvement of teaching and learning, thus working directly for the fulfillment of Western’s mission of excellence,” Bardo said.

The Integration of Learning Award is a new award established to recognize faculty members who work directly with Division of Student Affairs staff members to promote the integration of teaching with activities within the division.

The winning project developed by McRae and Jenkins will engage about 20 students in a research project that involves a retrospective of the civil rights movement and its continued reverberations, Caruso said in announcing the award. The students will visit nine major civil rights sites as they travel by bus across the Southeast for nine days in May.

“This hands-on approach to history will create unique research and creative opportunities for students in photojournalism, documentary-making, oral history, analyzing the effects of the civil rights movement on communities and individuals, tracing the trajectory of social justice in the South from the 1960s until today, and creating a public history exhibit for Western North Carolina communities,” Caruso said.
Awards Highlight

Office of Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor’s Instructional Improvement Awards
Shawn Acheson,
assistant professor of psychology
C. James Goodwin,
visiting professor of psychology
Wayne Billon,
associate professor of health sciences,
Meagan Karvonen,
assistant professor of educational leadership and foundations
Anna McFadden,
department head of educational leadership and foundations
Erin McNelis,
assistant professor of mathematical and computer science
Nick Norgaard,
professor of mathematical and computer science

Microgrant Recipients for 2004-2005
Marsha Lee Baker,
associate professor of English
Beth Huber,
assistant professor of English
Mary Kay Bauer,
associate professor of voice and music
Julie Barnes,
associate professor of math and computer science
Dan Boyd,
lecturer of modern foreign languages and philosophy and religion
Debra Burke,
professor of marketing and business law
Cheryl Clark,
assistant professor of nursing
Annette Debo,
assistant professor of English
Sloan Despeaux,
an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science
Ruby Drew,
associate professor of human services
Vincent Hall,
department head of nursing
Paul Heckert,
professor of chemistry and physics
Elise Hitchcock,
assistant director of personnel and planning in Hunter Library
Beverly Jacobs,
associate professor of human services
Jill Manners,
associate professor of health sciences
Katherine Mathews,
associate professor of biology

Elizabeth McRae,
assistant professor of history
Katya Moorman,
assistant professor of art
Jane Nichols,
assistant professor of hospitality, tourism and interior design
Mary Anne Nixon,
professor of project management
Rita Noel,
professor of business computer information systems
Tom Oren,
associate professor of human services
Bill Papin,
wellness coordinator
Maurice Phipps,
professor of health and human performance
Lisen Roberts,
associate professor of human services
James Scifers,
associate professor of health sciences
John Sherlock,
associate professor of human resources
Le Von Wilson,
professor of marketing and business law
Pavel Wlosok,
assistant professor of music

EPA Phased Retirees
left to right: Nicholas Norgaard, Chancellor Bardo, Davia Krings, Gayle Miller

College of Applied Sciences
Board of Governors - Innovative Teaching Award
Mike Hubble,
associate professor of health sciences
Burt Ogle,
assistant professor of health sciences

Excellence in Teaching Award
Burt Ogle,
assistant professor of health sciences

Don C. Morgan Faculty Scholar Award
Judy Mallory,
assistant professor of nursing

College of Arts and Sciences
Board of Governors - Teaching Award
Charles Wallis, associate professor of mathematics and computer science

College of Business
Professor of Excellence Award
Lorrie Willey,
assistant professor of marketing and business law
Spring Recognition Programs

EPA Retirees
left to right: Gary Pool, Suzanne Moore, Chancellor Bardo, Jane Hall, George DeSain, Gene McAbee

Board of Governors - Creative and Innovative Teaching Award
Julie Johnson Busbin, professor of marketing and business law
Dan Clapper, associate professor of business computer information systems

College of Education and Allied Professions
Botner Superior Teaching Award
Gayle Moller, associate professor of educational leadership and foundations

Board of Governors - Awards for Superior Teaching
Millicent Abel, professor of psychology
Robert Beaudet, assistant professor of health and human performance
Karena Cooper-Duffy, associate professor of human services
Robert Houghton, associate professor of birth-kindergarten elementary and middle grades education

CEAP Dean's Research Award
Sharon Dole, assistant professor of human services

Graduate School
Summer Research Grant Recipients
Bruce Carroll, assistant professor of political science and public affairs
Gibbs Knotts, assistant professor of political science and public affairs
Elizabeth McRae, assistant professor of history
Cheryl Waters-Tormey, assistant professor of geosciences and natural resources management

Summer Research Fellowship Recipients
Marsha Lee Baker, associate professor of English
Edward Case, assistant professor of educational leadership and foundations
John DiBari, assistant professor of geosciences and natural resources management
Paul Heckert, professor of chemistry and physics

Judy Mallory, assistant professor of nursing

Faculty Research Grants
William Chovan, professor emeritus of psychology
Paul Heckert, professor of chemistry and physics
James Zhang, assistant professor of engineering and technology

Hunter Scholar Award
Katherine Mathews, associate professor of biology

Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award
Lisen Roberts, associate professor of human services

