On Top of the World

International programs broaden students’ horizons and bring new attention to Appalachian
Following nearly a decade of resolute efforts to increase the number of minority students at Appalachian State University, one might expect the university to be enrolling substantially more minority students this fall than in years past.

Unfortunately, while enrollment of minority students has nearly doubled in recent years, Appalachian has remained a predominately white campus with only about 5 percent of the student body comprised of minorities. Furthermore, Appalachian has continued to rank at or near the bottom of UNC system universities in terms of student diversity. And that, in my mind, is not acceptable.

A student-driven initiative, approved by Appalachian’s Board of Trustees in March, may help change this situation through a campus-wide diversity plan that seeks to expand the number of underrepresented students at Appalachian, while increasing minority representation on the university’s faculty and professional staff.

This plan includes more than a dozen recommendations or “action items” that may be implemented in our efforts to increase the number of African-Americans, Asians, and Hispanics, as well as economically disadvantaged white students. For example, minority students will accompany admissions representatives, faculty, and parents of Appalachian students on visits to high schools, churches, and community centers in the Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh areas, as well as other urban areas.

Minority students have already become involved in this effort by working with university staff to produce videos in which they discuss their experiences on campus as well as the advantages of an Appalachian education.

We hope and expect these and many other actions will increase the number of minority students applying to Appalachian by 10 percent before 2008, while increasing the percentage of minority students actually enrolling to a level more comparable to the percentage of non-minority applicants who enroll. Enlarging the number of minority faculty and administrative professionals by 10 percent and doubling the number of international students at the university to at least 200 are other goals embodied in the plan.

While such numeric goals are certainly important measures of success, our overriding objective is to enhance the learning environment for all Appalachian students. We also will be fulfilling Appalachian’s traditional role of attracting more first-generation college students in an era when demographic projections indicate that minorities represent the fastest growing portion of the college-bound population in North Carolina.

Harry L. Williams, who served several years as assistant director of admissions at Appalachian before a leave of absence to complete his doctoral degree, returned to campus in July to head Appalachian’s new Office of Diversity. In this capacity, Dr. Williams will be responsible for engaging the entire campus community in Appalachian’s diversity plan and fashioning initiatives that ultimately will lead the university to success in achieving long-term diversity goals.

We have yet to define exactly what we mean by diversity. But I like the words of Dr. Williams: “Diversity is about inclusion and ensuring that everyone who comes to Boone for an Appalachian education is embraced by both the learning and social environments here. It also is about providing a rewarding educational experience for all students and a campus community that comfortably celebrates diverse cultures, backgrounds, and personal experiences.”

Francis T. Borkowski
Chancellor

“I think Boone is one of the most culturally diverse places you could come—not racially or ethnically diverse, but culturally diverse. ...The education I’m receiving at Appalachian is first-class. I am not worried about finding a job.”

– senior Ezell Williams, in “A Multicultural Perspective” video for prospective students.
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On the cover…. Ired Gulley ’02, center, with peers from Guilford College and Case Western Reserve University, in the Italian Alps during a 2001 geology summer field course. Photo courtesy of Laura Zimmerman
Administrators Return to Teaching

State budget woes have forced Appalachian State University to be more creative in how it delivers instruction.

Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski has asked all administrators with the appropriate academic credentials to consider teaching this fall to maintain the university’s number and variety of courses. More than two dozen have volunteered to teach at least one class, in addition to their regular duties.

Among them, Borkowski will team-teach a section of Freshman Seminar, which helps ease new students’ transition from high school; University Controller Rick Presnell will teach a computer skills in business course; and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Linda Bennett will teach a course in American government.

Many of the administrators began their careers in teaching. Refresher courses this summer helped them prepare for the new challenge.

With North Carolina facing a $1.5 billion budget shortfall, the entire University of North Carolina system is bracing for additional cuts to state appropriations. A Salisbury Post editorial praised Appalachian’s cost-saving approach as demonstrating a “can-do attitude—exactly what North Carolina needs to get through this revenue crisis.”

Freshmen Stats Get Higher and Higher

Appalachian continues to be a hot pick for high school seniors. A record 9,436 young people applied for admission to the university this year. About 2,375 freshmen will be enrolled, according to the Office of Admissions.

In addition, this year’s freshman class will be the most academically competitive class in Appalachian’s history, says Director of Admissions Paul Hiatt. The incoming students have an average GPA of 3.64 and an average SAT score of 1110. Twenty-two percent of the freshman class will have a 4.0 grade point average or higher. The number of applicants and confirmed students from underrepresented populations has increased from last year as well, Hiatt says.

Shuler Named Women’s Basketball Coach

Adrienne Shuler has been named head women’s basketball coach, replacing Barbie Breedlove who resigned after the 2001-02 season.

“We are delighted to have someone of Adrienne’s caliber joining our athletic department,” said Director of Athletics Roachel Laney. “With her background — playing and coaching at the NCAA Division I level, and playing professionally in the WNBA— she brings a tremendous amount of basketball knowledge to our program.”

Shuler spent seven seasons at Furman University, as both assistant and later as associate head coach. During her two-year tenure as associate head coach, Shuler’s team posted a 24-12 record in the Southern Conference.

Commissioner’s Cup, 11 Years Running

Appalachian claimed the Southern Conference Commissioner’s Cup for the eleventh consecutive year. The Commissioner’s Cup is awarded annually to the league member that is judged to have the best all-around men’s sports program.

Furman University received the Ger- mann Cup, honoring the best all-around women’s sports program, for the tenth year. The Southern Conference awards points for both cups based on regular-season or tournament competition for each sport in which the conference offers a championship.

Appalachian topped the Commissioner’s Cup standings with 79.5 points. The Mountaineers won titles in indoor and outdoor track, and cross-country, with high finishes in football, wrestling, golf, and men’s basketball. Women’s indoor and outdoor track championships and a second place finish in cross-country helped earn 71 points for fifth place in the Germann Cup race.
MTV Spotlights

Appalachian

It’s a campus visit students will talk about for a long time: the week MTV’s Road Rules came to Appalachian. The eleventh season of the popular reality program premiered June 17, featuring a young cast who shed clothes to participate in Appalachian’s Polar Plunge and attempted a harnessed “lean-on-me” walk between the rooftops of two residence halls.

MTV shot the season opener on campus last February. The six-member cast, which consisted of no Appalachian students, had to jump into the duck pond during the Polar Plunge fund-raiser for Special Olympics to collect keys to an RV, which they would drive to various college campuses across the Southeast. At each campus, they attempted a challenge for cash and prizes.

Only one pair of cast members completed the “lean-on-me” challenge between Gardner and Coltrane halls. “The only successful way to do it is for each person to lean into the other 100 percent,” says Rich Campbell, coordinator of Appalachian’s Outdoor Programs, who helped prepare the cast for the event. “That takes trust.”

MTV estimated that twenty million viewers tuned into the opening episode. To see photos and video clips, go to www.mtv.com/onair/roadrules/season11

Alum to Head UNC Board of Governors

Corporate attorney J. Bradley Wilson ’75 of Cary was elected unanimously in July to a two-year term as chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, the policy-making body of the sixteen-campus University of North Carolina.

Wilson is senior vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. He was first appointed to the Board of Governors by the N.C. General Assembly in 1997. He is the first Appalachian alumnus to head the board since it was established in 1972.

“Who’s going to pay for it, who values it, you or the government or both?”

N.C. State Treasurer Richard H. Moore, explaining the debate on rising college tuition, while on campus for the Harlan E. Boyles Distinguished CEO Lecture Series.

