

Western

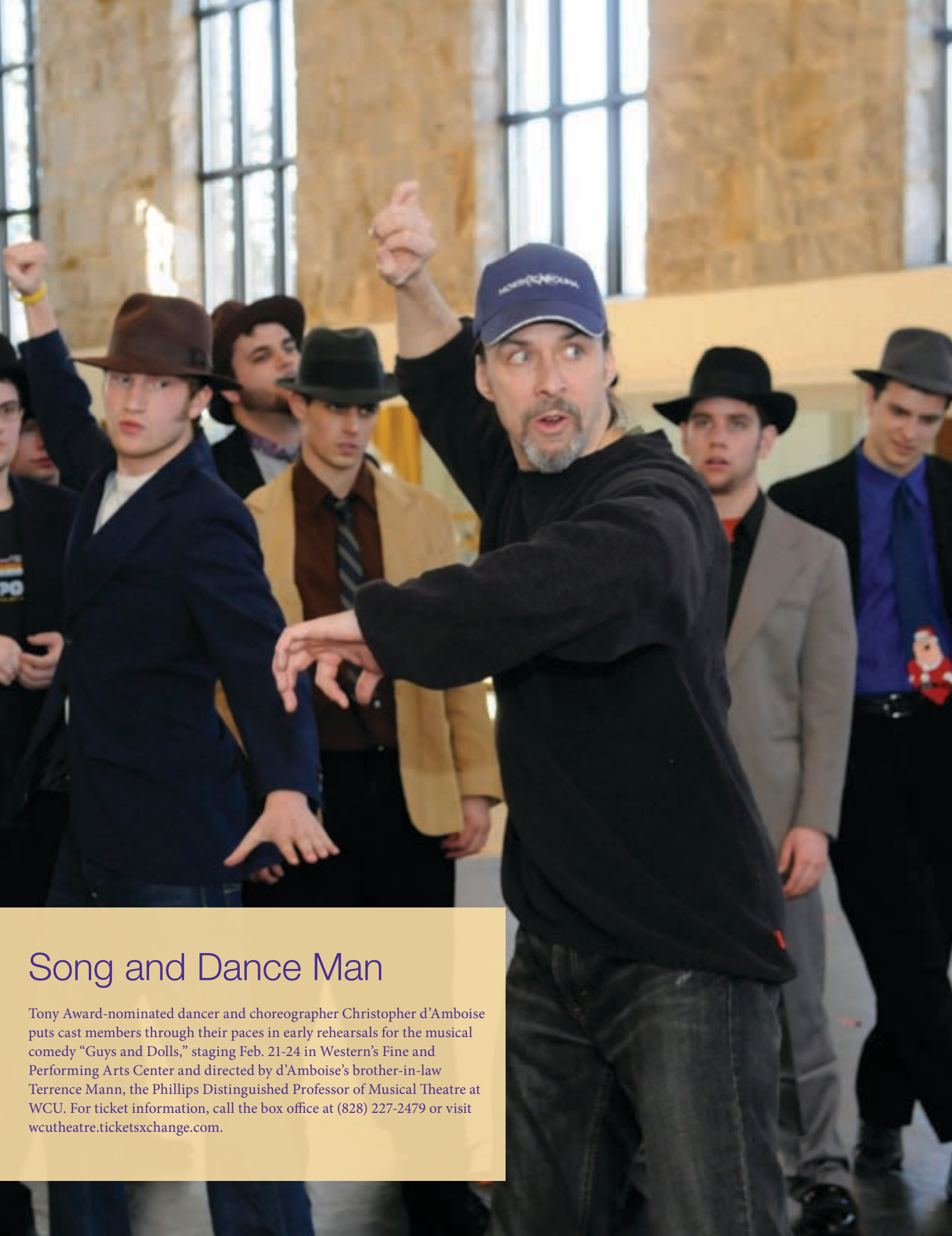
A hand holding a silver spoon over a bowl of red soup. The soup contains several alphabet letters. The letters 'WCU' are clearly visible in the spoon. Other letters like 'Q', 'P', 'N', 'S', 'E', 'T', 'R' are scattered in the soup. Two crackers are also visible in the bowl.

Winter
2008

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

**The Inside Scoop
on Academic Acronyms**

**Dennis Wagner to Coach
Catamount Football**



Song and Dance Man

Tony Award-nominated dancer and choreographer Christopher d'Amboise puts cast members through their paces in early rehearsals for the musical comedy "Guys and Dolls," staging Feb. 21-24 in Western's Fine and Performing Arts Center and directed by d'Amboise's brother-in-law Terrence Mann, the Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre at WCU. For ticket information, call the box office at (828) 227-2479 or visit wcutheatre.ticketsxchange.com.

Western

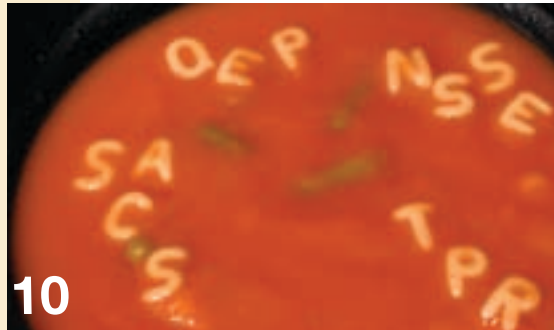
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Cover Story 10

Alphabet Soup
SACS. QEP. TPR. NSSE.
What Does It All Mean?



WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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News From THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

HONORS ROLLING

College Marks First Decade with Medallion Ceremony and Scholarship Ride

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Western's Honors College celebrated its 10-year anniversary in fall semester 2007 with the presentation of Honors Medallions for special service to five individuals who have been influential in the college's development, and with Dean Brian Railsback's fundraising

bicycle ride that took him from Cullowhee to the summit of Mount Mitchell.

During an October ceremony, medallions were awarded to WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo, former Honors College student **Michelle Gurley Ekstrom '98**, now-retired Honors Advising and Pre-Professional Programs Director **Susan Clarke Smith MA '96**, and Dr. Mark and Kathy Whitehead of Highlands.

Created by the Honors College student board of directors for the 10th anniversary, the medallion is awarded to the college's graduates and its special friends. The inaugural medallion was presented in August 2007 to "Cold Mountain" author Charles Frazier and his wife, Katherine.

Before WCU's Honors College was established, its honors program included 77 students, and usually only one or two of them made presentations at the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research. However, in February 1996, Bardo proposed in a speech that the university develop a residential honors program with full college status.

"The Honors College began with that speech, and it is here because of the chancellor's original vision," Railsback said. The college now boasts about 1,400 students, and earlier this year WCU

ranked eighth in the nation in the number of student presentations accepted for the national conference.

Railsback said Ekstrom played an essential role in beginning the Honors College's tradition of student leadership as she served admirably as the first president of its student board, and Smith "brought excellence" to her role when she came on board in 2002. When it came time to organize the college's advisory board that is based in Highlands, two individuals – the Whiteheads – put in the behind-the-scenes legwork to make it happen, he said.

Speaking of "legwork" – late in October, Railsback completed a 110-mile bicycle ride for pledges to benefit the college's student scholarship fund. He began a three-day journey from Cullowhee to the highest peak in the East on Oct. 20, but on the third day Railsback ran into dangerous fog and suspended the ride. He hopped back aboard his mountain bike on Oct. 27 to complete the final 24 miles.

The October fundraiser was the latest in a series of six pledge bicycle rides Railsback has undertaken to benefit the scholarship fund in the last decade. The five previous rides raised \$40,000 for the scholarship fund – enough to award 35 scholarships to deserving Honors College students. At press time, this year's pledge total was \$6,000, with two more substantial donations on the way.



Honors College students (from left) Raleigh Rumley, Erin Ponder and Jordan Youmans give college Dean Brian Railsback a friendly shove-off as he leaves Reynolds Hall to begin his 110-mile pledge bicycle ride to Mount Mitchell.

BRAND ON THE RUN

Newly Launched Marketing Effort Will Help Define University Image

By BILL STUDENC

Western has launched its first-ever branding and marketing initiative to articulate its strongest attributes and identify the characteristics most likely to attract outstanding students, faculty, staff, benefactors and other friends. The initiative is designed to help the university improve its position among public and private competitors for the best students, employees and donors. It is important to use the tools of market research and analysis to clearly understand and convey the strengths of Western as it is now – and as it will be in the future, Chancellor John W. Bardo said.

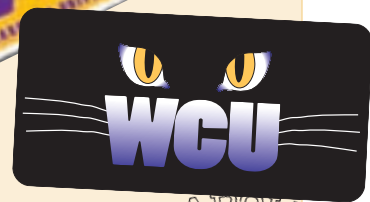
“Western has grown so much in terms of our size and the quality of our programs in recent years, and the achievements of our faculty, students and alumni are truly amazing,” Bardo said. “The public perception of Western, however, has not yet caught up with the reality. The development of a unique university brand will enable us to raise our profile to match perception to reality, and to allow us to compete more effectively for faculty, students and funding support.”

Contrary to popular belief, development of a university brand is much more than simply designing a new logo or tagline, he said. “A brand is a consistent image of the university, one that is reality-based, and one that helps all constituents of the institution understand what Western really is and what Western really is not,” Bardo said. “Our brand must not only distinguish who we are and what we stand for, but it also must mean something. It must stir one’s emotions.”

The university has hired Stamats, one of the nation’s premier firms specializing in branding and marketing institutions of higher education, to lead the three-year effort. “This is a very exciting opportunity for Western to claim a valued position in the marketplace,” said Scott Linzey, principal consultant with Stamats. The company serves more than 100 colleges and universities across the nation, and was selected from 32 companies that submitted bids for Western’s branding project.

The process is now under way with preliminary conversations and fact gathering. It will be followed by extensive qualitative and quantitative research that will include focus groups, interviews and surveys with faculty, staff, alumni, benefactors, community members, opinion leaders, current and prospective students, and parents and guardians. After the research phase, representatives of Stamats and the university will analyze the data and develop the kinds of clear, compelling messages in words, pictures and graphics that highlight the university’s existing strengths and future potential – in essence, articulating Western’s brand image, Linzey said.

That process, which will take about a year, will be followed by intensive internal and external efforts to communicate the messages and build broader recognition of the value of a Western education, he said.



RISING SIGNS

Admission Office Sees Big Increase in Freshman Applications for Fall

By BILL STUDENC

You can't blame the admission officers at Western if they appear a bit bleary-eyed these days. After all, they've been working extra hours trying to keep up with a 62.6 percent increase in the number of applications for undergraduate admission. As of Jan. 14, applications for the fall freshman class were up by 2,061 compared to the same week last year – from 3,291 to 5,352. In fact, just two weeks into the month, Western had already exceeded the total number of applications received for fall of 2007, when 4,792 first-year students sought admission.

“As retired vice provost for enrollment and director of admissions emeritus at N.C. State with over 35 years of experience in the admissions profession, I can tell you without hesitation that a one-year 62 percent increase in applications for admission is phenomenal,” said George Dixon, senior consultant with the National College Access Partnership for the University of North Carolina General Administration.

Western officials attribute the dramatic surge in applications to a variety of factors, including the adoption of a more precise system of student recruitment that helps identify prospects more likely to be interested in coming to Cullowhee. “Instead of a traditional carpet-bombing approach in which we contacted every prospective student who took the SAT, we have fine-tuned the process and are using a more targeted approach,” said Alan Kines, WCU director of undergraduate admission. “This nationally recognized best-practices method allows us to refine our search process through a computerized data-mining process that identifies students who will be a better fit for us.”



Sophomore Lauren Piasecki leads prospective students and their families on a campus tour.

Also playing a role in the spike in applications is the addition of several new academic programs that have proven popular with prospective students, and an increase in Western's visibility and reputation. Applicants say they are attracted to a university small enough to provide a more personalized educational experience, but large enough to have the resources of a bigger school, and that offers a diverse mix of programs, including traditional areas of study and new programs leading to hot careers.

“For me, the deciding factor was Western's size. Western is perfect for me. It's not too big. It's not too small. It's just right,” said Amy Lynn McGinnis, a senior at Hickory High School who plans to study music education or physical therapy. “Plus,

Western has the best marching band program I have ever seen, and I wanted to go to a school where I could be part of something special like the band.”

New student recruitment activities include the development of an Alumni Admissions Council, in which WCU alumni in such key areas as Hickory, Charlotte, Raleigh and the Triad meet with prospective students and share information about their experiences at Western; and the use of faculty members to contact prospective students to discuss academic programs and potential majors.

Western is still accepting applications for enrollment for fall 2008, with several open houses scheduled during the winter and spring months. For information, visit www.wcu.edu or call (877) WCU-4-YOU.



Frances Hess '94, a health occupations teacher at Cherokee High School, instructs student Chelsea Murphy as she practices a medical procedure. Generating interest in health careers among young members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a component of the Culturally Based Native Health Program.

CULTURE OF CARING

WCU and Wake Forest Partner with Cherokee on Native Health Initiative

By JILL INGRAM

Prompted by a growing disparity and the health of American Indians versus other U.S. populations, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is leading an effort to address cultural distinctions that conventional medicine overlooks in delivering health care to Native Americans in the South and East.

After two years of preparation and planning, Western Carolina and Wake Forest universities have partnered with the Eastern Band to launch the Culturally Based Native Health Program. The initiative adopts a multipart approach that includes graduate-level certification in different aspects of native health and an introduction to health care opportunities for Eastern Band youth.

“This is something very novel in the history of Indian health care,” said program director Lisa Lefler, a faculty member in the Cherokee Studies Program at WCU. Other initiatives have addressed native health disparities, Lefler said, but the CBNHP is the first to focus specifically on tribes in the South and the East. Her hope is that the program will grow to include all such tribes.

The goal of the 15-hour graduate certification is to educate health care professionals working throughout Indian country about cultural appropriateness when interacting with native patients. Many non-native health care professionals are unaware of the nuances surrounding native health care. For instance, they might not realize the long, complicated health care relationship between natives and the federal government, or understand cultural protocol related to age, sex and degree of acculturation. Language also can be a barrier, resulting in a patient or doctor miscomprehending a diagnosis or condition.

“With a cultural foundation present, the relationship between provider and patient is strengthened and there is less room for noncompliance and misunderstanding,” said CBNHP advisory council member Susan Leading Fox, deputy health officer with the Eastern Band’s Health and Medical Division and a member of the Eastern Band. She said the program also benefits tribal members who work in the health care field because it “strengthens their ability to cross that bridge between

being a community member and a medical provider.”

The courses cover four fields of native health care: administration, behavioral health, clinical care, and culture and history. Native peoples partner with faculty members to develop the courses. Lefler, who holds a doctorate in medical anthropology, has partnered with Tom Belt, a member of the Cherokee Keetoowah Society and a Cherokee language instructor, to develop anthropology courses on Indian health and tobacco and substance abuse.