Dean’s Graduate Program Coordinator Award
Scott Higgins, professor of health sciences

Faculty Teaching Research Award
Debra D. Burke, professor of marketing and business law
Election Results for Staff Forum and Faculty Senate Announced

**Staff Forum**

Nancy Carden, Clerical/Secretarial, Academic Affairs
Lisa Frady, Clerical/Secretarial, Biology
Elizabeth Frazier, Professional, Registrar’s Office
Sue Grider, Technical, Educational Technologies
Jeff Gunter, Craftsman, Facilities Management
Homer Harris, Craftsman, Facilities Management
Katie Spear, Professional, Admissions
Mike Stewart, Professional, Facilities Management
Bill Studenc, Professional, Public Relations
Jed Tate, Technical, Public Relations

**Faculty**

Katherine Cipriano, College of Arts and Sciences

**Faculty Hearing Committee**

Sharon Jacques, College of Applied Sciences
Brad Sims, College of Applied Sciences
Julie Johnson, College of Business
Bill Ogletree, College of Education and Allied Professions

**Committee on Nominations, Elections, Councils, and Committees**

Mary Kay Bauer, College of Arts and Sciences
Kathleen Brennan, College of Arts and Sciences
Judy Mallory, College of Applied Sciences

**Post Tenure Appeals Committee**

Gael Graham, College of Arts and Sciences
Anne Rogers, College of Arts and Sciences
Sue McPherson, College of Applied Sciences

**Council on Faculty Affairs**

Mary Kay Bauer, College of Arts and Sciences
Kevin Lee, College of Arts and Sciences
Meagan Karvonen, College of Education and Allied Professions

**Athletics Committee**

Katherine Cipriano, College of Arts and Sciences

**Faculty Assembly Delegate**

Gary Jones, College of Business

**Faculty Grievance Committee**

Anne Rogers, College of Arts and Sciences
Terry Kinnear, College of Business
Levon Wilson, College of Business

**Newsfile**

▲ Peter Bates, associate professor, natural resources management, and Carroll Brown, associate professor, hospitality and tourism, recently visited with colleagues at Western’s partner school in Galway, Ireland, the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, in order to become more familiar with the GMIT forestry endeavors and the hospitality management and tourism programs. This was the first step toward developing short-term exchanges for the GMIT and Western faculty. An exchange agreement between the two schools was recently signed that includes a dual-degree option for business and construction management students. This fall, Western will send five students to GMIT.

▲ Debra Burke, department head, marketing and business law, published an article, "Workplace Harassment: A Proposal for a Bright Line Test Consistent with the First Amendment," in the Hofstra Journal of Labor and Employment Law. She and Dan Clapper, department head, business computer information systems participated in the Internet Division of the Allied Academies International Conference. Their paper, titled "Edu Dilemma: The Web Accessibility Challenge Facing Public and Private Universities," received a distinguished research award.

▲ Bob Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs, presented a workshop at the recent American College Personnel Association Conference in Nashville, Tenn., for Caribbean student services administrators on building successful student affairs programs, and served as a panelist on future trends in the field. Caruso also was honored as a member of the Senior Student Affairs Officer Practitioner Program.

▲ Jeanne Dorle, assistant professor in project management, was awarded the Fulbright-Universite du Quebec Visiting Research Chair in Project Management for spring semester.

▲ Steve Henson, assistant professor, marketing and business law, has three articles that will be published during late May and June. Two of these articles are in a special symposium of the Journal of Health and Human Services that he co-edited. The third article will be published in JONA’s Healthcare, Law, Ethics, and Regulation. All three articles are about education and training needs in the health care industry.

▲ Lawrence Hill, professor emeritus and former chair of the communications, theatre and dance department, was presented with the 2005 Joel E. Rubin Founder’s Award as part of the keynote session that kicked off the 2005 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto in March.

▲ Ron Rash, the Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies, is winner of this year’s Weatherford Award for Fiction presented by the Appalachian Studies Association and Berea College for his second novel, Saints at the River. The award, which includes a $500 honorarium, was announced as part of the Appalachian Studies Conference held March 18-20 at Radford University in Virginia. Past recipients of the award include John Ehle, Lee Smith and Charles Frazier. Rash also will receive the 2005 Thomas and Lillie B. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing, presented by Morehead State University in Kentucky. The award, which includes a $1,000 prize, was established through a bequest by the late Lillie D. Chaffin, associate poet laureate of Kentucky. It is presented in conjunction with the Bluegrass ‘n’ More festival, set for June 3-5. Past recipients include Silas House, Denise Giardina and James Still.

▲ James Thompson, professor of art, attended the joint conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Association in San Diego, Calif. Thompson presented a paper titled "Precious Lord, Take My Hand: an Unusual Transposition in Southern Song and Sculpture."