“Since September 11, I’ve learned there are things that are fate, that are destiny. I don’t know why, but I was meant to meet this Appalachian Family.”

Laurie Miller, widow of New York City firefighter Doug Miller, while meeting the students, faculty, and staff who sent gifts to her and her daughters.
Going Greek? Not This Fall

There will be no freshman rush this fall. First-year students interested in joining a Greek fraternity or sorority must now wait until their second semester.

“Students who wait at least one semester before joining a Greek organization do better academically,” says Appalachian’s Vice Chancellor for Student Development Greg Blimling. “By giving students the fall semester to adjust to the demands of college, we hope that they will establish the positive study patterns that will help sustain them throughout their college career.”

Deferred rush also gives Greeks more time to promote their values and expectations to new students.

Lending a Helping Hand

More and more Appalachian students perform community service. ACT, the campus clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities, serves hundreds of students each year but has noticed a sharp increase in the past two years. ACT’s staff believes the increase reflects what the university learned through a recent student survey: that 80 percent of Appalachian freshmen performed community service prior to coming to campus.

“ACT builds on that energy and commitment to service,” says service-learning coordinator Shari Galiardi.

Community service sites include a local homeless shelter, food pantry, abused women’s shelter, humane society, public schools, and retirement center. “You learn so much from the people you come in contact with,” says student volunteer Gayathri Vijayagapalan. “It’s like no feeling in the world when you’re able to help someone.”

Tragedy Brings Unexpected Blessings

A relationship unimaginable one year ago is boosting spirits on campus and in New York.

Soon after the Miller family lost husband and father Doug, a firefighter at Rescue 5 Staten Island, in the September 11 terrorist attacks, Appalachian State University “adopted” Laurie and daughters Elizabeth, Rachel, and Katie. Starting with the gift of a live Christmas tree and wreath in December 2001, the Appalachian Family has sent birthday cards, letters, Appalachian wear, savings bonds, and other items.

While the nation’s attention to September 11 survivors was overwhelming at times, Laurie Miller says Appalachian has always been “unintrusive, kind, caring and compassionate. They’ve given us things that brought smiles to our faces.”

The relationship also touched the classroom. Each semester, Assistant Professor Lynne Bercaw assigns students in her World Literature for Children class to compose a children’s book. This spring, the class interviewed the Miller girls through e-mail and wrote books based on the girls’ favorite things to do. The students presented the books, among them Counting with Katie and Where’s My Desk?, to the children during the Millers’ campus visit in July.

“It wasn’t ‘school work’—it was a gift to work on this project. This was the highlight of my educational experience,” remarked junior Julie Rice. Said classmate Nancy Christensen, “To write a book with a specific child in mind was very fulfilling.”

The Millers, accompanied by Laurie’s mother, Arlene, stayed in the Boone area for a week in July, visiting tourist sites and spending time with Appalachian students, faculty, and staff.

“You really have brightened our lives and we thank you very much,” Laurie tearfully said at a reception honoring the family. “Every day is a challenge. You’ve demonstrated that we are in people’s thoughts and prayers, and that’s helping us incredibly.”

She presented the university’s ACT office, which coordinated the “adoption,” with two prints of her husband—a photograph taken at his firefighters’ academy graduation and a painting created by an artist in their hometown. They will be hung in the Plemmons Student Union.

Laurie Miller, below, presents a painting of her late husband, Doug. Above, the Millers with university staff.

–Linda Coutant ’01 MA
“No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States... shall, solely on the basis of disability, be denied access to, or the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by an institution receiving federal financial assistance.”
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

By A. Ray Mullins ’01

With these marching orders, Appalachian State University has been making sure all students make the most of college.

“What started as a pilot program with two students in 1979 has grown to more than 480 students today, which is about 3.5 percent of Appalachian’s student population,” Coordinator Suzanne Wehner says of Appalachian’s Office of Disability Services.

The office’s services vary according to students’ needs. Those with orthopedic or mobility impairments might need a class to be relocated to an accessible classroom. Those with visual or hearing impairments might need an interpreter or note taker.

The program was started by Arlene Lundquist, who coordinated its work for twenty-one years before retiring. Alumni still express gratitude for her advocacy, as well as federal legislation supporting people with disabilities.

“Thank God for whoever passed that law. And, thanks to Arlene,” says Pattie James ’87 of Los Angeles, a graphic design major who designed the Town of Boone logo. James had difficulty with reading and writing, but through the disabilities program, she had exams read aloud to her. “And that,” she said, “made all the difference in my ability to complete the tests.”

Marty Bray ’86 ’91 sought assistance for his spelling and handwriting. “This program made the difference between my being a professor at a university and working at a service station,” he says. After getting a bachelor’s and master’s degree at Appalachian, Bray earned a doctoral degree at Indiana University. He is now an assistant professor in instructional technology at UNC Charlotte.

Bray succeeded at Appalachian through the aid of a proofreader, by taping lectures, and by taking exams on a computer with extra allotted time.

For Douglas Pearson ’94, the ability to use tutors and type out exams helped him overcome his difficulty with a form of dyslexia. After completing a bachelor’s degree in English, Pearson went to Oklahoma to earn a law degree. He is now an assistant district attorney in Keenansville. He credits Lundquist with encouraging him to stand up for his rights under the law, and for being the strength behind the program’s success.

Wehner is continuing that success. A former special education teacher in the public schools, she explains that no advocacy by Appalachian’s Office of Disability Services is meant to give a student an unfair advantage. “Our goal,” Wehner says, “is to level the playing field to promote success.”
Reaching
Fifty years ago, Appalachian faculty began teaching off the mountain. Today’s economic and educational needs make this tradition even more important.

By Kate Cahow

More than a hundred years ago, in a region of isolated hamlets in mountainous terrain, the founders of Appalachian State University committed to meet the higher education needs of the citizens of Northwest North Carolina.

The university’s long-standing commitment to educational outreach continues to provide educational and professional development opportunities for Western North Carolinians through a variety of initiatives, including a new educational collaboration in the Hickory area, says Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski.

“The skills and knowledge required of workers in the twenty-first century are constantly changing, and will demand of them life-long learning and professional development,” he says.

“Appalachian’s commitment to educational outreach will ensure that all students in the region have access to programs that will help them reach their educational and professional goals.”

Traveling Teachers

Early efforts at educational outreach outside of Appalachian’s Boone campus got rolling in the 1950s. At least one night a week, a few faculty members drove to outlying communities needing educational assistance to teach for two to three hours, and then returned home.

“Though we’ve expanded our efforts to include distance-learning technologies, the car is still our primary mode of outreach delivery,” says Tom Fisher, director of Appalachian’s extension and distance education.

“Many of the disciplines we’re carrying off campus need that face-to-face contact between faculty and students—particularly teacher education—so we still send faculty off the mountain,” he said.

According to Clinton Parker, senior associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, the primary focus of the university’s outreach effort traditionally has been to educate teachers. Although programming has grown and diversified, teacher education continues to be a major emphasis.

“In North Carolina, there is a critical shortage not only of teachers but of public school administrators,” he said.

“Growth in the region and across the state is resulting in more kids in classrooms, and in the near future many of our teachers will retire. The result is that the need for more schools and more teachers has become almost a crisis situation. But, the need can be addressed through educational outreach. Most of our off-campus programming is in the field of education because that’s where the need is most critical,” he said.

‘The Campus Goes to Them’

Until recently, student tuition paid for outreach programming in North Carolina. Beginning in 1996, Appalachian’s involvement in a state-funded project designed to deliver undergraduate programming through the community college system emphasized the growing need for educational outreach to underserved populations and regions of the state. This project was the legislature’s first step toward establishing statewide off-campus undergraduate programming.