Other faculty members include natives and non-natives from Wake Forest, the University of Tennessee, Clemson University and the University of West Virginia. Classes are online so that distance education is possible. The certification, for which WCU is scheduled to grant final approval in May, also requires a one-week field study on the Qualla Boundary, homeland of the Eastern Band.

Jill Ingram is a freelance writer and WCU graduate student in history with a focus on Cherokee studies. This article is reprinted in edited format with the permission of Indian Country Today.

URBAN LEGEND



Marching Band's Drumline Shares Stage with Country Music Superstar

The 33 members of the drumline of Western's Pride of the Mountains Marching Band had the experience of a lifetime in December when they performed during a concert headlined by country music star Keith Urban at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville, S.C. For Urban's national "Love, Pain and the Whole Crazy World" tour, the Australian singer-guitarist is inviting regional marching band drumlines to perform during one song during each concert stop. The WCU percussionists also performed for concertgoers as they made their way into the venue. "This was a great event for our students," said **Matt Henley '93 MA '95**, assistant marching band director. "It was

a remarkable opportunity for these musicians to experience performing on a stage under the lights, in front of a huge crowd, with giant TV screens behind them, and to get to see the behind-the-scenes work that goes into putting on a major concert. It was truly an honor to be able to represent Western Carolina University in such an exciting venue." It also was profitable – Urban's tour group contributed \$500 toward marching band student scholarships at WCU.



Photography by ASHLEY T. EVANS





WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?

ALPHABET SOUP

We Have the 411 on Western's Academic Acronyms

By BILL STUDENC

If you ask a Western faculty or staff member what's new in Cullowhee these days, you're likely to be greeted by a confusing string of acronyms that make up a steaming bowl of alphabet soup featuring such ingredients as QEP, SACS, TPR and NSSE. Although most folks on campus can probably tell you chapter and verse what those initials stand for, those who don't work or live in the shadow of the Alumni Tower may be hard-pressed to arrive at an answer.

Well, never fear – your friends at The Magazine of Western Carolina University are here to help. Consider this your primer in academic acronyms. The driving force behind QEP, SACS, TPR and NSSE – the master chef stirring the soup, if you will – is a recent institutional focus on a new activity that has become a major component of the university's overarching mission. That is the concept of engagement.

In this case, engagement has nothing to do with rings, fiancées or pending nuptials. At Western, engagement refers to the notion of engaged learning – the integration of activities in and out of the classroom by students who are actively involved in and responsible for their own learning, and guided by professors and support staff from a variety of disciplines who serve as coaches or facilitators for learning.

"Students who are engaged learners are, from day one, involved in shaping the course of their studies," said **Carol Burton '87 MAEd '89**, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies. "Engaged learners participate in

real-life activities that do not simply focus on a single subject, but that integrate a wide variety of subjects and classes, and that allow students to work collaboratively as they partake in a journey of discovery, exploration and learning."

Burton, who was appointed to the assistant vice chancellor position in June, is probably more familiar than just about anyone on campus with those academic acronyms. For the past three years, she led the university's bid for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – an organization better known as SACS. Reaccreditation by SACS is critical for the university because it provides independent validation that its academic programs meet standards of excellence. Institutions that fail to obtain reaccreditation are not eligible to award federal financial aid, and jeopardize the value of degrees they offer. Western received official word of its successful reaccreditation efforts from the SACS Commission on Colleges in December.

A major part of the SACS reaccreditation process accounts for the second batch of letters in WCU's alphabet soup – QEP, which stands for Quality Enhancement Plan. SACS requires each institution seeking reaccreditation to develop a comprehensive plan to improve student learning. Western's QEP – titled "Synthesis: A Pathway to Intentional Learning at WCU" – will enhance undergraduate education by linking

Continued on page 12



Christopher Cooper of the political science and public affairs department is among faculty members earning special university recognition for engaged teaching.

ALPHABET SOUP

Continued from page 10

diverse elements of students' entire university experiences, in and out of the classroom. By helping students connect their academic and co-curricular experiences, the university also will better prepare students to reach their goals after graduation.

"Our QEP initiates new connections and enhances existing linkages between academic and co-curricular programs to provide a holistic approach to educating students," said **Scott Philyaw '83**, associate professor of history and co-chair of the QEP committee. "The plan uses synthesis – that is, integrating knowledge from different classes into a coherent whole and then applying that knowledge to real-world situations – as the driving force behind teaching and learning at Western. When students are engaged in learning and are able to synthesize their experiences in and out of the classroom into a greater whole, instead of looking at each class and each activity in isolation, they will leave the university better-prepared for life after college."

A SACS review team that visited campus last spring found Western's QEP to be acceptable, with no formal recommendations for changes – the most desirable outcome for any institution. The QEP will begin in fall 2008 as a pilot project involving academic programs in recreational therapy, history, chemistry and health information administration, along with the Honors College, Coulter Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Mountain Heritage Center, and offices of Enrollment Management and

Residential Living. Based upon findings from the pilot study, to be conducted over a period of four years, the QEP will be implemented in phases across the campus.

Although it may seem to some observers that the concept of engaged learning is simply this year's educational buzzword, Western in fact has been looking at issues of student engagement since 2001 in the form of a creature called NSSE (pronounced "Nessie"). This particular animal has nothing to do with Loch Ness, however, and everything to do with assessing student satisfaction and engagement. NSSE – short for the National Survey of Student Engagement – is a nationwide survey that attempts to measure the quality of undergraduate education based upon students' involvement with their studies, professors and campus communities, as seen through student eyes.

On the most recent survey, WCU earned high marks for its efforts to ensure that students are fully engaged in the process of learning. The 2007 NSSE report, based on information from about 323,000 randomly selected first-year and senior students at 610 four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, indicates that Western students are more academically engaged than their peers at colleges and universities across the United States. Results show that Western outperformed 17 peer institutions of similar size and mission in all five benchmark categories – active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, level of academic challenge, supportive campus environment, and enriching educational experiences, said Melissa Wargo, WCU director of assessment.



Recreational therapy students including Shawna Hyde organize a "senior prom" for Mountain Trace Nursing Center residents as part of a service learning project.



Erin Tapley of the art department guides students in the creation of a painted mural at Waynesville's Pigeon Community Development Center.

Western students outperformed their peers in areas such as participation in a practicum, internship, field experience, cooperative education position or clinical experience; working on a paper or project that required integrating information from a variety of sources; participating in a service learning activity as part of a course; and working with faculty on activities other than course work.

“Compared to all colleges in the survey, regardless of their size and mission, we also score better on level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, and supportive campus environment,” Wargo said. For first-year students, Western was among the top 50 percent nationally for active and collaborative learning, and student-faculty interaction. “These results are outstanding, especially when you consider that the NSSE benchmarks reflect educational practices that have been consistently linked with higher levels of student learning and development,” Wargo said.

To help ensure that WCU faculty members are fully engaged with their students and with the surrounding region, the university in the fall adopted a new policy for tenure, promotion and reappointment – or TPR. For decades, American colleges and universities have rewarded faculty members with promotion and tenure based upon their professorial performance in the areas of classroom teaching, traditional research activities and public service. Western’s innovative policy adds an additional element designed to move faculty promotion and tenure decisions from beneath the ivory tower of academia and into the “real world,” making it possible to reward faculty members who apply their scholarly activities to help solve problems that face the larger community beyond the boundaries of campus.

For example, an art professor and her students recently created a mural at a community center serving a historically African-American neighborhood in Waynesville after conducting research into Pan-African design motifs and using a computer program to help generate a design in keeping with the context and history of the building.

Business professors are guiding students in projects to assist the town of Canton in recovering from two 2004 floods and to create a model for other towns to follow in times of disaster. Biologists and geoscientists are collaborating with faculty from Cherokee studies to restore the region’s once plentiful rivercane, an important cultural resource for the Cherokee people.

“We are very pleased that Western is taking this bold step with its faculty to adopt a reward system that recognizes the faculty’s scholarly contributions in this way,” said Harold Martin, the University of North Carolina system’s senior vice president for academic affairs. “Western becomes one of the first mid-size or larger institutions in the nation – and the first UNC campus – that has adopted such policies in recognition that institutions of higher education have an increasing role to play in economic and social development.”

Western also launched in the fall the Chancellor’s Meritorious Award for Engaged Teaching, which provides raises of \$1,000 in the base pay of selected faculty members in recognition of their efforts to implement principles of the scholarship of engagement into their teaching. Twenty-five faculty members received awards for activities ranging from organizing a trip by forensic psychology students to death row as part of a class discussion on capital punishment to assisting nursing students in the preparation of patient-care brochures in Spanish for the benefit of the region’s growing Hispanic population.

All the elements of the alphabet soup cooking on the front burner at Western this year are part of a unified effort to allow those who work and study at the university to become “stewards of place,” said Chancellor John W. Bardo. “As we work on our most important activities, we are increasingly weaving them into one institutional tapestry that is defined by our QEP. This plan must be the university’s focus, and it gives us a unique and very important positioning with regard to the future of our students, our region, our state and, in large measure, the future of higher education nationally.”

Getting Psyched Up

There's a lot more to psychology these days than Freudian slips, Rorschach inkblots, Pavlov's dogs and Skinner boxes. Faculty members of Western's psychology department are sharing their expertise in new and exciting ways, for the benefit of their students, their community and society in general.



No Laughing Matter

Researcher Says Sexist Humor Endorses Prejudice

By BILL STUDENC

Tom Ford screens a segment from TV's "The Man Show."

A research project led by a Western psychology professor indicates that jokes about “dumb blondes” and women drivers are not just harmless fun and games; instead, exposure to sexist humor can lead to toleration of hostile feelings and discrimination against women. “Sexist humor is not simply benign amusement. It can affect men’s perceptions of their immediate social surroundings and allow them to feel comfortable with behavioral expressions of sexism without the fear of disapproval of their peers,” said Thomas E. Ford.

Ford, who conducted research into sexist humor at his previous institution, presents his findings in an article accepted for publication this winter in one of the nation’s top social psychology journals. Ford and graduate student assistants conducted two research projects designed to test the theory that “disparagement humor” has negative social consequences and plays an important role in shaping social interaction. “Our research demonstrates that exposure to sexist humor can create conditions that allow men – especially those who have antagonistic attitudes toward women – to express those attitudes in their behavior,” Ford said. “The acceptance of sexist humor leads men to believe that sexist behavior falls within the bounds of social acceptability.”

In one experiment, researchers asked male participants to imagine they were members of a work group in an

organization. In that context, they either read sexist jokes, comparable nonhumorous sexist statements, or neutral (nonsexist) jokes. They were then asked to report how much money they would be willing to donate to help a women’s organization. “We found that men with a high level of sexism were less likely to donate to the women’s organization after reading sexist jokes, but not after reading either sexist statements or neutral jokes,” Ford said.

In the second experiment, researchers showed a selection of video clips of sexist or nonsexist comedy skits to a group of male participants. In the sexist humor setting, four of the clips contained humor depicting women in stereotypical or demeaning roles, while the fifth clip was neutral. The men were then asked to participate in a project designed to determine how funding cuts should be allocated among select student organizations. “We found that, upon exposure to sexist humor, men higher in sexism discriminated against women by allocating larger funding cuts to a women’s organization than they did to other organizations,” Ford said.

The research indicates that people should be aware of the prevalence of disparaging humor in popular culture, and that the guise of benign amusement or “it’s just a joke” gives it the potential to be a powerful and widespread force that can legitimize prejudice in our society, he said.

Of Mice, Men and Women

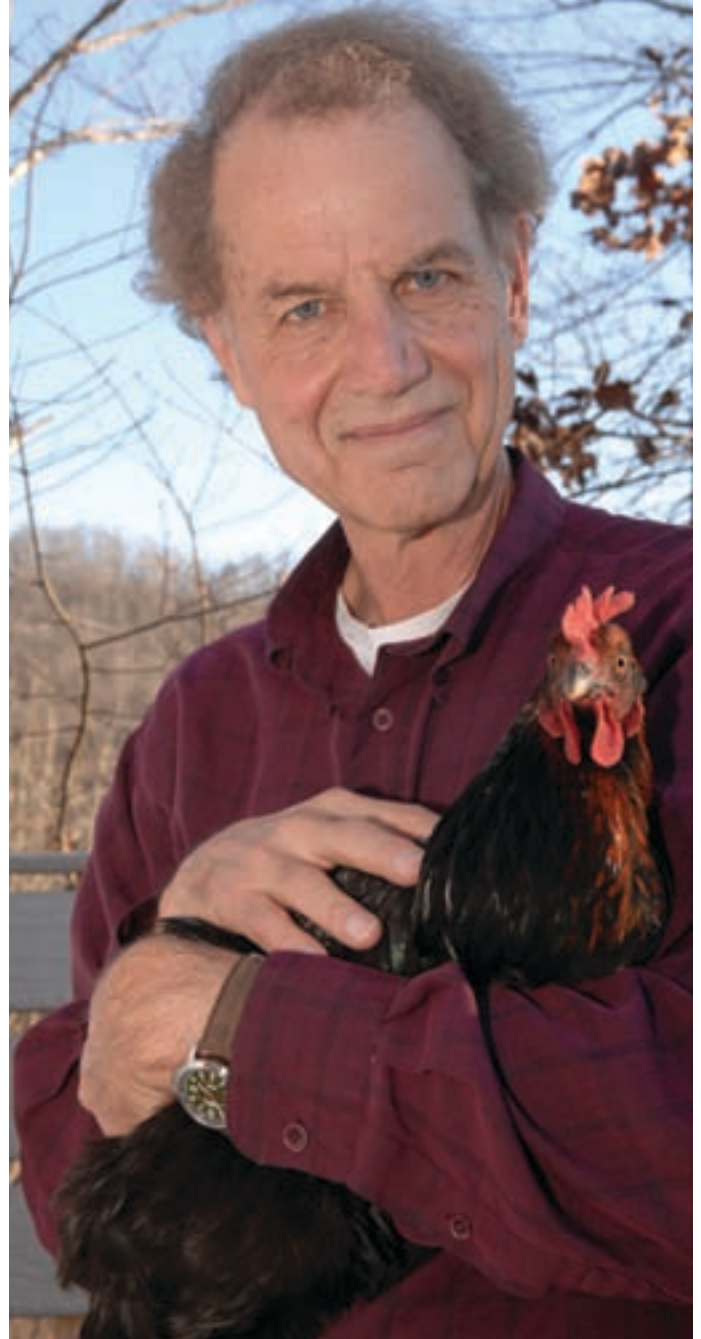
Herzog Makes a Career of Studying Societal Behavior Toward Animals

By BILL STUDENC

During two decades as a member of Western's psychology department, Hal Herzog has conducted extensive research into the complicated relationships that human beings have with the animals that share this planet. Since his influential "good mice/bad mice" study in which Herzog described varying attitudes surrounding a pet mouse that received a backyard funeral after an untimely death and the setting of traps to catch pest mice that had found their way into his kitchen, he has been fascinated by the way human psychology influences societal behavior toward animals.