▲ Julie Walters-Steele, director of the University Center, was recently elected as director of Region 5 for the Association of College Unions International. At the heart of ACUI are 15 geographic regions, each represented by its own regional director. The 15 regions are composed of Regional Leadership Teams that work with members to provide quality services and programs on the regional level. Region Five includes the states of Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.
May

Monday, May 2
Special observance—Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony, honoring Western students who have died during the past year. 3:30–4:30 p.m. Brown Cafeteria Plaza. (227-7147)

Thursday, May 5
Workshop—sexual harassment training. Required of all university employees except those who have already attended. Registration required. 9–10 a.m. or 10:15–11:15 a.m. Room 104, Killian Building. (Information, 227-7116 or agrube@email.wcu.edu; registration, http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/special.asp)

May

Monday, May 9
Catamount baseball—vs. Elon. Southern Conference game. 1 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Thursday, May 12
Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—local musicians share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. 7–9 p.m. Grandroom, A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7129 or 227-7206)

Friday, May 13
Catamount baseball—vs. Charleston Southern. 7 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Saturday, May 14
Catamount baseball—vs. Charleston Southern. 4 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Sunday, May 15
Catamount baseball—vs. Charleston Southern. 1 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Spring into Summer—monthly series that invites families to explore the region’s natural heritage and discover how they can fit into the natural world presents Treats for the Birds. No admission charge, but reservations required. 2–3:30 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Wednesday, May 18
Catamount baseball—vs. Gardner-Webb. 3 p.m. Childress Field/Hennon Stadium. (227-7338)

Thursday, May 19
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)

June

Monday, May 30
Exhibition opening and reception—After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains, portraying how wars and their aftermath have shaped the lives of people and communities in Western North Carolina. 6–7 p.m. Lobby and Gallery C, Mountain Heritage Center. (227-7129)

Monday, June 6–Friday, June 10
Program for children—Creative Thinking: Project-Based Learning, for children in grades one through six to participate in challenging but fun learning activities as part of the Creative Thinking and Problem Solving course for teachers. Registration: $85 for materials and lunch. Scholarships available. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. daily. (227-7310)

Thursday, June 9
Symposium—Service Learning: Balancing Stewardship and Scholarship to Promote Student Learning and Faculty Engagement. Lead presenter: Penny Pasque, National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good, University of Michigan. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center. (227-7234 or gbowen@email.wcu.edu)

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam—local musicians share tunes and techniques while enjoying old-time and bluegrass music. Open to pickers and singers of all ages and experience levels and also to those who want to just watch and listen. 7–9 p.m. Lawn, A.K. Hinds University Center. Rain location, Grandroom, University Center. (227-7129)

Sunday, June 12
Crafts at the Center—weaving. 2–4 p.m. Mountain Heritage Center, Robinson Administration Building. (227-7129)
A key aspect of any major accreditation is the self-analysis undertaken by the institution being reviewed. Western is engaged in a process of self-analysis as part of its review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which will culminate in an off-site committee’s assessment of performance relative to more than 70 core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements.

General areas under review include governance and administration, academic programs, faculty, learning and library resources, physical and financial resources, institutional mission and effectiveness, planning and evaluation processes, student affairs and support services.

The Compliance Committee, co-chaired by Noelle Kehrberg, dean of the College of Applied Sciences, and Eloise Hitchcock, assistant director for personnel and planning at Hunter Library, has begun the comprehensive process of evaluating Western’s compliance with each of the standards by conducting an audit to identify areas of concern.

Action plans are being developed and implemented to address all areas identified as partially compliant or noncompliant with a standard. The committee hopes to complete its work by next spring to allow all university units to review the final document and make recommendations for changes prior to submission to the Commission on Colleges by Aug. 1, 2006. Regular updates will be posted to the SACS Web site (www.wcu.edu/sacs).

Compliance Committee members are:

- **Stephen Baxley**, Academic Adviser, Advising Center
- **Deborah C. Beck**, Director, Health Services
- **Josie Bewsey**, Assistant to the Dean, Research and Graduate Studies
- **Kathleen Brennan**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Sociology
- **Pat Brown**, Dean, Distance and Continuing Education
- **Carol Burton**, Director, SACS Review
- **Renee Corbin**, Director of Assessment, Education and Allied Professions
- **Nancy Dillard**, Director, Financial Aid
- **Elizabeth Frazier**, Enrollment Services, Registrar’s Office
- **Fred Hinson**, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of the Provost
- **Phillip Kneller**, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
- **Mary Ann Lochner**, Associate General Counsel, Law, Equity & Auditing
- **Beth Lofquist**, Associate General Counsel, Office of the Provost
- **Dianne Lynch**, Executive Asst. to the Chancellor, Chancellor’s Office
- **Jeanine Newman**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance
- **Bill Ogletree**, Professor, Human Services
- **Newton Smith**, Associate Professor, English
- **Edna Waldrop**, Director, Information Technology Applications
- **Irene Welch**, Administrative Officer, Office of the Provost
- **Holly Wilson**, Student Affairs Office, Graduate Assistant
- **LeVon Wilson**, Professor, Marketing and Business Law
- **Kathy Wong**, Director, Human Resources