“Results of the project indicated a strong desire on the part of what we call ‘place-bound’ students to seek degrees at locations close to their homes,” said Parker. “These are individuals whose family and professional obligations limit their ability to come to our campus. So, the concept is that the campus goes to them.”

The final nod to establish a state-supported, educational outreach initiative through the community college system came in 1998 when the North Carolina Legislature allocated regularized funds to the University of North Carolina system. Since then, a dramatic increase in funding for state-wide programming—from $1.5 million in 1998 to nearly $5 million today—and phenomenal growth in stu-

Shannon and Eddie Parker, pictured with son Taylor at Isothermal Community College, are pursuing new careers through off-campus programs.
The Power of Partnership

The central component in establishing and facilitating Appalachian’s outreach efforts is the Appalachian Learning Alliance. Initiated by Borkowski in 1999, the alliance is a partnership between Appalachian and ten community colleges in the Western Piedmont and Northwest North Carolina: Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, Cleveland Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Isothermal Community College, Mayland Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, Surry Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, and Wilkes Community College.

“We serve a large portion of Western North Carolina. Our traditional service region includes Ashe, Alleghany and Surry counties on the Virginia border, Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties on the Tennessee border, Rutherford and Cleveland counties on the South Carolina border, and everything in between,” said Fisher.

“As of spring 2002, the vast majority of students being served through off-campus programming were enrolled in courses provided through the Appalachian Learning Alliance,” he said.

The alliance functions by identifying academic and professional needs of communities, and then designing and delivering programs that enable students to complete those programs at partner community colleges.

Off-campus programming currently offers undergraduate coursework in business management, elementary education, middle grades education, social work, and special education. Graduate coursework is offered through sixteen programs ranging from communication sciences and disorders, educational media, elementary education and instructional technology, to business education, library science, school administration, computer science and criminal justice.

The university delivers outreach education through face-to-face instruction, Web-based learning, two-way audio/video, and the North Carolina Information Highway—a means of communicating via fiber optics.

A Sense of Belonging

The primary challenge for Appalachian’s outreach efforts lies in its ability to provide off-campus students with the same quality education that students get on campus, says Parker.

“Our goal is to ensure that these students are taught by regular full-time faculty, have access to the same challenging courses taught on campus and other electronic modes of information delivery, and to campus services like financial aid, career counseling, medical care, and bookstore and library services,” he said.

The success of the program also depends upon its ability to engender in students a sense of belonging to the university. The cohort—a tight-knit group of twenty-five to thirty students who move through their academic program together—definitely helps. As the majority of off-campus undergraduate and graduate programs require three-and-a-half to four years to complete, cohort members form strong ties with one another and Appalachian faculty and staff.

“Through the cohort experience I acquired new friendships that I wouldn’t trade for anything,” says Anna McDaniel ’00 of Rutherfordton, a fifth grade teacher at Harris School in Forest City. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education through Appalachian’s outreach programming at Isothermal Community College.

“We became a close-knit family during our four years together, and now three of us teach at the same school. It’s been an incredibly rewarding experience for me, both personally and professionally,” she said.

At the beginning of each cohort, students attend an orientation in which they are acquainted with everything they need to navigate the program successfully, says Fisher. Appalachian instructors and staff members walk them through the registration process, familiarize them with Appalachian computer access accounts, and provide an intensive introduction to library resources and other campus services.

“They even get an Appalachian student identification card. This is especially important because it acknowledges them as students at Appalachian,” says Fisher.

“We want them to feel like part of the campus and to know as much as possible about what’s going on here. In the orientation process we lay the university, all its programming and resources, at their feet. They know the intricacies of the program they’re enrolled in, what courses come when, and have access to an academic...
coordinator to provide assistance along the way,” he said.

**Gaining Opportunities**

Eddie Parker gives the university high grades for its efforts. He lives in Rutherfordton with his wife, Shannon, and their son. He works full time at Broyhill Furniture, and at night is pursuing an Appalachian undergraduate degree in elementary education at Isothermal Community College. Shannon, who works for Rutherford County Transit, was so impressed with what Eddie shared with her about his experiences in the program that she enrolled in Appalachian’s special education program at Western Piedmont Community College.

“Because we’re married and both work full time, it was difficult for us to even consider higher education,” Eddie says. “Appalachian’s distance learning program has enabled both of us to pursue our dreams of getting academic degrees. And we’re doing it without disrupting our family life by commuting long distances to attend classes,” he said.

Sally Hundley teaches eighth grade math, science and reading at Waynesville Middle School. She’s currently pursuing an Appalachian master’s degree in instructional technology at McDowell Technical Community College in Marion, and is “amazed” to have found a degree program which, she says, caters to her academic needs.

“I have taught for nine years at public schools, and I understand the need for life-long learning. I hoped to pursue a graduate degree in my field, but with a family and a full teaching load, it was difficult to find a program that meshed with my lifestyle,” Hundley says.

“Appalachian’s distance learning program has done just that for me. I am amazed at how hard the faculty members and staff of this program work to make pursuing a degree so easy for people like me.”

**New Economy, Different Needs**

In an economy that challenges both employees and employers in their ability to retain jobs and grow professionally, Appalachian will continue to provide Western North Carolinians with the skills and knowledge to succeed.

“Having earned a BS in elementary education through outreach programming, Anna McDaniel ’00 now teaches fifth grade in Forest City.”

“The recent downturn in the economy has made educational outreach that much more critical, especially in the Hickory area where traditional jobs in textiles, furniture, and telecommunications industries have been lost. Employers there are struggling to recruit a highly skilled and trained workforce,” says Richard B. Parrott, Appalachian’s director of continuing education.

The Hickory Metropolitan Statistical Area is North Carolina’s fourth largest region, and the only one in the state without a public university. Since the early 1960s Appalachian has offered outreach programming to the area at the Catawba Valley Community College campus. But the demand for higher education has grown beyond the capacity of the space available for programming.

“For the past two years, university officials have worked with local civic, business and government officials to develop a unique educational concept to serve the region,” Parrott said.

“The Hickory Metropolitan Higher Education Center will provide the educational courses and programs residents need to acquire both professional and educational advancement without having to commute,” he said.

The HMHEC is an educational collaboration between Appalachian, Lenoir-Rhyne College, and Catawba Valley Community College.

Like the Appalachian Learning Alliance, the HMHEC will offer graduate and undergraduate degree programs, as well as continuing education programs that may include non-credit certificate courses, seminars, workshops, and research initiatives—all developed to meet the specific educational needs of area students and employers. Through the same distance-learning technologies used by the alliance, the HMHEC partners can provide expanded courses from off-site locations, exchange programs with other colleges and universities, and expand other courses and programs to remote sites across the region.

Borkowski says he expects the center to become a model for inter-institutional collaboration and educational innovation.

“It will provide people in Hickory with opportunities to develop new businesses, expand existing businesses, and pursue new educational experiences in order to change careers or move ahead professionally,” he said.

“We also believe the center will help alleviate the mounting shortage of public school teachers and administrators across the region by providing new opportunities for adult learners. This has been a major focus of the university’s outreach efforts since its inception. And, the university will continue to serve that need into the future,” he said.

Appalachian’s off-campus offerings are detailed at www.ext-dl.appstate.edu
‘A Leader in Incorporating a Global Perspective’

Appalachian will serve as an international programs model for other schools preparing students for the global era.