Herzog has studied moral dilemmas faced by veterinary students who must end one animal's life in the hopes of saving countless others. He has at various times angered and pleased groups on both sides of the animal research issue – activists who argue that all the cages in research labs should be emptied, and scientists conducting experiments on animals in hope of curing disease. Herzog has studied cockfighters, animal rights protesters and biomedical researchers, and has written about emotional factors that lead humans to feel one way when considering the plight of a "beady-eyed reptile" and another when worried about "soft, furry creatures with puppylike eyes."

Herzog's latest research examines the role gender differences play in human-animal interactions. In his comprehensive analysis of hundreds of studies, he has identified several trends he says indicate that men and women often have different ways of thinking about animals. "These include attitudes toward treatment of animals, level of attachment to pets, involvement in animal protectionism, animal hoarding, hunting and animal abuse," he said. "On average, women show higher levels



Hal Herzog shares a moment with a feathered friend.

of positive attitudes toward animals – such as opposing the use of animals in research and greater involvement in animal rights activism. Men typically have higher levels of negative attitudes and behaviors. They are much more likely to hunt or to have participated in animal abuse, and are more apt to support animal research." His research also indicates that men and women are about equal in their love of pets, although "pet hoarding" (a pathological overattachment to animals in which people live with more pets than they can adequately care for) is far more frequent among females than among males.

Herzog calls his examination a first step in finding potentially important patterns in gender differences in human-animal relationships, and says additional research is needed to understand the whole picture. It sounds like a project to keep him busy for the next several years.

Bright Idea

Career Leads Inventor from General Motors to Classroom

By JESSICA CREGGER '07

When William Poynter started his career as a research psychologist with automobile company General Motors, he had no idea 20 years later he'd end up inside a classroom. Poynter, a professor of psychology at Western since 2004, also formerly worked for National Cash Register Corporation's retail systems division, which develops computer systems for the retail market. A specialist in engineering psychology, a branch of the discipline that applies psychological principles to the design of products to make them safer, more functionally effective and easier to use, he has received a total of 15 invention disclosure and patent application awards for his research. Seven have been approved for U.S. patents, with several of the remaining eight still in the multiyear patent process.

"While I won't be getting rich on these patents, as the rights to them are the property of GM and NCR, the fun for me was in the discovery process leading to the patents," said Poynter. "The one I'm most proud of, an automated method for assessing the visual quality of flat panel displays, was used by NCR to negotiate with the big players in the display industry and was very successful before it actually became a patent."

Poynter's method for assessment, called Visual Quality Test Suite, uses color science and photometric methods to quantify the visual quality of flat panel displays, such as a



William Poynter shows some flat panel displays.

cell phone, ATM or television screen. By predicting how humans would judge the quality of a display, the VQTS provides designers with an automated, inexpensive and quantitative method of evaluating competing displays. The invention works by measuring and consolidating eight characteristics of visual quality, including brightness, contrast, the depth of color the display can produce and the uniformity of color output across the viewing angle, said Poynter. It also takes into account such medical and genetic factors as color blindness and color deficiency, and provides a method for selecting the best color combinations for the information content of a display.

Poynter said he continues to work on new potentially patentable ideas. In the meantime, he is using his inventions inside the classroom, giving his students hands-on experience and a competitive advantage in the workplace, said David McCord, head of the psychology department.



Golden Years

Project Boosts Senior Citizen Confidence

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

It's a common scenario played out innumerable times in nursing homes across the country. Loss of physical ability and the onset of progressive deterioration result in an older adult being placed in a nursing home, and for the first time as an adult that person is physically dependent on someone else for life's basic activities.

"The realization of becoming dependent on others for self-care does not come without consequence," says William Chovan, professor emeritus in Western's department of psychology. That realization can cause a suppression of the individual's "sense of self," which often transforms into a

William Chovan guides older adults in memory exercises.

Un-supersize Me

Research Addresses Obesity Epidemic

By BILL STUDENC

By some estimates up to 65 percent of the U.S. population is overweight or obese, in part because Americans tend to eat supersized meals high in fat content and lead sedentary lifestyles. Far too often, individuals struggling with weight problems find themselves on a rollercoaster ride of weight loss and gain often fueled by the latest diet fad.

Mickey Randolph and Candace Boan-Lenzo of WCU's psychology department are trying to break that cycle. They have developed a multidimensional program called LifeFit to help overweight individuals understand psychological issues that can lead to physical problems. "We want to address obesity at its roots," Randolph said. "It's not just how much or the types of food you eat. It's also about factors that lead to poor choices about food. Usually, those factors revolve around the stress of daily life. Our program combines nutrition and physical activity with a psychological approach to help participants deal with stress in ways other than food."

LifeFit is a 10-week intervention program consisting of three sessions per week. During the first half of each session, participants acquire information about nutrition, proper eating habits and healthy recipes, and also discuss or practice designated coping skills. "A major issue associated with being overweight, rarely discussed, is related to the individual's psychological and social well-being," said Boan-Lenzo. "Individuals, especially children and adolescents, with weight problems are more likely to lack self-confidence, to have problems with self-concept and to develop depression. They also are more likely to have fewer friends, to be targets of peer and teacher bias, and to experience more teasing than non-overweight children. The program provides coping skills to help participants deal with those issues."

quality of mental dependency, even though the nursing home resident may, and very often does, have adequate intellectual capabilities, Chovan said.

As a result, the nursing home resident gives up on making his or her own decisions concerning everyday activities and end-of-life care, and frequently relinquishes those decisions to others – caregivers, family members or friends. That is the quandary that both puzzles Chovan and, at the same time, "holds out promise for regenerating the emotional characteristics associated with the final stage of self," he said.

Chovan retired from full-time teaching in 1997 following 28 years in WCU classrooms, but has continued to teach gerontology courses and supervise psychology graduate students in nursing home settings. During the later years of his teaching career, and in his retired life, he has immersed himself in dealing with the concerns of older adults, taking



Faculty members (from left) Candace Boan-Lenzo and Mickey Randolph, and psychology students Darla McCain and Lauren Peasley practice what they preach.

The second part of each session is devoted to physical activity. Students learn that traditional sport is not the only way to be physically active, and that activities such as yoga, hula, dancing, or playing with pets is beneficial, said Randolph. "Overweight individuals who learn how to cope with stress while they learn about nutrition and exercise are more likely to lose weight and keep it off."

Randolph and Boan-Lenzo, working with undergraduate and graduate psychology students, have implemented the program at WCU and at two Jackson County schools. Girls age 11 and 12 currently involved in the program give it rave reviews. "LifeFit helped me learn how to stay healthy. My favorite thing was all the activities," one girl said. Another participant said, "It has definitely made me healthier. I get to do more active stuff than I normally do, like jump rope and yoga. It has helped me lose weight."

on the roles of Hospice volunteer, counselor for bereavement support groups and researcher delving into end-of-life care.

Some of Chovan's recent research involving residents at a Jackson County nursing home indicated that those residents who have lost the use of decision-making skills, due to basic emotional change, were residents with a "low sense of self." With the assistance of two psychology graduate students, Andrew Presnell and Marisa Sullivan, Chovan spent fall semester 2007 conducting a series of sorting and recall exercises with nursing home residents. Early observations suggest that taking part in the exercises results in residents engaging more fully in the performance of tasks and in decision-making, and that the older adults' confidence in their decision-making judgments seems to be enhanced. "It is most satisfying to see the residents exhibit a renewal of competence in their sense of self," Chovan said.

STAGE HAND

Students Assist and Create Documentary for Broadway Costume Designer

By TERESA KILLIAN

WCU student Ann Brinkman was careful to look but not touch as she leaned in 3 inches from the costumes exhibited in "Between Taste and Travesty: Costume Designs by William Ivey Long" at Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington. More than 100 mannequins wore the "still lifes" of the five-time Tony Award-winning costume designer, and Brinkman was intrigued with the detail. Here were costumes that cost thousands of dollars to make. Here were costumes built to withstand the wear and tear of daily dancing, singing and drama. Long's work has appeared in dozens of Broadway shows, including "The Producers," "Cabaret," "Chicago," "The Music Man," "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Seussical the Musical."

"Seeing it was spectacular, and I was overwhelmed," said Brinkman. That was the day before the start of Long's symposium at the museum last fall, and it was only the warm-up. A hands-on, service-learning experience unfolded for WCU motion picture and costume design students that Leanne Deaver, a costume design student from Canton, describes as the single-most important event she has experienced. When Long arrived at the museum nine hours late to set up for his symposium, WCU students were there to help. They worked behind-the-scenes side-by-side with Long and his associates ironing, handling racks of clothing, setting up a display of "Young Frankenstein" – and listening and learning.

"We went back the next morning at 8 a.m. to continue helping them set up. That gave us a lot of one-on-one time with Mr. Long," said Brinkman, a costume design student from Statesville. "He shared his personal insights, talked about how to get started in the business and how to approach directors. He told us one of the major faux pas that almost ended his career as a designer on Broadway – surprising the director of 'Nine' with a daringly different costume at dress rehearsal."

Meanwhile, WCU students from a documentary course put their talents to the test. At Long's invitation – an invitation sparked by a memory of WCU students recording a master class he taught in Cullowhee several years before – students captured the symposium's lectures, master classes, exhibit tours, social breaks, interviews and impromptu moments.



Photo by Stephen Chernin, Courtesy of William Ivey Long Inc.



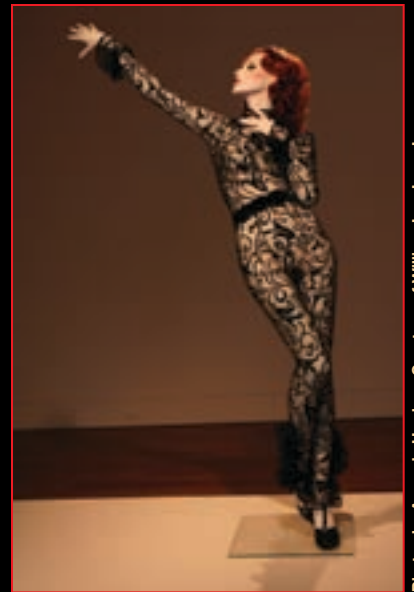
Arledge Armenaki, visiting associate professor of cinematography, directed the documentary and his student crew operated sound-recording equipment, lighting and cameras. Julia Cody, a motion picture and television production major from Sylva, worked as the on-site producer, coordinated with museum staff, kept event logs and monitored supplies. "This was definitely something to remember. Hands-on projects are so interesting, and being able to film one of Broadway's top clothing designers was an amazing opportunity," said Cody.

There was some confrontation from people not expecting to see a camera crew, and even that was a valuable learning experience, said Armenaki. "Students saw how a filmmaker can handle difficult situations and make the most of them," he said. "This project was a spontaneous opportunity, and we jumped in with both feet."

Long expects to share the documentary, when complete, with universities across

the state. He expressed thanks to WCU students in a speech before more than 500 college students attending the symposium, said Glenda Hensley, assistant professor of stage and screen, and key coordinator for Western's involvement. "Throughout the weekend, our students discovered first-hand what it means to work with professionals of the highest degree. While Arledge and his film crew worked the documentary angle, my costume students and I served as crew and assistants to Mr. Long and his associates," she said. "Our students were in the center of experiential learning at its best."

Clockwise from left are photos of William Ivey Long with the "Little Shop of Horrors" marquee, costumes designed for "The Producers: The Movie Musical," a costume designed for Anita Morris in her role as Carla in the Broadway musical "Nine," and a costume designed for Lynette Chappell in her "snake look" as the evil queen in Siegfried and Roy's long-running show at the Mirage Hotel.



Photos by Amanda Hughes, Courtesy of William Ivey Long Inc.



Anna Fariello (left) discusses the Craft Revival Project with Jenny Moore, associate director of HandMade in America.

REVIVAL MEETING

Craft Digitization Project Attracts Funding and Thousands of Visitors

By LEILA TVEDT

Like a complex and colorful quilt, the pieces of Western’s ambitious Craft Revival Project are coming together to showcase the successful effort in the late 1800s and early 1900s to preserve mountain crafts and hand-crafting skills of the Southern Appalachians. The project, with its Internet-accessible collection of digitized images centered at Western’s Hunter Library, recently received a grant of \$100,000 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the North Carolina State Library. That brings the project’s three-year funding total to nearly \$350,000.

“We’re using the funds to create a comprehensive collection of images showing the crafts made by regional artisans – crafts such as furniture, toys, coverlets, pottery and other useful household items – along with photographs and stories of the craftspeople and their patrons,” said Anna Fariello, project leader and associate professor at Western. “This Web-based collection represents pieces that remain widely scattered in public and private locations across the western counties of the state.”

Even before it has been completed, the collection is attracting about 1,000 Web visits each month from teachers, students, scholars, historians, archivists and the public at <http://craftrevival.wcu.edu>.

At the same time, the project has sparked scholarly research into the lives of craft revivalists who provided support, encouragement and equipment to mountain families so that the skills passed down to them for generations would not be lost. “For example, I’m interested in Clementine Douglas, who opened a shop called the Spinning Wheel in Asheville in the early

part of the 20th century,” Fariello said. The building still stands and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While craft promoters wrote memoirs and documented what they did, little was written by or about Douglas. “But what she did was quite significant. She brought work from local people and sold it in her shop. That was innovative at a time when people were using their crafts for barter, not for cash,” Fariello said.

More than a database of images and stories, the project also has produced an important new network of “heritage partners” who are sharing information. Together, they are mastering the use of sophisticated digital equipment and software to scan photos, documents, objects, audio and video files and clip them to standardized codes for electronic search and retrieval. “As a result, we have a much deeper understanding of each other’s collections and what it takes to bring them to life through the Craft Revival Project,” Fariello said.



Student Tonya Carroll catalogues items at Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual in Cherokee.

HANDMADE'S TALE

Craft Promotion Organization Director Practices the Art of Civic Development

By JESS CLARKE

When **Becky Anderson '62** arrived at Western for her senior year, she was in new territory in several ways. As a transfer student, she went from Salem College, a small, all-women's school in Winston-Salem, to a larger state school with men in her classes.

"It was kind of a curiosity for me," said Anderson, founding director since 1993 of the Asheville-based HandMade in America, a craft promotion organization. "Any time you go through a change, it teaches you flexibility and adjustment."

Anderson adjusted well at Western. **Luke Hyde '63**, who has a home in Bryson City, was a friend of Anderson's at WCU. "She seemed to have the capacity to get other people to join her in things," Hyde said. "Her enthusiasm was contagious."