By Kate Cahow

Senior Kristan Meister knows Spanish. Not just the particulars of the language, but the culture, the history, what Spaniards eat for lunch, how they greet each other on the street. “I fell in love with the people,” she said, after living four weeks with a family in Madrid the summer after her sophomore year.

Meister, a Spanish major, remembers her host country as “very loving and family-oriented. When you walk down the street there you see people holding hands, just being friendly and caring with each other. I liked that. It’s something you really don’t see much of here in the United States.”

She credits the trip abroad as her best educational experience. It opened her mind, and improved her self-confidence.

Appalachian has exchange agreements in the following countries:

- Austria
- Australia
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- China
- Costa Rica
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Japan
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Russia
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

She enjoyed learning a new culture so much that this summer she joined an Appalachian group bound for Ireland.

That kind of undergraduate opportunity is what Appalachian State University believes in, and what faculty and administrators have worked hard to create. In recognition of building a strong international focus, the American Council on Education (ACE) has selected Appalachian to help define goals for the “internationalization” of other American campuses.

“This is a major honor because it acknowledges Appalachian as a leader in incorporating a global perspective into the undergraduate curriculum,” says Marvin Williamsen, Appalachian’s associate vice chancellor for international programs.

Internationalization of American campuses, says Williamsen, is the most critical need in American higher education today because the marketplace has changed.

“National economies are now international economies. So many companies are engaged in international commerce, and they are relying on this younger generation to open the doors to international industry. We must ensure that our country’s college graduates can compete in this global marketplace—both in terms of languages they speak and their knowledge of other cultures,” he said.

ACE received funding from the Carnegie and Ford foundations to help American academic institutions adapt to a globally integrated environment, then identified several institutions actively preparing students for this new world economy. Appalachian was one of eight schools chosen to take part in a yearlong self-study to develop an institutional “profile” or guidelines to be used by other colleges and universities in the internationalization process. Appalachian was selected as one of two schools in the “comprehensive universities” category. Other schools selected for the project were Indiana University, Arcadia College, State University of New York at Binghamton, Missouri Southern State College, Dickinson College, Kapi’olani Community College, and Tidewater Community College.

“We were chosen in part because of our success in the past decade at providing international opportunities for students as a meaningful part of their undergraduate study,” says Bob White, associate director and foreign student advisor in the Office of International Programs. “The ultimate goal of the project is to use the eight institutions’ profiles as guidelines to facilitate global thinking, planning, and efforts to internationalize the American academy.”

Appalachian’s internationalization began in 1981 with the founding of an exchange relationship with Northeastern University in Shenyang, China. Appalachian has direct linkages with more than twenty-five overseas institutions. As one of 225 member institutions comprising the International Student Exchange Program, Appalachian offers students hundreds of options for study overseas.

For the past several years, Appalachian has sent more than four hundred students and a number of faculty abroad each year for summer programs, and semester and yearlong periods of study and research. In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, however, this year’s number dipped to about 350.

“Just as the travel industry in the United States has been affected by the events of 9/11, so have our summer study abroad programs,” says Williamsen. “And it hasn’t been the students’ choice as much as the parents’. We attribute the drop-off to parents who are afraid to let their young people travel in this period of hyperanxiety.”

Williamsen believes that the decrease in student travel this summer is a temporary phenomenon, and that the program will quickly recover.

“In the absence of other terrorist events, we expect to build back up in the next year or two,” he said. “In the long term, we’re convinced that the way to get beyond this kind of event is by cultivating greater international understanding through education. We’re contributing to a safer global environment by providing opportunities for young people to learn about each other.”

continued on page 14
Witnessing Third World Struggles

Sleeping in hammocks in dirt-floor houses with no electricity or running water is a small part of students’ experience when traveling with Jeff Boyer, a professor in the Department of Anthropology.

Boyer has taken students to rural Honduras for years to acquaint them with the challenges and struggles of Third World peasant farmers. This past summer, he added Southern Mexico to their itinerary.

“By living and participating in the rounds of daily life with peasant farmers, students begin to understand the challenges and problems facing these people—especially problems of economic and agricultural development,” he says.

The Tastes and Smells of Another Culture

“I think it’s more important today than ever for people to get international experience,” says Rennie Brantz, history professor and director of Freshman Seminar. “Despite security issues and the threat of terrorism, we need to be reaching out and making connections, not pulling back.”

For several years, Brantz has taken students to Europe to study the Holocaust and to tour the continent’s cultural centers.

“I’ve seen the value international travel and work has on me and my teaching. I think of it as faculty development,” he says. “I’ve also seen the impact travel has on my students. It opens their eyes to different approaches to life. The smells and tastes of another culture—these are things you can’t get from movies or books,” says Brantz.

Top left: Making way for a new garden, students studying sustainable development help Hondurans remove a giant stone at their community center.
Top right: Kelly Teague enjoys king parrots, one of Australia’s many wildlife attractions, at a tourist site outside Brisbane.
Bottom: Students learning about the Holocaust pause after a tour of Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany.
Student Teaching—and Learning—Down Under

Just when Kelly Teague’s dream to fulfill her student teaching requirement in Australia neared reality, disaster fell. “My cousin was on the flight that hit the Pentagon on September 11,” said Teague. “I assumed that I wouldn’t be able to go. But, my family talked about it and we decided Sandy would have wanted me to follow through with my plans.”

Teague ’02, an elementary education major, had worked hard to convince her dean that student teaching at an Australian school was a good idea. It turned out to be one of her best collegiate experiences, she says. “I had traveled a little bit before this, but I really had no idea how people in other countries and cultures live. Now that I’m back, I feel I have so much more to offer my students because I have seen and learned other ways of doing things,” she said.

Paris on Film

Imagine Paris … through the lens of a camera! This is learning at its best, says Kathleen Campbell, associate professor in the Department of Art. This summer she took ten students to study photography for a month in Paris, one of the world’s preeminent centers of art and design.

“It was a fabulous opportunity for the students. Our focus was so much more direct, not theoretical. We not only studied various photographers and their contributions to the field, but were able to view some of their work in person,” she said.

“Students also got the opportunity to photograph Paris and develop their work on-site through participation in studio workshops at the Paris Photographic Institute. Being exposed to Paris’ wonderful culture, and taking day trips to places like Guiverney, brought the educational experience to life,” Campbell said.

Music: The Universal Language

“Music is a universal language. And, as a professor of music I feel it’s vital that my students are aware of the variety of musical styles in different cultures,” says Scott Meister, a professor in the Hayes School of Music. He accompanied students to Ireland this summer to study and perform traditional Irish music.

“I set up a couple of jam sessions with musicians in local pubs so the students could practice what they’d learned, and play the music the way it’s intended to be played,” he said.

Meister also has taken students to Trinidad to study Calypso music. “They’re
not just studying and observing another culture’s musical tradition, they’re participating in it,” Meister says of the trips. “In the same way my international experiences have broadened me as a musician, composer and teacher, it’s apparent to me that these experiences are life changing for students.”

**Graduate Students Gain Latino Experience**

“The Latino population is the fastest growing minority group in North Carolina, so our students will likely come into contact with them in their work as counselors,” says Terry Sack, professor emeritus in the Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling. That’s why he and colleague Al Green take graduate students to Bolivia.

The trip immerses students in Latin culture and provides them with a broader understanding of the people, according to Sack.

“They’re not used to seeing the kind of poverty that so many people there live in. This type of international travel provides students with a far greater understanding of what brings Latino families to the United States, and of their hopes for themselves and their families,” he said.

**Spring Break in Cuernavaca**

Academics during spring break? Students in Delbert Goff’s international finance class said, “Yes!,” and traveled to Mexico to study the economic and political differences between two cultures.

With their peers at Monterrey Tech University in Cuernavaca, students discussed how these differences impact business practices. Because effective communication is essential to business success, the Walker College of Business increasingly seeks opportunities to enhance communication between Appalachian students and students in other cultures—whether through travel, collaborative assignments, or electronic communications.

“According to students, the most beneficial aspect of our trip was their direct interaction with students from Monterrey Tech,” says Goff, a professor and chair of the Department of Finance, Banking and Insurance.

In addition to study abroad programming, the Office of International Programs also hosts more than a hundred international students from more than fifty countries, and a number of foreign faculty members each year.

Graduate student Jay Burkhalter believes he has gained an educational and professional boost through study abroad. And, he adds, the personal impact of such an experience is life altering.

“Whenever you travel abroad, you have the opportunity to see and experience different ways people live and connect with one another and their environment,” says Burkhalter, who is earning a master’s degree in the Department of Geography and Planning. He accompanied a group of undergraduates on a three-week trip to Bolivia in the summer of 2001.

“In some of the places we went, the social cohesion was so much better than here in America. Sure, we’ve got nicer cars and houses than people there. But, we miss out on this basic human connection that was easy to see between these people.”

The group received course credit for a mapping project they completed for a rural health clinic in the Amazonian area of Bolivia. They also took a course called Globalization and Resistance.

“We looked at how globalization—and decisions made in Washington, D.C., or Geneva—affect the lives of people in the Third World. I now have a greater understanding of how my actions, and those of Americans in general, impact people around the world, especially in the Third World. We take so much for granted and are wasteful in so many ways,” he said.

Like Burkhalter, Meister says her studies abroad proved life changing. The experiences helped her discover her own abilities. “Being in a different culture builds your confidence by taking you out of your own familiar routine and surroundings. When you find yourself in circumstances you’re not accustomed to—like having to find your way around a big city, or using the train system—you learn pretty quickly how to get by,” she said.

The benefits of international programs seem clear, but can they be made even better? Appalachian and ACE say yes. But there are challenges, especially when world politics and economies are shaky.

An ACE team, comprised of former university presidents and ACE representatives, visited campus in late 2001 to assess Appalachian’s growth as an international institution. The visit ironically took place on September 11.

The visitors found that, among other things, Appalachian needs to develop more consortial arrangements with organizations that help students with the funding to study abroad; needs to foster and develop an international spirit that pervades the university; and needs to engage faculty in international exchange so they can more effectively incorporate a global perspective into their teaching.

“On one hand, September 11th demonstrated how critical it is that we become more internationally educated and aware,” Williamsen says. “At the same time, the blow to the national economy and now the state budget crisis have made it difficult to get the funding to move forward.”

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*A Leader in Incorporating a Global Perspective*

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William M. Hutchins has enjoyed a "self-generated" career in international studies that’s taken him to France, England, Egypt, Lebanon, and Ghana. He knows the benefits of understanding other cultures.

“International education puts faces on the world,” says Hutchins, an Arabic scholar and professor in Appalachian’s Department of Philosophy and Religion. “Hate crimes and racism diminish when you know people in possible target groups. It is also pleasurable to find other possible worlds.”

Hutchins is returning to France for the first time in forty years, this time to teach English and American Studies at the University of Angers in the Loire Valley for the 2002-03 academic year.

Hutchins grew up in a small Kentucky town frequently visited by international scholars and students because of Berea College’s famous work-study program. “My father was president of the college, and for this reason my parents regularly entertained international guests,” Hutchins says.

Forty years ago his parents left him with a family friend in Paris to study French, the beginning of what he calls his "self-generated" career in international studies. He studied at the Alliance Francais and later received two diplomas—the Diploma de Langue and the Diploma Superior. (He has no American high school degree although he has a BA from Yale and an MA and a PhD from the University of Chicago.)

He spent some time studying at the London School of Economics. In 1964-65, he taught at the Gerard Institute in Sidon, Lebanon. From 1974-77, he was lecturer and head of Arabic studies at the University of Ghana. In 1984-85, he held a fellowship in Cairo at the American Research Center in Egypt. Then from 1991-93, he taught philosophy at the American University in Cairo. Thus, he is no stranger to life abroad.


Hutchins has written some short stories in English, winning a couple of awards for them. He has a novel, Carnal Grace, ready for American publication. Currently he is translating Dar al-Basha, a Tunisian novel, with Bechir Chourou, a Tunisian friend.

At Appalachian for the last two years, Hutchins has served as a faculty development mentor for a Soros Fellow. The Soros Foundation funds scholars from countries that formerly were part of the Soviet Union.

The University of Angers will be Hutchins’ first formal exchange experience, and he says he holds a particular enthusiasm for Angers because of his friendship with the late Max Feghali, a popular French teacher at Appalachian who initiated the Appalachian/Angers exchange in the mid-1990s. Hutchins and Feghali shared an interest in Arabic literature and an international perspective.

Hutchins will be accompanied on the exchange by his wife, Sara Sadler Hutchins ’80 ’88, and their eleven-year-old son, Kip. Daughter Franya, a music performance major at Appalachian, will participate in a Junior Year Abroad Program in England.

“Going to France now for me is a return to my youth,” Hutchins said of his forthcoming assignment. “Cairo is my second home, and I have fond memories of my students and friends in Lebanon and Ghana. I am also happy that my children will participate.”

“I have kept my eye on the French exchange program since its inception and am pleased to be part of it,” Hutchins says. “I, myself, like being overseas. The world is a small place.”
Professor Battles Popular Myths with Science

Astronomy Professor Dan Caton keeps a desk drawer titled “X-files.” “That’s where I keep my files on all the obscure topics I get questions about,” he says. Caton’s knack for debunking popular myths through science has garnered national media attention.

This spring, three television production companies interviewed Caton for his expertise on UFOs, the Brown Mountain Lights, and the relation between birth rates and moon phases. In addition, Discover magazine recently highlighted his research on birth rates.

Caton believes reports of phenomena most often can be explained by science. But he knows most people won’t listen.

“Just like UFOs, about 90 percent of Brown Mountain Lights sightings can be explained by natural and manmade lights,” he says. He uses computer software to show that stars rising in the night sky could be the source of the lights that one legend says are the spirits of Cherokee and Catawba warriors slain in battle.

Caton also has found no evidence indicating that more babies are born during the full moon than during other moon phases. He looked at about 70 million births that occurred during a twenty-year period, and despite the popular myth, found no correlation between birth rates and moon phases.

—Jane Nicholson ’95 MA

Freshman Seminar Director Honored

Rennie Brantz has received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors’ Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes top professors in the UNC system for their teaching at the undergraduate level.

Brantz is a professor of history and director of Freshman Seminar, a program featured in TIME magazine last September when Appalachian was named a “College of the Year.”

“Students need to have the opportunity to contribute to learning,” Brantz says of his teaching philosophy. “I think a lot of times we assume that students don’t know anything when they come to us. I try to start where people are, try to find out what their interests are, what they know, and then move from that point.”

Department Named for Smith

The Department of Psychology has been named for its first chairman, the late Wiley F. Smith.

Smith joined Appalachian in 1936 and served in various teaching and administrative positions until retiring in 1964. He died in 1988. He was the father of board of trustees member Reba S. Moretz ’52 ’53, and the late Raymond Smith.

The Dr. Wiley F. Smith Department of Psychology offers a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science degree in psychology, and master’s degrees in clinical psychology, general experimental psychology, industrial-organizational psychology and human resource management, school psychology, and health-rehabilitation psychology.