It still is.

At HandMade, Anderson leads a nonprofit organization that uses craft as a catalyst for sustainable economic development in Western North Carolina's small towns. Observers say HandMade is strengthened by Anderson's ability to foster cooperation toward a goal.

"She can put together the right people and get towns to create their own projects that are just really successful," said **Vickey Wade '74 MAEd '75**, who directs the Local Government Training Program in Western's political science department. "I don't know anything she's tackled that she hasn't accomplished."

Anderson, 67, soon will leave as director to tackle her own consulting business, continuing her work with governments, arts and crafts groups and tourism offices, but focusing on other states. She will work from HandMade's office, contributing some of her income to the organization.

"It's taking the cultural assets a community has and helping them develop an economy around it," said Anderson, named among America's top 20 visionaries for civic development work by U.S. News and World Report in 1999. "It's really the place-based economy that can't be clicked away or outsourced" as with textiles and furniture, Anderson said.

HandMade has ties to Western beyond



Becky Anderson '62 keeps her hands in the crafts industry.

Anderson's diploma. Joan Byrd, WCU ceramics professor, was a founding board member of HandMade. Byrd said the Hendersonville-based Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, which HandMade helped establish, attracts international artists with whom WCU students work.

Anderson has participated in events at WCU's Mountain Heritage Center. "I'm not sure anyone can fill her shoes," curator **Suzanne McDowell '72 MA'91** said. "She's such an eloquent speaker for the area. You cannot listen to her and not believe that your area is very special."

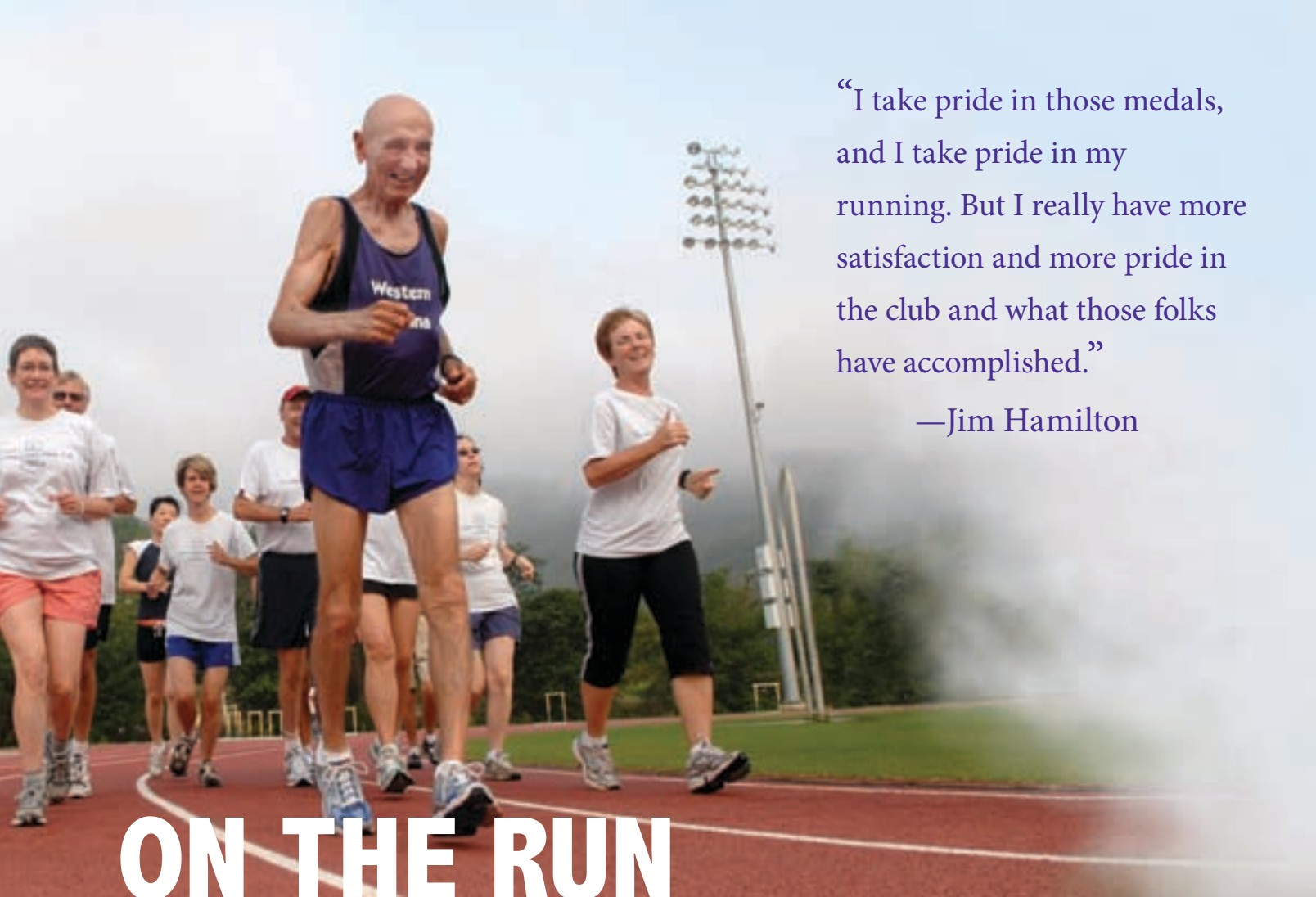
Anderson also has presented at conferences associated with Wade's government training program. "HandMade's formula is a model for the nation really," Wade said. "It's such a visionary program."

"It never entered my mind we'd start a system or model that could be used in other places," said Anderson, who travels around the country to share the vision.

In her time with HandMade, Anderson, a Haywood County native, is proudest of "a region that has learned how to be a region," she said. "HandMade has been able to foster that with projects that exemplify communities that work together."

Jess Clarke is a freelance writer and editor based in Asheville.





“I take pride in those medals, and I take pride in my running. But I really have more satisfaction and more pride in the club and what those folks have accomplished.”

—Jim Hamilton

ON THE RUN

Retiree Takes Cullowhee Club to National Competitions

By JESSICA CREGGER '07

A retired WCU physical education professor, Jim Hamilton began running for sport when he had no other option. A former athlete who played tennis, basketball, handball and badminton, Hamilton wore out his right shoulder to the point where he couldn't even lift a racquet.

Hamilton said he didn't visit an orthopedic therapist until it was too late, and the only way to pacify the pain of his four detached rotator cuff muscles was for doctors to scrape the ball joint of his shoulder. “The only thing I had left were my legs, which were still in good condition,” said Hamilton. “My daughter ran and both of my sons ran, so I decided, by golly, I was just going to start running.”

While making his laps around the campus track one morning, Hamilton approached another runner he had seen several times and asked if she ever ran competitively. Because Hamilton regularly competed in races, the two began training together, and soon added a third runner. “Finally, I just got to thinking,” said Hamilton. “We run around the track, and I was trying to get them to do this, that and the other. I said, ‘Well, I'll just give it a name.’” Using the group's location and interests, Hamilton dubbed the group the Cullowhee Running and Social Club.

A regular competitor in the Senior Olympics, Hamilton sparked an interest in several club members to compete in the games, as well. The few team runners that compete in the Senior Olympics, including Hamilton, have qualified for the National Olympics three times and have won seven medals (for placing in the top three), two ribbons (for placing in the top eight) and three national championships in the 10-K road race. Hamilton holds personal rankings of the top 10 in both the Senior and National Olympics for the 80-to-84 age group. Most recently, Hamilton set two records at the Huntsman World Senior Games, crushing the 85-89 age group 10-K record by nearly 10 minutes and the 85-89 age group 5-K record by about two minutes. “I was 84, running against those guys who were 80 and 81, so they had the advantage on me. This time, I was 85 and had the big advantage over those guys that were 87 and 89. We all kid and say, ‘If you're gonna get 'em, you better get 'em in that first year.’”

Although Hamilton jokingly says at some competitions the announcer calls out “Cullowhee” more so than some entire states, the victories are simply “the icing on the cake,” he said. “I take pride in those medals, and I take pride in my running. But I really have more satisfaction and more pride in the club and what those folks have accomplished.”

CLOSING THE DEAL

Broadcast Sales Students Graduate with Radio Ad Bureau Certification

By JOHN KENYON



“I cannot think of anything else that prepares students better for what the industry is really like.”

—Adrienne Avery '07



“I felt very prepared when I graduated and wasn't nervous about what to expect.”

—Jessica Bartley '06

When a new WCU alumnus armed with a communication degree concentrating in broadcast sales enters the “real world,” he or she does not have to worry about the pressure of making that all-important first sales presentation. That right of passage is required of every student before graduation.

“Students do actual market research as they prospect for a real off-campus client to work with and develop their mock presentations,” said Donald Connelly, head of the department of communication. “They conduct a client needs analysis, research and develop a written proposal, and present the proposal to the client at the client’s business.”

Graduates of the program say the experience helps when it comes time to make those first sales calls as professionals. “Not only are you working with professors who give you that real-world expectancy, but you also get to live it yourself,” said **Jessica Bartley '06**, account executive for CBS Radio in Charlotte. “I felt very prepared when I graduated and wasn't nervous about what to expect.”

Another part of the hands-on experience received by Western students in broadcast sales and promotion comes from the department’s ongoing working relationship with the Radio Advertising Bureau, the sales and marketing arm of the radio industry. “The final exam for the broadcast sales and promotion course is the RAB exam for radio marketing professional certification,” said Connelly. “I think our graduates would tell you that the certification is certainly a door opener.”

WCU students in the program leave the university with a level of certification that gives them a definite advantage, said **Adrienne Avery '07**, account executive for Clear Channel in Columbia, S.C. “It’s really the reason why I have been as successful as I have,” said Avery. “There was not one question on that exam that I have not come across in my job. I cannot think of anything else that prepares students better for what the industry is really like.”

Connelly is the only university professor in the country to hold the highest level of RAB certification – the certified radio marketing expert, said Mark Levy, vice president of educational services at RAB, which consists of nearly 7,000 members, including some 6,000 stations in the United States and more than 1,000 associate members in networks, representative firms, sales and international organizations.

Students in broadcast sales and promotion have access to the same professional resources that those in the industry use every day, Levy said. “Western Carolina’s use of RAB materials in the classroom allows students to fully embrace the strategies and tactics used by successful sellers on a day-to-day basis, before they hit the streets,” he said.

Natural Fit

By TERESA KILLIAN

WCU Partners with Highlands Biological Station

WCU faculty and staff see a lot of opportunities for collaboration with nearby Highlands Biological Station – more than the facilities can handle, at least right now. Commitments totaling more than \$2 million from the state of North Carolina and the National Science Foundation will go toward capital improvements that will enable the station to expand access.

Located on the edge of the Blue Ridge escarpment in one of the most biologically diverse and intact forests in the nation, HBS has laboratory and classroom facilities, overnight and kitchen accommodations, a nature center, botanical gardens and trails. The campus in Highlands was founded as a private research institution in 1927 and joined the University of North Carolina system in the mid-1970s, when WCU began serving as the station's "host campus" in the UNC system. Today, HBS hosts six field courses, summer workshops, classes for hundreds of school children, community programs



Salamanders are a popular subject for study at the Highlands Biological Station.



Highlands Biological Station's amphitheater

and support for researchers from as close as Jackson County to as far away as Germany and South Africa.

“We have outgrown our facilities, several of which were built in the late 1950s,” said Jim Costa, executive director of the station and WCU professor of biology. “We would like to be able to offer additional teaching, housing and research space. We have had to turn away some classes and proposals to offer workshops and miniconferences, and we recently had to close one of our older dorms, so we are down to 36 beds.”

A new comprehensive master plan identifies strategic facility improvements that will benefit research, education and outreach programs simultaneously. The plan includes renovations that would modernize and increase efficiency of existing facilities, expand laboratory and classroom space, double sleeping capacity, implement environmentally friendly energy sources, create common areas for the station’s

Continued on page 26



Highlands visitors marvel at the large circumference of a tree.

Natural Fit

Continued from page 25

residents and develop multiuse venues for community and outreach programs. Long-term plans include developing gallery space and launching an artist-in-residence program.

A recent \$253,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the largest in the station's 80-year history, will allow some renovations to begin this year. The state has funded more than \$1 million in facilities improvements and budgeted dollars for additional capital projects. In addition, the Highlands Biological Foundation, a nonprofit organization that represents the continuation of the original private corporation that founded the station, expects to launch a capital campaign.

Scott Higgins, dean of the Graduate School and Research at WCU, says the station's upgrades could support opportunities such as a semester-long program at the station for Western

students. "I want to help more WCU students afford to conduct research at this unique, pristine laboratory, which is unlike any other in the state," said Higgins. Toward that end, he worked with Costa to establish a scholarship to help WCU students participate in a fall program at the station currently offered through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The first Highlands Biodiversity Scholarship recipient completed the program last fall.

In another collaborative effort, Costa has been working with Western's Center for Math and Science Education to develop a professional enrichment course in biodiversity for teachers. "We see great potential for expanding that program, but have space constraints right now," said Costa. "Some people have proposed solutions such as busing the teachers here each day of the course, but it gets cumbersome.

ECOLOGY MOVEMENT

New Center to Study Unique Mountain Biodiversity

By BILL STUDENC

A recently established center at Western is designed to serve as a regional resource for environmental education, research and service focused on the unique mountain ecosystems of Western North Carolina and surrounding areas. The Southern Appalachian Biodiversity and Ecology Center is being developed in conjunction with the nearby Highlands Biological Station.

"Our university is the perfect location for this new center and for a renewed emphasis in the study of the mountain environment," said Jeanette Hyde, former member of the WCU board of trustees. "The University of North Carolina at Wilmington has earned national recognition for its marine biology program, which takes

advantage of the ocean located right in its backyard. We at Western Carolina have an opportunity to do similar work by taking advantage of the learning and research opportunities we have with these wonderful mountains in our own backyard."

In addition to serving as a catalyst for collaborative research projects on the Southern Appalachian environment by scientists and university students, the center will be a resource for secondary schools by promoting inquiry-based mathematics and science education, and assisting in the development of biodiversity lesson planning consistent with N.C. public school standards, said Malcolm Powell, head of the WCU biology department.

"The biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians, combined with the region's social tradition, make this area fertile ground for teaching and learning," Powell said. "The region's beauty, combined with national population trends and proximity to Atlanta, contribute to an increasing need for research and education on the effect of population growth on ecology and biodiversity of mountain ecosystems. Western is situated ideally to be the necessary catalyst and resource center for that research and education."

WATERSHED EVENT

Drought Reinforces Need for Research

By BILL STUDENC

Part of the value of learning in an environment like this is being here. A field station is a full-immersion educational environment with people who are taking courses and researching different organisms, rubbing elbows and interacting all the time.”