Getting a Closer Look

A new Quanta 2000 Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope is enhancing scientific research. The $290,000 instrument was acquired through a National Science Foundation grant to the Department of Geology, with a match from the College of Arts and Sciences. The instrument will be housed in the Department of Biology until facilities are completed for a multi-user College of Arts and Sciences Electron Microscopy Laboratory in the Rankin Science Building addition, now under construction. The ESEM is the only one of its kind in the UNC system. Testing its capabilities are students Jennifer Sawyer and Jay Early, with Assistant Professor of Geology Steve Hageman.
New Members Join Advisory Council

Four business leaders have joined the Walker College of Business’ Advisory Council, which advises college administrators on matters relating to the needs of the business community.

Roger L. Beahm has a strong background in marketing and advertising. In 1988 he co-founded Coyne Beahm Inc., a full-service agency in Greensboro, with clients including Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, and Thomasville Furniture. Beahm has extended his marketing consulting to Vietnam and China. In April, he spoke as the Boyles Distinguished CEO lecturer.


William R. Holland was recently appointed chairman of Enpro Industries, Inc. in Charlotte, a new subsidiary of Goodrich Industries. A major supporter of the college, Holland was a Boyles Distinguished CEO lecturer and a commencement speaker while chairman and CEO of United Dominion Industries. In 1997, he and United Dominion established the William R. Holland Fellows Program for Business Study in Asia Endowment to support the college’s annual student trip to China.

Robert S. Stec ’76, ’77 MBA, a leader in consumer products marketing and business management, is president and CEO of Lexington Home Brands in Lexington. This past spring he was the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society speaker and spent two days in the college as an executive-in-residence, teaching business policy and MBA classes. He also held discussions with Holland Fellows on China and U.S. furniture industries.

Current council members represent a wide spectrum of the business community including professionals in accounting, manufacturing, retail, home furnishings, advertising, banking, management consulting, law, and health care.

Council member Robin H. Gagnon ’82, ’95 MBA has accepted a new position as vice president of marketing, planning and analysis for Rich’s/Lazarus/Goldsmith’s in Atlanta.

Online Newsletter
An online newsletter debuts this fall. Check www.business.appstate.edu for information.

Dates of Interest

September 12
Walker College Reception in Raleigh
Alumni interested in attending, contact Beth Alexander at alexndrba@appstate.edu

October 7
Harlan E. Boyles Distinguished CEO Lecture featuring Ken Thompson, Wachovia Corporation CEO and president

October 24
Entrepreneur Summit For information, contact Bryan Toney, toneybc@appstate.edu, or Beth Alexander, alexndrba@appstate.edu

October 26
Homecoming 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Tent at Duck Pond Field.

Head of the Class
Mark Turner ’81 returned to the classroom, this time as a guest lecturer during Lewis L. Mack Alumni Day. He is vice president and information services manager for Wachovia in Winston-Salem.
Teacher Shortage Creates Competitive Market

Most North Carolina school district representatives attending Reich College of Education’s job fair in May offered some sort of signing bonus to graduates as a way to compete with out-of-state school systems funded by state lotteries. The fair attracted school systems from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Virginia.

“Every school system is trying to make themselves as visible as possible and appealing as possible. There’s definitely competition,” said student Kelly Cirincione.

Johnston County’s Bruce Bunn ’73 said his school system recruits heavily at Appalachian State University each year because the best teachers are at Appalachian. Signing bonuses help attract graduates. “We’re very aggressive,” he said. “You have to be, with the teacher shortage.”

The U.S. Department of Education says that American schools need to hire 2.2 million teachers by 2010, due in large part to retirements. By the same year, an estimated eighty thousand new teachers will be needed in North Carolina.

—James Nix

Three Honored for Teaching Careers

Three alumni have been inducted into Reich College of Education’s Rhododendron Society. The society recognizes graduates whose service to education as teachers, librarians, human service professionals, or administrators has been remarkable and exemplary.

Minnie Lou Edwards Irwin ’41 graduated from Appalachian State Teachers College with a BS degree in teaching English and science. She began her career teaching in Alleghany County and from 1941-85 taught high school science. She also tutored remedial students at Wilkes Community College, where she served on the board of directors from 1991-99. She is a charter and current member of the board of directors of Alleghany Connection, an organization associated with the Governor’s One-on-One Volunteer Program that since 1986 has helped high risk students pursue educational opportunities. Her honors include Alleghany County’s Teacher of the Year in 1969 and a Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service in 1992.

After obtaining his BS in teaching science, John F. Woodruff ’54 returned to his native Alleghany County, where he served Piney Creek School first as a teacher and later as principal until 1963. During this time he completed his MA in administration and social studies at Appalachian. He later became superintendent of Alleghany County Schools, serving until his retirement in 1984.

Retirement did not stop his involvement with education. In 1984 he founded the Alleghany Education Foundation, which provides scholarship support for local students and provides small grants to support schools and promote SAT improvement. He currently serves as the organization’s president.

Richard Lee Zuber ’54 has distinguished himself as teacher, advisor, published scholar, and administrator. Raised in Avery County, he graduated from Appalachian magna cum laude, with a BS in teaching math and social studies. He earned a master’s degree in history from Emory University in Atlanta and a PhD in history from Duke University. His graduate studies were highlighted by a grant from the Danforth Foundation (the first such grant to an Appalachian graduate) and an award-winning doctoral dissertation.

Zuber began his post-graduate teaching career at The Citadel in 1960. In 1962 he joined Wake Forest University’s history department. He served as department chairman from 1975-83 and the department’s director of graduate studies from 1983-89. He retired in 2000.
The house lights dim, curtains rise, stage lights find their mark, and the action begins. Ah, the stage! Appalachian State University students longing to take part gain lots of training with Appalachian Young People’s Theatre. Since 1972, AYPT has brought to life fairy tales, folk tales, musicals, and plays with contemporary themes for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Each semester students create sets, costumes, props and characters of a production. Twice a week during the last six weeks of a semester they take the show on the road, performing for young audiences across the region.

“This is a huge commitment for students,” says Teresa Lee, director of AYPT and an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. “They’re responsible for pulling together everything for the show under my direction, and for performing two shows a day at different schools. It’s a lot more work than they would put into a typical three-hour course. But it’s a wonderful learning experience.”

AYPT serves students planning careers in theatre or in K-12 education. Both majors benefit from performing for children. “They’re giving and supportive in terms of feedback and involvement,” Lee says of a child audience. “They’re also very honest. They let you know if you’re keeping their attention.”

Among AYPT graduates, Gordon Hensley ’98 is a performing arts specialist at the Mesa Arts Center in Arizona. He teaches puppetry, storytelling, improvisation, preschool music, acting, pantomime, and playwriting. His youngest student is five years old, and his oldest is 66.

Jen Klein ’94 works in Los Angeles as a scriptwriter for film and television. She recently stage managed a production for actor Tim Robbins.

Jason Gilbert ’94, a professional actor in Washington, D.C., recently took part in a Steven Sondheim retrospective at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His work in musical theatre has garnered him several nominations for the Helen Hayes Awards. He credits AYPT for providing him with a strong foundation.

“The skills we learned in AYPT were absolutely invaluable,” Gilbert says. “We learned how to pull all the pieces together and then to put it up on stage for the kids. That’s so important in this business. If you can’t be relied upon to get the job done, you’re not going to get the work.”

–Kate Cahow

Young People’s Theatre Turns Thirty

The Sidney Myer Fund International Ceramics Award competition, on display March 1-April 28 in Shepparton, Australia, included Phifer’s “Fish Wife’s Daughter,” the most recent piece in his series of life-size torsos. The Shepparton Art Gallery reported that six thousand people visited the exhibit. Inspired by English women hawking fish, “Fish Wife’s Daughter” is Phifer’s first work in an international show. Other pieces by Phifer have appeared in the Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition and in the Hickory Museum of Art. He has taught art classes at Appalachian for twenty-six years.

Brad Evans ’02, Catherine Traphagan, and Marcus Riter perform in AYPT’s The Reluctant Dragon.
Mariam Cannon Hayes was honored with an Outstanding Service Award and Andre Arrouèt ’67 received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Hayes School of Music’s Society of Alumni and Friends.

This is the first year for the awards. Dedicated alumni and friends recently formed the society to enhance communication between the music school and its graduates, help recruit new students, offer academic and career advice to students, and recognize outstanding alumni and friends connected to the music school.

The awards were presented during the music school’s annual Honors Weekend concert in May, which included performances by students and faculty.

Hayes was nominated for the Outstanding Service Award for her overwhelming support of the music school. The school was named in her honor in 2001. A graduate of Mount Vernon Seminary and Queens College, Hayes began her connection to Appalachian in 1969 when her father, Charles A. Cannon, established the Cannon Music Camp. Hayes’ philanthropy has supported many facets of the university, but none more so than the School of Music.

Arrouèt is a fine arts resource teacher in Brevard County, Florida. After graduating from Appalachian with a bachelor of music education degree, he taught instrumental music at Melbourne High School in Melbourne, Florida, for fourteen years and was director of bands for nine of those years.

From 1982-84, he led the Florida State University Marching Chiefs and the Concert Band. During his tenure, the marching band was featured in Sports Illustrated and performed in the Gator Bowl, Peach Bowl, and the 1984 NFL Super Bowl.

Anyone interested in joining the Hayes School of Music’s Society of Alumni and Friends should contact Byron Reece, president, at (919) 465-1535.

Teach Me a Song

Musicians of all ages learned new skills this summer at the Hayes School of Music. Each year, the music school hosts the Cannon Music Camp for youth in eighth through twelfth grades. The month-long camp offers the most comprehensive course of musical instruction in the Southeast, with intensive college preparatory work in performance and music theory. Campers included Kelly Maddock and Patrick Byrd, right. A hundred music teachers from across the country participated in the weeklong Silver Burdette workshop sponsored by Scott Foresman and the Hayes School of Music. They gathered new teaching ideas for children, from use of recorders and guitars to creative movement and music technology. Above, Mary Greene teaches a guitar class.
Award-Winning Thesis Examines POWs

Amy Hudnall ’01 MA, an adjunct professor in Appalachian State University’s Department of History, received the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools’ Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award in Social Science, Business and Education for 2002.

Hudnall researched trauma experienced by German POWs held in the United States during World War II. She found that a lack of awareness of cultural differences can create trauma-inducing situations, sometimes resulting in post-traumatic-stress syndrome.

“The hard-core Nazis ruled the camps, and the Americans let them because they were unaware of any internal conflicts,” she says. “Prisoners who were less vehemently Nazi suffered murder, forced suicide, and serious abuse.”

“Chronic depression, violence, fear, anger, and other emotions associated with abusive treatment while a POW may not end with imprisonment,” Hudnall adds. “These trauma-induced characteristics have been proven to persist in an individual’s family for two or three generations,” she said.

Mistakes made by the United States while holding German POWs provide an impetus for reassessing the way POWs are treated today, according to Hudnall.

“The first thing the military did when they took the Afghanis to Cuba was to shave their heads and beards. Though they did this for health reasons and not to humiliate the prisoners, it was a big mistake,” she said. “It’s against Islamic religion to shave one’s head and face. The Afghanis already hated the American soldiers. This just perpetuated that hatred,” she said.

Hudnall proposes that physical and psychological trauma associated with imprisonment can be reduced if policymakers are more attuned to the possible outcomes of their actions. “We need to address our past mistakes, and create environments for prisoners that incorporate humanitarian ethics,” she says.

–Kate Cahow

Grad Students Assist in Energy Policy Project

Appalachian State University received a $147,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Administration’s State Energy Office to gather information to help create a new state energy policy, and graduate students are involved in the effort.

Appalachian faculty have been asked to report on energy supply and demand, new sources of energy, and ways to reduce energy use in all sectors of the state’s economy. They plan to submit their report in November.

As part of gathering information, students have helped organize conferences, public hearings, and other activities; created a Web-based database of other states’ energy policies and renewable energy policy incentives; analyzed technological advances; and reviewed existing publications related to energy use and conservation.

The graduate students are Celeste Fiumara, Missouri Waite and Andy Wilds-Pritchard. They are assisting Jeff Tiller, an associate professor in the Department of Technology, and Dennis Grady, a political science professor and director of Appalachian’s Energy Center. Also helping are undergraduates Jordan Yee and Stephanie Haney.

North Carolina’s existing energy policy, drafted in 1992, is no longer relevant to today’s energy environment, Grady says. Data provided by Appalachian will be used by the Energy Policy Working Group, part of the state’s Energy Policy Council, to draft a new policy.

The Appalachian group is working with faculty from NC A&T, NC State, and East Carolina. They represent disciplines such as technology, political science, geography and planning, plant physiology, and economics.

Learn more about the project at www.ncenergy.appstate.edu.

–Jane Nicholson ’95 MA

Missouri Waite ’00 spent six months researching other states’ energy policies as a graduate assistant to Political Science Professor Dennis Grady. The experience should enhance his resume when he starts applying for jobs, he says.
Appalachian’s Own Ya-Ya Sisterhoods

In the Spring 2001 Appalachian Today, Joyce Lawing ’58 of Lenoir asked if any alumni group could beat her and her friends’ record of reuniting annually for forty-one years. It appears someone can.

“A group of us began jokingly observing Columbus Day as students in 1953 and 1954,” writes Nelda Perry King ’55 of Greensboro. “Since that time we have continued to meet annually on the weekend closest to Columbus Day. As the years went by we included spouses and children. We meet at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center every five years while meeting other years at the homes of a host couple.” The group will meet this October in Greensboro.

Meanwhile, Lawing and her gang met in May on Ocean Isle, with plans for a 2003 reunion in Charleston, South Carolina.

Can anyone else beat these group records?

–Linda Coutant
Notes and Alumni News

ADDY for new exhibits at the Energy Encounter. She is a director at FPL Energy Encounter, Jensen Beach, FL.

NEW POSITIONS: MaryFrank Overcash Smith, administrative assistant to president’s office, Samaritan’s Purse, Boone.

RETIREMENTS: Richard Shepherd, from Thomasville Furniture Industry, West Jefferson, after 31 years of service. Jim Caldwell, Knoxville, TN, as account executive at Abbott Laboratories, after 29 years of service.


RETIREMENTS: Ron King, as head basketball coach and athletic director at North Surry High School, Mount Airy, after 32 years of service, Ron Byerly, Kannapolis, from student services at Kannapolis City Schools, Gary Smith, Winston-Salem, as the southeast regional manager at Battles-Mills Squibb, after 25 years of service.

NEW POSITIONS: Douglas La Mance, biology and computer studies teacher, Legacy Academy, Baldwin, Botswana. Jo Anne Anderson Byerly, superintendent, Kannapolis City Schools, Kannapolis. Raynette Grant Fryberg, owner, Logfinish.com, Lake Lure.