That’s what has brought Lynne Houck, professor of zoology at Oregon State University, back to the station more than 20 times to conduct salamander research. “What I think makes this such a fascinating place to be is interacting with spider people and mushroom people and people with so many different areas of expertise. You never know what kind of collaborations will come about as a result,” said Houck. “The new plans for Highlands will really help move that forward.”

As the Southeast remains in the grip of a significant rainfall deficit, a new institute at WCU is designed to help protect a vital natural resource – drinking water. The Institute for Watershed Research and Management is bringing together scientists, policymakers, economic development experts, natural resource managers and other interested parties in an effort to preserve regional water resources while trying to ensure economic prosperity.

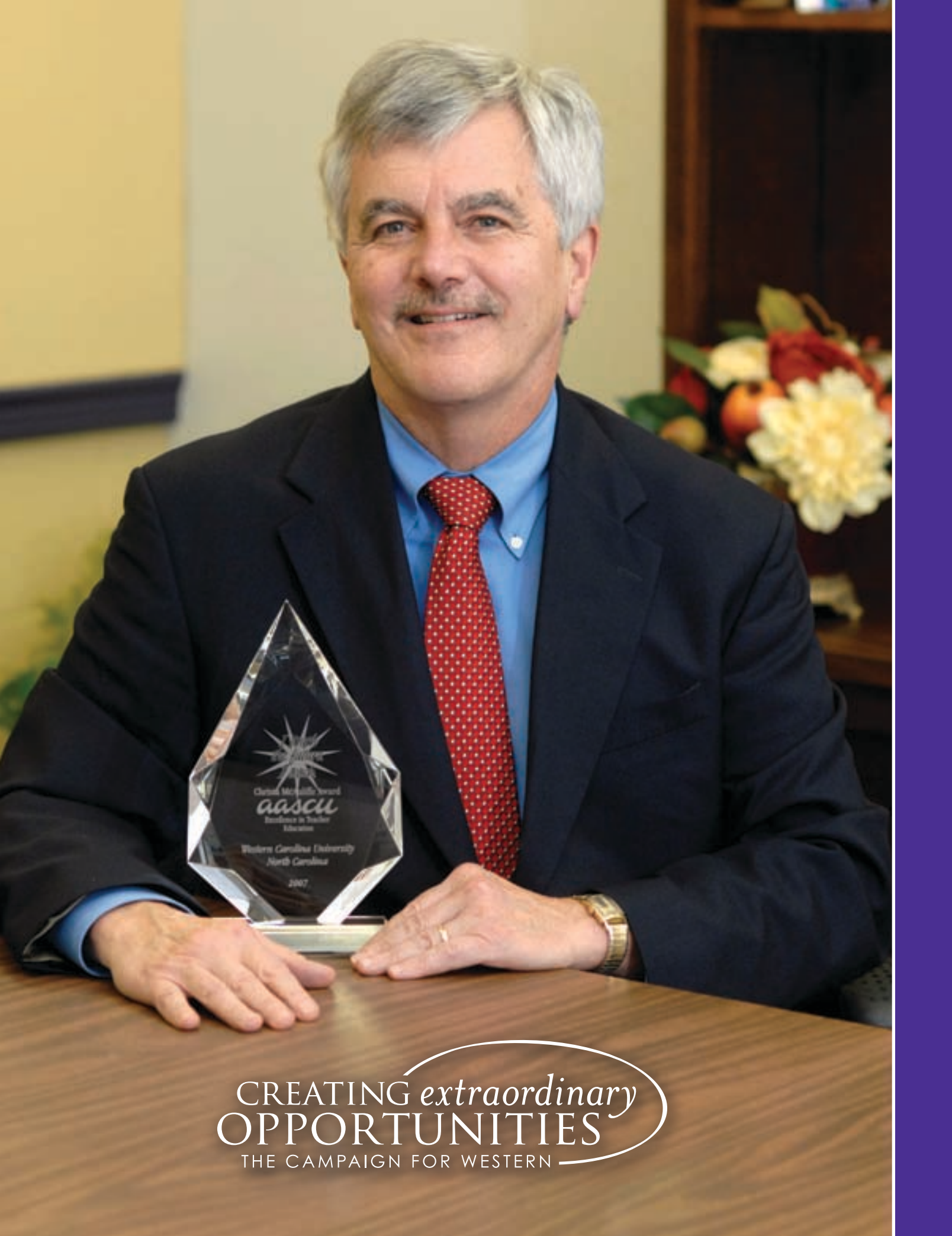
“The current drought provides compelling evidence of the need for the watershed institute,” said Mark Lord, head of WCU’s department of geosciences and natural resources. “In comparison to the rest of the state, there are very few hydrologic studies and long-term records in the mountains. With respect to groundwater, especially, there is little certainty about the amount of water available. The drought really highlights this need.”

The IWRM will examine the management of water resources on an overall watershed basis, rather than on political boundaries that are set without regard to geology, climate or plant and animal life. The institute is designed to encourage integrated scientific research from a variety of disciplines, and to help elected officials and the public use that scientific information to make wise decisions regarding watershed management.

Formation of the institution is especially timely in the face of the skyrocketing pace of development in WNC and beyond, said Jerry Miller, the Whitmire Distinguished Professor of Environmental Science at WCU, who will oversee the institute. “Many parts of the nation, and particularly the mountain region of North Carolina, are experiencing unprecedented growth. As development continues, there clearly is a need to manage our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in such a way as to balance economic prosperity with environmental quality,” said Miller.



Students use the mountain environment near Cullowhee as an outdoor learning laboratory.



CREATING *extraordinary*
OPPORTUNITIES
THE CAMPAIGN FOR WESTERN

CLASS ACTION

Colleagues Create Scholarship Fund in Honor of Retiring Education Dean

By BESSIE DIETRICH GOGGINS '06

Michael Dougherty, dean of Western's College of Education and Allied Professions since July 1998, will be entering phased retirement beginning this fall after a career of more than 30 years at the university. To recognize Dougherty's service to Western, co-workers in the college are creating a new scholarship fund in his honor.

The Michael Dougherty Family Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide support for select juniors, seniors or graduate students who have declared a major within the college, and awards will be based on academic merit. Scholarship preferences will go to North Carolina residents, first-generation college students and children of college employees.

Under Dougherty's leadership, the College of Education and Allied Professions has built upon a national reputation for high-quality teacher education that traces its roots back to the university's founding as a teacher's college, said WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo. During his time as dean, the college has been recognized nationally, most recently with the 2007 Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award presented by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Enrollment in the college has grown by nearly 60 percent under Dougherty's watch.

"Michael Dougherty has had a lasting impact on WCU, in North Carolina, and nationally as a scholar in counselor education through his tenure as a faculty member in the counselor education program, as a department head, associate dean, and 10 years as dean," said Dale Carpenter, associate dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions. "As dean, Michael has been tireless and very successful in integrating the various programs, centers and grant-funded projects in the core mission of the college and university."



*Michael Dougherty (at left) displays the trophy for the Christa McAuliffe award won by WCU's teacher education program, which produces educators such as **Pam Gunter '06** (top).*

Perhaps foremost among Dougherty's achievements is his role in developing an exemplary model for working with the public schools throughout Western North Carolina, said **Anne Garrett '78 MS '82 EdS '84**, superintendent of Haywood County Public Schools. "We have had an excellent working relationship with Dr. Dougherty and the university," said Garrett. "We are very fortunate for the leadership he has provided for Haywood County teachers and students, as well as schools across the state. He is a visionary. We wish him much happiness and best wishes."

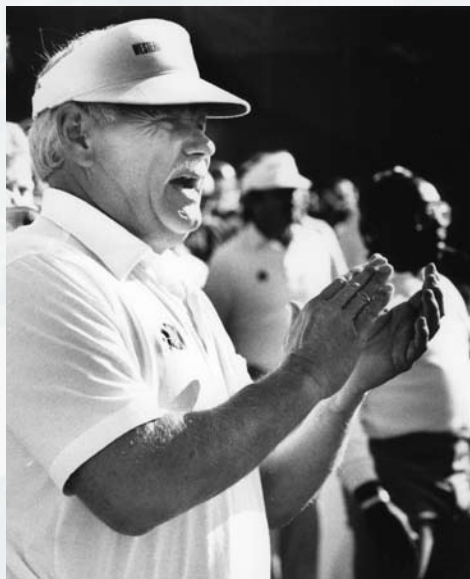
Although Dougherty will retire soon, his commitment to the college he has led for 10 years will continue through the scholarship in his honor, said David Claxton, professor of health, physical education and recreation, who is helping organize the scholarship fundraising effort. "As we need more quality students majoring in the programs within our college, this scholarship will serve as a way to help attract students into the teaching profession and into the majors in the allied professions within our college," Claxton said.

For information on The Campaign for Western, visit the Web site at campaign.wcu.edu or call (800) 492-8496

GOAL OF GIVING

Scholarship Created in Honor of Athletic and Academic Leader

By TERESA KILLIAN



Bobby N. Setzer '57 MAEd '60 coaches *Catamount football*

What brought **Bobby N. Setzer '57 MAEd '60** to Western was the chance to play football. What kick-started his career was the degree he earned along the way. What inspired him as a faculty member and coach were alumni. Many, like him, had come to Cullowhee for the love of a game and developed a love for the university – the place where

they earned degrees that made so many successes possible in their lives.

In honor of the more than 30 years Setzer dedicated to WCU as a student-athlete, faculty member, program coordinator, coach and athletics director, he and wife **Anne '59 MAEd '67** have started the Bobby N. Setzer Football Scholarship Fund. The \$10,000 endowed fund will generate an annual scholarship to help a football student-athlete, with preference given to engineering technology majors.

“We want to help students in our football program be successful not only on the field, but also in the classroom,” said Setzer. “We also believe that to develop a football program that is competitive in the Southern Conference, Western has to raise money for scholarships.”

Setzer was a student at Waynesville High School when he saw his first football game and saw it up close, because he was a starting player. The standout left tackle continued playing football at Western, where he was a two-

time All-North State Conference lineman and team captain. His service in the Army Airborne helped him see how much he needed an education, and he was more motivated to study when he re-enrolled at Western.

After graduation, he taught industrial arts and coached at Western, and then at East Rutherford High School before returning to Western – this time to stay. “My interest was just as strong in academics as it was in athletics, which made it difficult to decide what to do,” said Setzer. At Western, he coached football while teaching a full schedule of classes. He also coached wrestling for six seasons. He briefly left athletics when he became coordinator of the industrial distribution program. In 1989, he left his academic post to become athletics director, retiring in 1992.

Don Powers '68, former assistant football coach and a longtime friend of the Setzers, said their scholarship is the kind of gift that truly helps develop quality academic and athletic programs. Football student-athlete Justin Johnson, a junior from Tennessee majoring in engineering technology, said he appreciates the creation of a scholarship that could help a student like him. “I didn’t know what I wanted to major in until a professor introduced me to engineering technology,” said Johnson. “It’s challenging, but I love it.”

Robert Anderson, director of the engineering technology program, said student-athletes in the program are hard workers and good scholars. “State and federal funding cannot keep pace with the cost of a college education,” he said. “Thank you to Bobby and Anne Setzer. Thank you for making a difference.”



*Student-athletes Justin Johnson (left) and Josh Deaver show **Bobby N. Setzer '57 MAEd '60** WCU's Center for Rapid Product Realization.*

LASTING LEGACY

With No Children of Their Own, Couple Leave Estate to WCU

By TERESA KILLIAN

Pat Blanton Kaemmerling '71 was thinking about carrying on her father's legacy when she called Western's Development Office two years ago to ask about starting a scholarship in his honor. After a series of visits to research labs and one-on-one meetings with WCU faculty, Kaemmerling and husband David chose to entrust Western to carry on their own legacy through an estate gift that will create endowed professorships, full scholarships and program support. "We decided that since we did not have children, we could leave a legacy to many children through a gift to Western," said David Kaemmerling.

Brett Woods, director of annual and special gifts, said the Kaemmerlings have spent a lot of time getting to know Western. They had visited campus occasionally over the years during trips to nearby Sapphire Valley, becoming regulars at athletic events and cultural activities. The couple also lunched with entrepreneurship professors and toured rapid prototyping and networking laboratories. Driven by that experience, the Kaemmerlings planned their estate gift, directing financial support to the areas that matter most to them, including programs in education, which Pat Kaemmerling studied at Western, and engineering technology, which is at the heart of the couple's business, Access Computers in Norcross, Ga.

"Pat and David are the epitome of visionaries," said Woods. "They saw what a positive impact their gift will make – how they could help a whole department or even a college address significant needs."

Their gift also reflects their commitment to creating endowments for full scholarships for students. David Kaemmerling remembers juggling class, work, study and sleep at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned his degree, while Pat Kaemmerling recalls throwing herself into campus life at Western, playing intramural sports, joining clubs and forging what would become lifelong friendships as she earned her degree. "We want students who come to Western through our scholarships to have the opportunity for the kind of full college experience that I had," said Pat Kaemmerling. "We want those students to not have to work at the same time – to be able to focus on being a student."

They also are excited that their gift for distinguished professorships will attract state matching money, doubling their investment in Western's ability to attract leading faculty. "Our gift will make an impact here at Western, probably a bigger impact than it would at a larger school," said Pat Kaemmerling. "We saw that we could boost the quality of educational opportunities at Western."



David Kaemmerling and Pat Blanton Kaemmerling '71

The experience has helped both feel a stronger part of WCU. David Kaemmerling, though not an alumnus, has a growing wardrobe of the purple and gold he wears to athletic events. A stuffed toy Catamount named Jackson helped Pat Kaemmerling "fight like a cat" through some health challenges earlier this year. Their enthusiasm even inspired a resort community to charter a bus to an event at the Fine and Performing Arts Center. "We see how the programs and colleges are growing at Western, and the difference WCU is making to the community and to the mountains," said David Kaemmerling. "We just want to share Western with more people and bring more people into the Western experience."

CREATING *extraordinary*
OPPORTUNITIES
THE CAMPAIGN FOR WESTERN



NEW ERA KICKS OFF

Former Cornhusker Tackles the Task of Leading Catamount Football Program

By STEVE WHITE '67 and DANIEL HOOKER '01

Dennis Wagner, former offensive line coach at the University of Nebraska and head coach at Wayne State College, isn't letting any grass grow under his feet as the 12th head coach of the Catamount football program. Mere days after being named to replace **Kent Briggs '79 MAEd '81**, who was reassigned at the end of the 2007 season, Wagner already had assembled most of his coaching staff, started evaluating game film from last year, and begun hitting the road to bring in new recruits for 2008.

At the very top of Wagner's priority list, however, is changing the culture and attitude of everyone involved in the football program. "We have to make sure the players we already have on campus develop the attitude and understanding that we've got to go into every game believing we are going to win," he said. "Our players must be held accountable in all areas. How hard you work in the off-season and the things you do to prepare yourself for a season is critical. The commitment to winning has been made by the administration, and it is our job to make sure our players are committed to what it takes to win."

Although it is too early to predict how many games the Catamounts may win in 2008, Wagner said he is optimistic. "Our players do not want to hear a timetable of what we hope to do three or four years from now," he said. "Our seniors have one more year and the juniors have two more. We want to win next year, and we have to create and establish an atmosphere that makes our players feel the same way. We will have to wait and see what sort of progress we make between now and the start of spring practice, and from spring practice to summer, and from summer to preseason practice, but it is our intention to have a winning season in 2008."

Wagner said that Western fans can anticipate a successful football program in the near future. "It might take us awhile to have a winning program in terms of more wins than losses, but we can have a winning program immediately without using that measurement. I know our fans are hungry to experience winning seasons, and they are going to have some great moments soon," he said.

Wagner has more than two decades of coaching experience, including seven as head coach at Wayne State in Nebraska. He turned around the NCAA Division II program, which had posted a 2-29 record in the three seasons prior to his arrival. Wagner spent the last four years at Nebraska

Above, Dennis Wagner and Paws the Mascot pay a visit to E.J. Whitmire Stadium.



leading the Cornhusker offensive linemen. He has made coaching stops at St. Cloud State University; Luther College; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Fresno State University. He and wife Cyndi have a daughter, Whitney, and a son, Joshua. A native of Waverly, Iowa, Wagner earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Utah in 1982 and his master's degree in athletic administration from St. Cloud State in 1987.

"Dennis has an outstanding knowledge of the game. He is a great leader and a strong communicator who has the strength to stay the course – and that's what is important when leading a football program at a university level," said Pat Hill, head coach at Fresno State.

"He will stay the course and do what is right for the program. I think he will do a great job." The University at Buffalo's Turner Gill, Mid-American Conference coach of the year, called Wagner an organized, detail-oriented leader. "Western Carolina is getting a coach who does a tremendous job of getting players to respond," said Gill, who worked with Wagner at Nebraska. "He is interested in those in his program as a

whole person, not just as a football player. He has a way of getting his players to perform at their best. Western got a good one with Coach Wagner."



NBA star **Kevin Martin** volunteers in Africa

MARTIN ON THE ASSIST

Former Catamount Basketball Standout Signs Big Contract and Shows Bigger Heart Through Volunteer Work in Africa

By TYLER NORRIS GOODE

Four young boys used to sleep in the kitchen of a humble hut. Their mother and five sisters would lie at night in the bedroom – the only other chamber inside their simple dwelling in Katlehong, South Africa. “The mother’s name is Patience,” said former WCU standout **Kevin Martin**, who spent a week volunteering in some of that country’s most impoverished areas. “And she is definitely patient to have been living in those conditions.”

Tears rolling down her cheeks, Patience watched as Martin and a work crew constructed a spacious four-room house designed to help make life a little more bearable. It was just one moment in a week overflowing with sights the shooting guard for the NBA’s Sacramento Kings had never even imagined before he agreed to participate in the trip, which was arranged by the NBA’s Basketball Without Borders program. Other NBA players traveling with Martin included Dikembe Mutombo, the Houston Rockets star whose nephew Harouna in October signed a National Letter of Intent to play with the Catamounts next season.

The day before he caught a plane bound for Johannesburg, Martin had signed a contract extension with the Kings worth a reported \$55 million. Not long after he arrived there, Martin said he was struck by the contrast between his NBA lifestyle and the extreme poverty he observed in South Africa. “You experience your life in the United States and you come to a place like this, and it’s completely different,” said Martin. “In the United States, you have your rough places and your worst places, but there’s no way to even compare the worst places over in the United States with the rough places over here.”

While most resources are scarce, Martin noticed an abundance of resilience. “We visited a community that had some of the most unfortunate people I’ve ever been around,” he said. “But if you went up to them and talked to them, you wouldn’t be able to tell how bad their circumstances were. Their spirits are so high in spite of everything they’re going through.”

Each morning he was in Africa, Martin helped coach some of the most promising teenage athletes on the continent. Each afternoon, he participated in a community service project. One of the first days there, he traveled with a group to Kliptown Township inside the city of Soweto. Martin said most homes there had no running water, and there was an average of one portable toilet for every 80 people. Martin’s group also spent an afternoon at an orphanage for children infected with HIV. Conditions at all places they visited clearly affected Martin and his agent, Jason Levien.

“The NBA world is so fast-paced,” said Levien. “You get caught up in the day-to-day life there. Before we left, I was trying to get a good contract for Kevin and trying to get my own business off the ground. Then we came over here, and it puts all that in perspective. It’s a little shocking to your system when you recognize how much need there is – just basic human needs. I knew this trip would be eye-opening for Kevin, but I never expected it to be so eye-opening for me, too.”

When Martin first agreed to take the journey overseas, his Florida-based personal coach warned him that it would probably change his life. “He said, ‘Good, my life needs to change,’” said David Thorpe, who’s worked with Martin since the summer of 2002. “I just think it shows so much maturity for a young man his age. A lot of people in his position probably wouldn’t be willing to go over there.”

Martin said the journey had exceeded his expectations. “I’m still young,” said Martin, who is 24. “So to see things like this, it makes you look at life more seriously. I think coming over here has helped me learn how I want to take the next step in my life. I don’t want to be selfish with what I’ve got. I didn’t get to the place I am today by myself. I needed help from a lot of people. So I know a lot of people over here need help. If I can help one or two people a day, that’s huge for a country like this.”

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HAT TRICK

Soccer Cats Net 3rd Straight National Academic Honor

By MATT HARRIS

The women's soccer team once again has been recognized for excellence in the classroom, as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America has awarded the Catamount program and head coach Tammy DeCesare with the Team Academic Award for the third consecutive year.

The NSCAA Team Academic Award is given to programs from across the nation that have achieved a cumulative 3.0 team grade-point average for the fall semester. In the fall semester, the WCU women's soccer team had a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.53, which ranked the Catamounts tops in the Southern Conference and seventh nationally among all NCAA Division I programs.

"We tell our student-athletes that we place a high value on education. And when you look at the numbers, you can see that we take it as seriously as we say we do," said DeCesare. "It has become a staple of our program. Year in and year out, we have a tremendous group of girls who are focused on being the best, both on the field and in the classroom. We are all so proud of the work and dedication they put into this achievement."

The Catamounts finished the 2007 season at 9-8-3, their third straight year with a winning record. They fell in penalty kicks to the College of Charleston in the Southern Conference tournament after ending the season fifth in the conference standings. Freshman goalkeeper Caitlin Williams and sophomore forward Shannon Fowkes were named SoCon players-of-the-week, and Western was one of only three conference schools with multiple honorees.

*Goalkeeper Caitlin Williams
kicks into high gear.*



"EAGLE" EYE

Art Reflects Life and Times of Former Catamount

Story and Photos By JOHN LANIER

For longtime Transylvania County residents, **Charles "Eagle" Moss '75** is remembered for his prowess on the gridiron, where he scored 66 touchdowns for the Brevard High Blue Devils and went on to play football at Western. But that was years ago. The man commonly referred to as "Eagle" now displays his prowess on canvas, and his paintings, rich with color and vibrancy, depict the struggles of his family and race.

When Moss was a child, Brevard was a segregated community. Moss said he felt like the Jackie Robinson of Brevard youth football when he and two friends became the first blacks to play on the team. Because he got only about three plays in his first game, he rubbed dirt on his pants so family and friends would think he played more. In his second game, however, he entered the game in the fourth quarter and scored the winning touchdown. The next year his team went 13-0.

Athletics was not Moss's only love. He also loved music and art. He said learned to play the drums when he was young and liked to listen to the blues. "I grew up with the blues," he said.



In fact, music and the history of his family provide much of the inspiration for his paintings. Moss, who majored in art at WCU, has studied a great deal of his family's history and that of African-Americans, and he incorporates that knowledge into his paintings.

For example, his "Blue Highway" shows a man heading down a road. He is leaving the South and taking with him all that blacks had back then – their church and their music. The piece "Jazz Messenger" is a predominantly blue painting of a drummer. Moss said slaves were forbidden to own drums because they were used for communication. Drums, he said, are the basis for black music.

Moss' paintings of musicians are quite vibrant, with characters and motifs often colliding with and melding into one another. "I tell musicians "This is what your music looks like when I listen to it," he said.

His paintings about black history often focus on the unpleasant truths of slavery. "A Song from the Soul of Slaves" depicts slave life on the plantation of a slave master who impregnated his great-grandmother. Another painting in progress shows the legitimate family of the master and the illegitimate children he fathered with his black slaves.

While Moss is quite aware of the gulf that has existed between races in this country, he also realizes much progress has been made. He said if there were two wishes he could grant to people it would be to know the thrill of scoring a touchdown or dunking a basketball, and to receive the love from both sides – black and white – of a community, a love that he has received.

"That's really special," he said.

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Charles "Eagle" Moss '75 (right) displays his painting "Flavor" with nephew William Cash Jr.

AND ONE TO GROW ON

Big Birthday Gift Will Benefit WCU Student-Athletes

By LEILA TVEDT

Imagine getting an enormous birthday gift that you know will be given away to others – and being delighted about it. That’s what happened to W.T. “Ted” Phillips Sr., founder of Phillips and Jordan Inc., a company based in Knoxville, Tenn., that is one of the nation’s leading general and specialty contractors.

Phillips and a cousin started the company in the Western North Carolina town of Robbinsville with a small land-clearing project for the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1950s. Since then, what is now known as P&J has grown into a privately held, multimillion dollar corporation with more than a dozen offices throughout the southeastern United States and in California. The company’s hundreds of employees work on complex projects that range from clearing sites for industrial parks, roads and railroads to moving earth for highways, dams and landfills. The company’s disaster recovery group has handled some of the nation’s largest cleanups, including work at the World Trade Center after Sept. 11 and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Faced with the challenge of finding a special birthday surprise for such a hugely successful man, son **William T. “Teddy” Phillips Jr.** and Ted’s wife, Avis, decided to establish a \$1 million endowment at Western in honor of Phillips’ 75th birthday. The endowment is specifically designed to provide scholarships for football players who are majoring in construction management.

“The first love of his life is football – after construction, of course,” the younger Phillips said of his father. “My dad didn’t go to college. He told his mama she’d just be wasting

her money to send him.

Instead, he went to work and was fortunate enough to have been in the right place at the right time.”

And his father was definitely in the right place when the new Ted and Avis Phillips Football Endowment Fund was being put together. “We discussed the scholarship and how it was going to work. We got him in the loop, and he guided the parameters of the fund,” Teddy Phillips said. “When it came time to announce the gift on the football field at Western, he

was emotional about it. This is by far the biggest gift we’ve ever given him. I think he enjoyed this one the most.” The younger Phillips, who studied business and played football at Western in the late 1970s, said he’s been a contributing member of the Catamount Club almost since the day he left the university and went to work for his father’s company, where he is vice chairman and vice president. Now also a member of Western’s board of trustees, he said, “We need more people to step up and support the university’s athletic programs. I encourage anyone who can to help with a generous donation.”



Ted and Avis Phillips



alumni ACHIEVEMENT

Masters of BLUEGRASS



NTS



Hot New Band Includes Three Alumni

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

It used to be the phrase “Balsam Range” just meant the steep wall of mountains that forms the border of Haywood and Jackson counties, but lately those words also have come to mean a Western alumni-dominated music group that is making waves on the national bluegrass scene.

The band Balsam Range formed in spring 2007 with the uniting of three Western alumni – acclaimed banjo player **Marc Pruett '74**, bass player **Tim Surrett** and fiddler **Buddy Melton '92** – with guitarist Caleb Smith and mandolin player Darren Nicholson. The five veteran performers, all natives of Haywood County, spent a busy summer and fall on stages throughout Western North Carolina, establishing an enthusiastic fan base among bluegrass devotees in the region. One of Balsam Range's performances in September was a 30-minute show at Western's Mountain Heritage Day festival, which earned the group a standing ovation.

The release of Balsam Range's first album, “Marching Home,” elicited high praise from music critics. A writer for *Cybergrass*, an Internet bluegrass magazine, called Balsam Range “one of the finest new bands on the bluegrass music scene” and “the real deal.”

Pruett was already a “semi-professional” banjo player when he became a student at WCU, having performed with several local bands and at the Ghost Town theme park in Maggie Valley. The geology major enrolled in the fall of 1969 and spent his first two years living in Buchanan Residence Hall.

Pruett said he quickly met other pickers when he arrived on campus, and some of the young musicians performed at a pizza restaurant, the Cat's Den on the Tuckaseegee River, where they were paid in pizza for their performances. As a student, Pruett promoted the concept of holding a bluegrass festival on campus, and after the successful initial event, he was in charge of the festival for nine years. Over that time, the festival brought a host of legendary bluegrass artists to Cullowhee, including Bill Monroe and Lester Flatt. “Those were really fun times,” Pruett said.

Pruett was still a WCU student when he performed on Nashville's most famous stage, the Grand Ole Opry, with bluegrass giant Jimmy Martin. Over the decades, he

has built a reputation as one of the nation's finest artists on the five-string banjo, with a Grammy Award hanging on his wall for his work on the Ricky Skaggs album “Bluegrass Rules.” He also has been a performer at many editions of Mountain Heritage Day.

Surrett's musical career also was under way before he attended WCU. During his senior year of high school, Surrett began playing bass for a local gospel music group, and he continued doing that after moving into WCU's Albright-Benton Residence Hall as a freshman in 1981. Surrett said one of his fondest memories of campus life was when radio station WRGC in Sylva played one of his group's songs and “about half the (residents of the) hall gathered in the room.”

Surrett was traveling across the country on weekends performing, while trying to keep up with schoolwork during the week, which proved to be a difficult situation. He decided to make “the leap,” and left WCU after two years to pursue a full-time musical career.

Unlike Pruett and Surrett, Melton didn't become a musician until he arrived at WCU in 1987. He lived in Leatherwood Residence Hall until he graduated in 1992. “I met a guy from Shelby my freshman year, and we both liked bluegrass. Then he came back from Christmas break with a banjo, and I had a fiddle hanging on the wall at the house, so we taught ourselves how to play,” he said.

Melton and his friend soon began participating in jam sessions with other pickers in Sylva. Sometimes they would jam in Melton's room. “The other residents of Leatherwood either loved us or hated us,” Melton said.

After earning his degree in environmental science, Melton began playing in local bands, including one gospel bluegrass group, Rock Springs Reunion, which included Pruett among its members.

All five members of Balsam Range were at crossroads in their musical careers when they decided to start the band last year. They are planning a busy 2008, with shows already booked in Nashville, Tenn., and Branson, Mo.

For more information about Balsam Range, including a performance schedule, go to www.BalsamRange.com.

*Western alumni (from left) **Marc Pruett '74**, **Tim Surrett** and **Buddy Melton '92** are producing notable bluegrass as members of the group Balsam Range.*

LEAGUE OF HIS OWN



Photo Courtesy Washington Nationals

Andrew Dunn '97 (right) makes a call during his time with the Washington Nationals.

Former Bat Cat Finds Success in the Front Office

By DAVID DRIVER

Andrew Dunn '97 says if there is anything he does well it is that he's a good judge of character. That's a good thing, because Dunn once held one of just 30 jobs of its kind in North America, as director of player development for the Washington Nationals in Major League Baseball. He's now parlayed his years of experience to become president of the Vancouver Canadians, the most successful minor league baseball team in Canada.

Before he began a front-office career that resulted in him receiving Western's Young Alumnus Award for 2007, Dunn was a baseball player for WCU under then-coach Jack Leggett. He was recruited by other schools for both baseball and football, but once Dunn made a visit to WCU, he knew it was the school for him.

"I think I learned as much from the athletic department as some of my classes," said Dunn, who has a degree in sport management. "I learned so much from Jack Leggett – how to do things the right way. He had a huge influence on me."

Dunn and Leggett both left WCU after the 1991 season, although Dunn would return to collect his degree in 1997 after completing his internship and other requirements. While Leggett took the head coaching job at Clemson, Dunn began a methodical rise up the pro baseball ladder, including a stint with the Florida Marlins organization from 1997 to 2002.

While with the Marlins, he was twice named the Single-A Florida State League Executive of the Year, in 1999 and 2000. He is the only person to win the award twice, and he also received the John Johnson Award from the FSL in 2002. Dunn then joined the Montreal Expos organization. He was the vice president of Brevard operations for the Expos, and he oversaw all aspects of spring training for the team. Dunn also was general manager of Brevard County, the Single-A team of the Expos of the Florida State League.

When the Expos moved to Washington for the 2005 season, Dunn was vice president of ballpark operations at aging RFK Stadium that season. The team drew more than 2.7 million fans, some 34 years after the Senators left Washington for Texas. In 2006, Dunn took over as director of player development for the Nationals until leaving the position in early 2007.

"Andy Dunn has a career that many people dream of having," said **David Andrew '83**, president of the WCU Alumni Association. "To be able to work in professional sports is special because there are only a finite number of jobs. To do what he has done at such a young age makes it all the more extraordinary."

David Driver is a free-lance writer living near Washington, D.C.

alumni ACHIEVEMENTS

RARE BREED

Butler Animal Health Supply Leader Grows Sales to \$1 Billion

By TERESA KILLIAN

Kevin R. Vasquez '79, chairman, president and chief executive officer of the largest veterinary distribution company in the United States, traces his success to his second chance at Western. An admittedly “academically unfocused” Vasquez was facing expulsion when Robert Stoltz, then-vice chancellor of academic affairs, intervened. “He said, ‘Mr. Vasquez, I have been watching you, and I think you have a great deal of potential. And even though it may go against my better judgment, I’m going to give you another chance. Don’t blow it!’” said Vasquez. “I didn’t.”

Vasquez returned to class the next day and graduated two years later. “My experiences at WCU taught me about forgiveness, second chances, persistence, tenacity and never accepting ‘no’ as an answer,” said Vasquez. “WCU taught me that many times the pathway to success is through failure, and to have the guts to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try again.” Those lessons helped him turn an animal health industry job that he learned about through a friend from WCU, **Roland Johnson '76**, into a career. Vasquez also continued his education at Central Michigan University, where he earned a master’s degree in business.

Three decades later, Vasquez has led Ohio-based Butler Animal Health Supply through a significant merger and helped grow total sales from \$245 million to more than \$1 billion. He claims lightheartedly that the secret of the company’s success is just how much people love their pets and the growing demand for health products such as medications to aid pet weight loss and calmness.

Trade and business reports, though, chronicle the strategies behind Vasquez’s multifaceted business decisions. Articles in *Smart Business* and *Health Executive* magazines detailed how Butler Animal Health Supply distinguished itself from competitors through value-added, solutions-driven services, such as offering inventory management, software and online ordering.



Kevin R. Vasquez '79 hugs Otis, an 8-year-old black Labrador retriever, in his office at Butler Animal Health Supply in Ohio.

Photo courtesy of Butler Animal Health Supply

Vasquez’s leadership has been recognized through a regional 2007 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the 2005 Ohio Businessman of the Year Award, which was presented by President George W. Bush. His service has included memberships on the board of directors of the National Cattlemen’s Association, American Feed Industry Association and American Veterinary Distributors Association. He also is past chairman of the National Animal Health Committee and currently serves on the board of directors of Velcera Pharmaceuticals.

While accepting the WCU Alumni Association’s Professional Achievement Award in the fall, Vasquez shared regrets that Stoltz, who died in 2001, could not be there and appreciation that Stoltz’s son Bill attended. “I maintain, without reservation, that had I not been at Western at that particular moment in time, and had Dr. Stoltz not made that decision, my life would have taken a much different path,” said Vasquez, who lives in Dublin, Ohio, with wife Karen. “I would not have been as successful as I have been over the years.”

Giving to Western Proves Infectious

Sylva native **Dr. Keith M. Ramsey '73**, a physician specializing in infectious diseases, recently visited Western's biology laboratory while on campus to lead an academic seminar. After earning his bachelor's degree in biology at WCU, Ramsey received his medical degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He now serves as medical director of infection control at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, and also holds the post of professor of medicine at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. At WCU, Ramsey and other family members sponsor the Dr. Donald M. Ramsey Family Scholarship Fund, which was established in memory of Keith Ramsey's late father, who was Sylva's first optometrist. The fund provides a full tuition award each year to a junior majoring in one of the pre-professional health sciences.



classNOTES

1942



Mabel Corpening (seated), Haywood County native and longtime resident of Winston-Salem, visited the WCU campus in June for the Purple and Gold '30s and '40s reunion. A frequent donor to the Loyalty Fund, Corpening recalled some of the people for which several buildings on campus are named—the newly renovated Stillwell Science Building, named after E.H. Stillwell, who was Corpening's history instructor; and Hunter Library, named after

then-president Hiram T. Hunter. Corpening also attended Western during some of the university's historical moments—the choosing of the mascot in 1932 and the revival of the football team in 1933. She studied at the university during the summers between teaching at Shelton Laurel School in Madison County.

1955

After nearly five decades of researching the vegetation of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, **Garrett A. Smathers MAEd** co-authored a book with Dieter Mueller-Dombois, professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii. Titled "Hawaii: The Fires of Life, Rebirth in Volcano Land," the book details a 36-day volcano eruption in 1959 that covered a rainforest with a layer of lava up to 400 feet deep in some places and the amazing rebirth of plant and animal life. Smathers was an adjunct professor in WCU's biology department and a senior

scientist for the National Park Service with the cooperative studies unit at WCU from 1978 to 1983, and was the 1974 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award for professional achievement in science.

1965

Charlotte native **Alfred Patin Howard** retired at the end of August after more than 30 years of service with the N.C. Employment Security Commission. Howard began working as an employment interviewer with the ESC in its Charlotte office and quickly worked his way up to manager of the Marion office, where he had been serving since 1977.

1968

Brenda Hardin was chosen by the Cabarrus Arts Council to create three pen-and-ink drawings of the Embassy Suites Hotel Resort and Conference Center Charlotte-Concord. The pieces

were presented to Concord Mayor Scott Padgett at the hotel's grand opening. One drawing hangs in the Concord Municipal Building, and the others hang in the resort. Hardin has taught art for more than 38 years at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis and is a National Board-certified teacher.

Retired educator **Bobby T. Jones MAEd** in August was elected chairman of the S.C. Department of Transportation Commission, where he previously served as a commissioner representing the 5th Congressional District.

1969

Zach Railey, 23-year-old son of **Danny Railey**, will be competing with the U.S. Sailing Team at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. A sailor since the age of 8, the younger Railey has traveled around the world to compete and is dedicating himself to become one of the world's premier sailors. He first represented the United States in a world championship at the

classNOTES

age of 11 and is considered by some to be the most-decorated youth sailor ever in the United States.

1972

After serving public school systems across North Carolina, Iowa and Oregon for 36 years, **Philip B. Bowser MA** retired in June and is involved in a number of activities—serving as an adjunct faculty member at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.; launching a small consulting business to assist school systems in helping students to avoid negative influences; developing his talents in digital photography; authoring two books; and spending time with family.

1976

Taking on a new responsibility as director of social services in Lee County, S.C., **Deb Bartholoma** will represent the agency's mission of providing human and economic services to its community members and staff. Bartholoma is the county's first full-time director since 2001 and has been serving as Lee County's program director for human services for more than a year. Bartholoma also has 25 years of experience in human services with S.C. counties Florence, Sumter and Lee.

1977

A teacher for more than 30 years, **Knox "Buddy" Porter** was named teacher of the year at a suburban Atlanta high school—Collins Hill. Known for incorporating humor inside the classroom and relating the subject matter to everyday situations in his students' lives, Porter teaches English as a second language and serves as the ESL department head.

Reid "Woody" Harvey was named Fuquay-Varina's new director of parks and recreation over the summer. A native of Lexington, Harvey has worked in both public and private sectors, including seven years of service for the city of Lexington and 13 years for Davidson County government.

1980

In September, **Harry Dolan** became police chief of Raleigh, where he will lead North Carolina's second-largest police department of six districts, 764 sworn positions and 125 civilian positions. Although a native of

New York, Dolan has lived most of his life in North Carolina and served as police chief with the city of Lumberton from 1992 to 1998.

1982

Kelly Galloway David and **Stephen David '81** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in October. The couple resides in Williamsburg, Va., with their three children.

Self-trained photographer **Paul Marley** was accepted as an event photographer at the 20th annual MerleFest in Wilkesboro, a four-day festival that honors the music of folk artists Doc and Merle Watson. More than 100 portfolios are submitted to the festival each year, and up to 20 photographers are chosen to capture the event. Marley also entered Our State magazine's readers photo contest and won second place in the N.C. life category.

1983

Teresa Carpenter Urquhart was appointed chief executive officer of Coastal Carolina Medical Center in Hardeeville, S.C., after serving as interim CEO at the hospital since July. Prior to working at CCMC, Urquhart was chief operating officer at Sierra Medical Center and at Sierra Providence Physical Rehabilitation Hospital, both located in El Paso, Texas.

1984

Effective July 12, **Paul Favret** became chief executive officer of Aspect Abundant Shale LP, located in Denver, Colo. Favret formed AASLP in 2006 and was previously its president, directing its financial and business development activities. He joined AASLP's parent company, Aspect Energy, in 1994 and served as president of the company from 2002 to 2004. Also among Favret's accomplishments is the authorization of four geophysical U.S. patents and three additional pending patents.

Amy Konides Smith was recognized for the second time in "The Best Lawyers in America," an annual peer-reviewed guide based on more than 2 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers. Smith practices estate planning, estate administration and taxation with the Bell, Davis and Pitt firm in Winston-Salem.

1985

An administrator at High Point University since 2000, **Don Scarborough MAEd** in March was named vice president for institutional advancement. Scarborough will be responsible for fundraising, alumni affairs and parent relations. "Don has overseen the monumental transformation of this campus and has been an extraordinary champion for our vision. We look forward to seeing what he can do in his new post," said Nido Qubein, the university's president.

ALL PRECINCTS REPORTING

Alumni Association Announces Board Member Election Results

The ballots are cast, the votes are tallied, and the newest members of the WCU Alumni Association board of directors are ready to get to work. "I was greatly encouraged with the response we received both in nominations and in the number of votes that were cast," said **David Andrew '83**, association president. "I look forward to working with these new board members, and I believe this voting process will continue to grow in popularity and importance in the future."

Elected to serve three-year terms expiring in 2010 are:

From District 1, **Ed Cody '79** of Asheville; **Michael B. Jordan '71 MBA '89** of Wilkesboro; and **Frances Owl-Smith '83** of Waynesville. With 19,611 WCU alumni, District 1 consists of the N.C. counties of Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

From District 2, **Julia Moody Britt '57** of Charlotte and **Thomas J. Henson '63 MAEd '69** of Winston-Salem. With 11,696 WCU alumni, District 2 consists of the N.C. counties

of Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union and Yadkin.

From District 3, **Jesse R. Lankford Jr. '69 MA '73** of Raleigh. With 3,382 WCU alumni, District 3 consists of the N.C. counties of Bladen, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Vance, Wake, Warren and Wilson.

From District 4, **Keith M. Ramsey '73** of Greenville. With 1,039 WCU alumni, District 4 consists of the N.C. counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrell, Washington and Wayne.

From District 5, **Clifton P. Lambreth '82 MBA '84** of Brentwood, Tenn. With 15,300 WCU alumni, District 5 consists of all states except North Carolina.

ASIA MAJORS

From N.C. Middle School to Thailand for Husband-Wife Teaching Duo

By SARAH NEWELL

After three years of teaching middle-schoolers in Union County, **Andrew Bumgarner '02** and **Barbara "Bobbie" Bumgarner '01** decided they wanted to go global and teach in another country. While considering schools in almost every country in the world, they were drawn to one in Bangkok, Thailand, signing a two-year teaching contract to teach in an English-speaking-based Catholic school, beginning last August.

But it took awhile to sever ties in America. The couple had married after attending college at Western together and had a lot of things to get rid of before leaving the country for two years. "We were pretty established. We had a house, two dogs, a cat and two cars. We had a lot to give up," Andrew Bumgarner said. "We decided to rent out our house and sell one car. Our pets were adopted by a family in Georgia."

In July 2006, the couple left for Thailand. The first big surprise: how large the population is in Bangkok. More than 11 million people live there. Despite this, Andrew Bumgarner said he feels extremely safe in the city, which is very welcoming to foreigners. The next big surprise: how different the students are in Thailand compared to America. "Over there, they have a lot of respect for teachers, because wisdom is something that's valued," Bobbie Bumgarner said. "Children really want to learn there."

And there is no discipline problem. Andrew Bumgarner said if the students start to act up, the teachers only have to mention reporting the students' behavior to their parents, and the students will behave immediately. Shaming their parents is the worst punishment one could give a student, he said.

There is no discipline code set up in schools, because it's not needed.

"The kids are respectful. We don't have school suspension, and we don't have a discipline problem. The kids don't have aggression like they do here, and they don't understand it, either," Bobbie Bumgarner said.



"Bobbie" Bumgarner '01 (left) and Andrew Bumgarner '02

One of the hardest transitions the Bumgarners struggled with was letting go of how they were used to doing things in America, and embracing the Thai way of doing things. "We'd get mad about something, and say, 'In the U.S., we do it like this.' Nobody cares how we do it in the U.S. Once you realize that, then everything's a whole lot easier. It took about a month to realize that," Andrew Bumgarner said.

Perhaps the best thing the Bumgarners have gained from the whole experience is seeing how students are taught in other schools, and the teaching methods of dozens of other teachers from around the globe. Bobbie Bumgarner said it's helped her become a better teacher. Andrew Bumgarner agrees. "At the school, it's given me a worldly view, with people who would tackle a problem in a totally different way from the way I would have," he said. "This has definitely been a real learning experience."

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classNOTES

1986

John Mangrum (below), four-time competitor in the World Masters' Swim Meet and two-time competitor in the World Masters' Games, won 11 medals in October at the Australasian Masters' Games in Adelaide, Australia. In 2007 alone, Mangrum won a total of 23 medals and swam in a total of 28 events. He plans to compete in the 2008 World Masters' Swim Meet

in Perth, Australia, and the 2009 World Master's Games in Sydney, Australia.

1990

While working full time as director of business development and strategy at Philip Morris USA, **Edna Ledford Bickett** (right) in September earned a master's degree in business administration from the College of William and



Mary. The 20-month executive program included an international global strategy course in China. Bickett has worked both domestically and internationally for Philip Morris USA and Philip Morris International in various divisions, including information technology, risk management and business strategy.

After working as a factory representative within the optical industry for 15 years, WCU Alumni Board member **Philip Preston** formed his own company, Phat I Wear Inc., which provides practice management and products to opticians, optometrists and ophthalmologists. Costa Del Mar, one of Preston's clients, recently presented him with its outstanding salesperson award for 2007 at its annual sales meeting in Duck Key, Fla.

1991

Amy Goretsky Seidel and husband David welcomed their first child, a daughter, Paige Elizabeth, on June 9. The couple lives in Wilmington, Del., where Amy works for the Project Management Institute in nearby Newtown Square, Pa.



Irene Mace Hamrick received tenure and was promoted to assistant professor of family medicine at East Carolina University. Since 2004, Hamrick has been the geriatric fellowship director at ECU, and in January began duties as director of the university's geriatric division. Hamrick's areas of research interest include osteoporosis and computer simulation in-home visits.

1992

A doctoral student at N.C. State University in the adult and community college education program, **Mark Ellison** presented a paper in Oxford, England, at the recent International Conference on Human Resource Development Research and Practice Across Europe. Ellison's research is focused on the positive effects of being in the wilderness: improving creativity, fostering ethical decision making, and reducing stress at work. He would like to talk with people who hike often and have hiked all or part of the Appalachian Trail, and can be reached at markellison@alumni.ncsu.edu.

1993



Bob Orr MS '04 (above), WCU's associate chief information officer since 2004, has moved to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke to become associate vice chancellor for information resources and chief information officer. Orr, who is working on his doctoral degree in education, joined the WCU staff in 1983 after a career as a radio broadcaster. The university's first Web manager, he was instrumental in enhancing the use of technology at Western. He played a key role in the restructuring of the Coulter Faculty Center, and has been active in the UNC Teaching

and Learning with Technology Collaborative and in major regional networking initiatives. Orr and wife Kathy have a 16-year-old son, Harrison.

Patricia C. Freeman MS was named vice president of academic and student affairs at Isothermal Community College, which has campuses located in Spindale and Columbus. Since 1999, Freeman has served 11 community colleges in Western North Carolina as regional director of economic and workforce development programming. "I am very excited about the opportunity to contribute to the excellent academic and student support team at ICC," said Freeman.

1995

Asheville native **Peggy Silvers MAEd** in July received an outstanding special education teacher award from the National Association of Special Education Teachers. Silvers received her National Board certification in 2003 and has worked with exceptional needs children in Western North Carolina for more than 17 years. She received the teacher of excellence award for exceptional need students in 2005 and also was The Arc of North Carolina's teacher of the year in 2006.

In March, **Todd Garrett Kanistras** and wife **Autumn Nelson '97** welcomed the birth of their second son, George Nelson Kanistras. The Kanistras family resides in Orlando, Fla.

1999

In early November, **Kimberly (Kacey) Mercer-Myers** and husband Cleve Myers opened a Carolina Wings and Rib House restaurant, located in Port Royal, S.C. Mercer-Myers also owns and operates two interior design businesses, The Interior Source LLC and KM Interior Source LLC.

Asheville native **Brenda Fore** was named Rowan Regional Medical Center's new director of emergency services and is now responsible for the daily operations of the medical center's emergency department, which treats approximately 50,000 patients each year. Fore is a former U.S. Army nurse and has served multiple tours of duty in Korea and Iraq.

VIETNAM VET

Tennessee Honors Physical Therapist for Volunteer Work in Southeast Asia

By BESSIE DIETRICH GOGGINS '06

The Tennessee House of Representatives recently presented **William M. "Mac" Hensley '48** with a commendation in recognition of his work and volunteer efforts over the past 59 years. The commendation specifically praises Hensley "for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an ambassador to Vietnam and Cambodia with the American Physical Therapy Association."



"Mac" Hensley '48 and wife Mary

Hensley, a member of the APTA since 1948, was awarded a life membership in 2007. The national professional organization that promotes advancements in physical therapy practice, research and education also asked him to join the People to People Ambassadors Program and visit Southeast Asia. The ambassadors program, started by President Eisenhower, promotes the exchange of "ideas and understanding created by face-to-face encounters with people of different backgrounds."

"As an ambassador, I visited hospitals and schools, trying to build better relations to improve knowledge and better communication between the United States and other countries," said Hensley. "My wife and I enjoyed going to hospitals to meet with doctors, administrators, nursing staff and physical therapists to learn and spread our knowledge. The experience was wonderful. The reward was feeling like we're helping others."

After graduating from WCU with a degree in mathematics and physical education, Hensley attended Duke University Medical School and received a degree in physical therapy. In 1956, Hensley received the first Tennessee state license for physical therapists.

Hensley's training became invaluable during his first year of work in Johnson City, Tenn., at the veterans' hospital when a widespread polio epidemic broke out in the area. One of only seven physical therapists in Tennessee at the time, he treated a large number of polio patients. For seven years before a polio vaccine was implemented, Hensley helped train others in the medical field in acute and chronic care. He also taught health care workers in a Johnson City center he helped create how to treat respiratory patients using an iron lung apparatus.

That experience led Hensley to begin promoting physical therapy schools in Tennessee. "We now have five schools in Tennessee with doctoral degrees and are opening more new schools this year," said Hensley. "In February 2007, we had 8,313 licensed physical therapy members in the state."

East Tennessee State University has established a William M. "Mac" Hensley Scholarship to "honor a man who has given unselfishly of his time, talents and skills to his community and profession." The fund helps finance the education of physical therapy students in the master's degree program in physical therapy.

classNOTES

2002

Matthew David Thomas entered the world on Aug. 12. Parents **James Thomas** and **Jennifer Gordon Thomas '03 MAEd '06** said Matthew is "a little miracle," who weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long.

2003

In June, **LaTosha Cenise Jamison** and **Morris Sanders '04** were married in Charlotte. Jamison, who was crowned Homecoming queen in 1999, earned her bachelor's degree in social work; Sanders attended Western on a full scholarship for football and graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

2004

A graduate of WCU's online criminal justice program, **David L. Allen** in September was promoted to the rank of captain with the N.C. State Highway Patrol. Allen was given command of nine counties—Anson, Cleveland, Gaston, Hoke, Mecklenburg, Moore, Richmond, Scotland and Union—which form Troop H based in Monroe. The Kings Mountain native and resident, who has worked for the Highway Patrol since 1987, said, "I was an adult learner who was only able to go back to get my undergraduate degree because of the forward thinking of WCU's leadership, which created the online criminal justice program."

Wedding bells rang for **Bradley Allan McAbee** and **Cassie Leigh Proffitt '05** in June. Married in Sylva, the couple now lives in Johnson City, Tenn., where Brad is a third-year medical student at Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. Cassie is a kindergarten teacher in Jackson County.

2005

William Todd Herms MPA '06 and **Melissa Elliot Herms '06** in July celebrated the birth of their first child, Madison Paige. William is the town manager of Badin, and Melissa is a registered nurse at Randolph Hospital in Asheboro.

2007

With the sudden resignation of the University of North Carolina system's Association of Student Government president

in October, senior vice president **Cody Grasty** was immediately elevated to the presidency. Grasty, a Haywood County native who was president of WCU's Student Government Association from 2006 to 2007, was sworn into office the following day with high hopes to settle the two-month leadership crisis.



Currently a staff accountant at Waynesville-based Ray Bumgarner, Kingshill and Associates, P.A., **Tara Carrington** (above) of Clyde received a Love of Learning Award in the amount of \$500 from the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Carrington is one of the first 50 recipients nationwide to win the award.

Alumni Deaths

Thomas Pearre Ballou '43, Sept. 2; Tullahoma, Tenn.

Billy G. Bates '77, Oct. 21; Hendersonville.

Eloise Jarrett Brawley '54, Oct. 20; Mooresville.

Phyllis Holland Caldwell '63, Oct. 13; Asheville.

Richard Benjamin Cole '78, Nov. 20; Asheville.

Arline Fowler Evans '40 MA '56, Oct. 24; Biltmore.

Joan W. Ferguson '88, Sept. 24; Hendersonville.

Beaman W. Kelley '38 MA '52, Oct. 17; Lillington.

Robert William Lawrence '66, Sept. 16; Tryon.

Deane C. Rager '40, Oct. 23; Oregon, Ill.

Paula Regina Lytle Ray '88, Aug. 17; Asheville.

Gladys Blythe Shuford '35, Sept. 13; Brevard.

Christy Church Treadway '96, Jan. 5; Valdese.

Alonzo Lawrence Warren '51, Oct. 10; Brevard.

Johnnie Brogden Whitmire '65, Sept. 25; Waynesville.

Troy Alan Williams '92, Sept. 5; Andrews.

University Deaths

Lawrence Arney '51, former director of WCU's Cherokee Center, Sept. 25; Morganton.

Andrew H. Baggs Jr., former professor of political science, Nov. 17; Annapolis, Md.

Herbert Conley Sr., retired staff member, Oct. 9; Sylva.

James Michael Dolan Jr., former associate professor of mathematics, Nov. 9; Cullowhee.

Robert Lee Edwards, former board of trustees member, Oct. 5; Mars Hill.

Walter R. Floreani, former associate professor of health sciences, Dec. 7; Franklin.

Henry Richmond Harold Fowler, recipient, honorary doctorate of humane letters, Feb. 14; Oxford.

Richard M. Haynes, professor emeritus of educational leadership and foundations, Nov. 1; Waynesville.

Augustus "Gus" Clay Henry, friend and benefactor, Jan. 7; Greer, S.C.

Robert McGinn '49, former board of trustees member, Nov. 20; Winston-Salem.

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eventsCALENDAR

February 2008

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 –
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

Theatre—"Guys and Dolls," directed by Terrence Mann, Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre. Thursday–Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Open House—for prospective students and their families. (828) 227-7317

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Galaxy of Stars / Something for Everyone Series—"Inspired by America," The Cypress String Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

March 2008

**THURSDAY, MARCH 6 –
MONDAY, MARCH 10**

Southern Conference basketball—women's championship tournament. Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7 –
MONDAY, MARCH 10**

Southern Conference basketball—men's championship tournament. Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Chancellor's Speaker Series—Cynthia Cooper, internal auditor and whistleblower who exposed corporate fraud at WorldCom in 2002. Student session at 3 p.m., general public session at 7 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-7337

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Galaxy of Stars / Something for Everyone Series—"A Salute to America and Her Music," All-American Boys Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Open House—for prospective students and their families. (828) 227-7317

April 2008

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 –
SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

Theatre—The University Players present "That's What We Love About You, Hardy Boys." Wednesday–Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m. Hoey Auditorium. (828) 227-2479

**MONDAY, APRIL 7 –
THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

Sixth Annual Spring Literary Festival—Authors Russell Banks, Pat Conroy, Dagoberto Gilb, Thomas Lux, Ron Rash, Barbara Bates Smith and Lee Smith. Times and places TBA. (828) 227-7264

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 –
SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

Theatre—The University Players present a One-Act Festival. Wednesday–Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m. Hoey Auditorium. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—The One O'clock Lab Band, jazz. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17 –
SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

Southern Conference tennis—women's championship tournament. Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Open House—for prospective students and their families. (828) 227-7317

Galaxy of Stars / Something for Everyone Series—"The Long and Winding Road: A Beatles Tribute," Jim Witter. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19 –
MONDAY, APRIL 21**

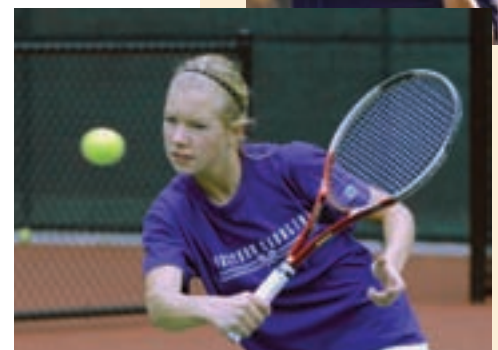
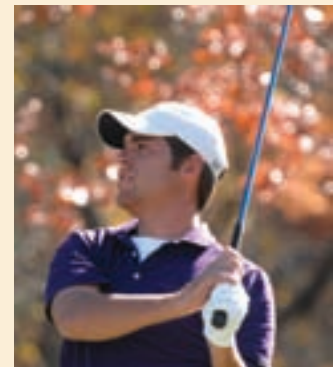
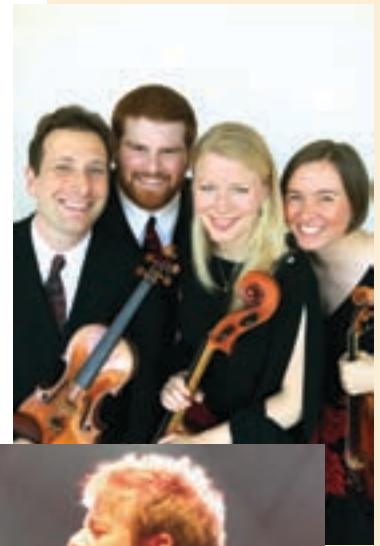
Southern Conference golf—men's championship tournament. Florence, S.C. (828) 227-7338

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 – TUESDAY, APRIL 22
Southern Conference golf—women's championship tournament. Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—"The Barber of Seville," Asheville Lyric Opera. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

Upcoming events at WCU include (from top) performances by the Cypress String Quartet and pianist Jim Witter; the Chancellor's Speaker Series with Cynthia Cooper; and Catamount athletics events.



Western Carolina students enjoy a snowy day in Cullowhee sliding down the hill near the WCU Bookstore.



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