RETIREMENTS: M. Loretta Greene, from Buncombe County Schools, Asheville, after 31 years of service. Clarence Hart, as a buyer/scheduler division 300 at Dana Corporation, Morganton.

NEW POSITIONS: Adult in educational leadership, UNCG. Ms. is an assistant superintendent at Asheville City Schools, Asheville.


NEW POSITIONS: Linda Burgess Tutterow, as kindergarten teacher at Jackson Park Elementary School, Kannapolis, after 29 years as an educator. She is the office administrator at Millford Hills United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

AWARDS/HONORS: Jim Freeman, appointment by N. C. Governor Mike Easley to N.C. State Flex Benefits Advisory Committee. He is city manager, Roxboro. Lin Barnhardt, created an ornament for the White House Christmas tree, featured in segment on HGTV.

Scholarship Dollars Increase for Students

Increased support from alumni and friends has allowed the Appalachian State University Alumni Association to raise scholarship amounts for Alumni Memorial Scholarship recipients. For the first time, the association has offered $2,000 to each new recipient, up from $1,500 last year. This year, a total of five sons and daughters of alumni were presented the scholarship.

“We’ve gone from giving one student a $1,000 scholarship in 1988 to awarding five students $2,000 each in 2002. This year’s increase has been made possible by the generous support to the Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund during the ‘Campaign for the Second Century’ and continued purchases of Appalachian license tags from the Department of Motor Vehicles. These gifts signify one’s pride in Appalachian, while also helping make a difference in a young person’s life,” said Barbara Burgin, assistant vice chancellor for alumni affairs.

Thirty-four scholarships have been awarded since the program began. It is renewable based on academic achievement. This year’s recipients are Sarah-Davis Cagie of Goldsboro, Catie Marie Cain of Hickory, Adrianna Nicole DiBernardi of Hudson, Tracey Leannah Ginn of Boone, and William Harward Page of Pfafftown.

The alumni association presents other scholarships each spring. Allison Waller of Lilburn, Georgia, was awarded the Jack and Julie Allen Scholarship. Danielle Gean Cooper of Charlotte received the Mecklenburg Chapter Scholarship. Ryan Carl Pryor of Charlotte received the Bob Allen Scholarship. Lauren Hastings of Forest City and Jenna Gates of Harrisburg received The Fred T. and Priscilla S. Robinette Scholarship for Appalachian Ambassadors.

For scholarship application information, visit www.alumni.appstate.edu/Scholarship.html
Taylors, SC, 82, ’55. sales manager, NBPTS certified in Early 89, Fayetteville, Jan. as financial analysis presi-
Navarre, FL, Sandra Shu-
Matthews, Gail Gaskin Mills 86, Mount Airy, and Stephen Carey, special consultant with Teen Pregnancy 84, Cherryville, Jan. 17, retired and Ger-
John Keeton Brenda McCaslin 86, Charlotte, Dec. 16, retired educator.

Class Notes and Alumni News

Nancy Hunter Steele, 86, Cleveland, Feb. 9, retired educator.
Ralph J. Smitherman, 100, East Bend, Dec. 10, retired teacher and principal.
Faye Platt Blackwellder, 87, China Grove, Jan. 14, retired teacher.
Lindsey E. Cagle, Granite Falls, Nov. 15.
Flora Pittman Brim, 87, Mount Airy, April 9.
John R. Phillips, 89, Fayetteville, Jan. 11, retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and from the State of N. C.
Florence Wooley Barnhardt, 80, Clemmons, Jan. 6, retired teacher.
Myrtle Hudson Hoyle, 75. Morganton, March 9, retired teacher and business owner.
James E. Mathis Sr., ’78. Granite Quarry, Dec. 13, retired educator; sur-
vived by wife, Mary Stove Mathis ’47.
Robert O. Poplin Jr., ’86, Mount Airy, Feb. 8, retired principal.
Virginia A. Sprinkle, 86, Pafftown, Feb. 4, retired teacher.
Rachel Boyston Mason, 88, Charlotte, March 24, retired teacher and principal.
Bessie Jo Walker Hollingsworth, 84, Pinhurts, Feb. 1, retired librarian.
ness, Knoxville, TN, Beverly Hinson Dowdy, accessions/serials librarian, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK. Sara Davidson Whitaker, principal, Gray’s Creek Middle School, Hope Mills.


\textbf{RETIREMENTS:} Blake Jones, as principal at Taylorsville Elementary School, Taylorsville.


\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Nancy Lewis Living-stone, published novel, Against Their Will. She was also a winner in the Writer’s Digest writing contest. She is a sales associate at Century 21 Vicki Berry Realty, Raleigh. W. Michael Gray, promoted to rank of Commander, USNR-R. He is the biology department chair at Asheville-Bun-
combe Technical Community College, Asheville. Mara Scharf Lovejoy, NBPTS certified in Early Adolescent Young Adult Education. She is a healthful living teacher at Central Davidson Mid-
school, Lexington. Jim Buggarner, High Point Merchants Associations Member of the Year award. He is president of The Joseph Dean Company, High Point, Princess Haddock Lip-
scomb received National Board Certification in the area of Early Childhood Generalist. She is a kindergarten teacher at Woodruff Primary School, Woodruff, SC. Edward Klaus, special recognition for achievements in recovery of the City of Houston from tropical storm Allison. He is a hazard mitigation officer for the state of Texas, Austin, TX.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} Bill Fletcher, president, Bureau of Security Specialists, Inc., Wilkesboro. He is also vice president of N. C. Association of Private Investigators. Ruth Grigg Holland, social worker, Clinton City Schools, Clinton. Christo-
pher Rhodes, director of professional development, N. C. Association of Realtors, Greensboro. Tricia Parish, consultant with Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives, Women’s Health Branch, Division of Public Health, Raleigh. Larry Harris, CPA/certified financial planner, Skidmore, Dun-
can, Harris and Burlington, Asheville.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Teresa Jarrett, elected president of Association of N. C. Cancer Registrars. She is cancer registrar at Tenant Healthcare Corporation, Hickory. N. Erskine Smith Jr., Mooresville Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and Western N. C. Firefighter of the Year. He is assistant town manager with the Town of Mooresville, Mooresville.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} Jerry Wood, town administra-
tor, Town of Woodfin, Asheville. Jack Pen-
nington, chief operating officer elected to third consecutive term as chairman of the board, Cir-
rus Media Group, Ltd., London, UK. He was also
elected to the European Telecommunications Board. R. Michael Rollins, sales manager, Washington State Employees Credit Union Ser-
vice Organization, Olympia, WA. Virgil Evans II, vice president hotel comptroller, Centrex Proper-
ties, Inc., Goldsboro. Diana Hartley Goldman, assistant principal, Duncan Elementary School, Fort Hood, TX.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Michael Hudson, president Theatre Directors Association Fairfax County and Board of Directors and Secondary Division Chair of Virginia Theatre Association. He is the theatre director at Centreville High School, Clifton, VA. David Hedberg, Wake County Employee of the Year. He is an IT analyst at Wake County GIS, Raleigh.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} Brenda McCanin McLean, vice president, BB&T, Thomasville. Ann Pardue Talton, teacher, English as second lan-
guage for adults, Horry County Public Schools, Socastee Adult Education Center, Myrtle Beach, SC.

\textbf{WEDDINGS:} Lee Ann Haas and William Bost, China Grove, Dec. 22. Denise Barnett and Ger-

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Sandra Shu-
maker received National Board Certification for teachers. She is the department chair of family and consumer sciences at South Caldwell High School, Hudson.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} Dawn Wilson, commander 90th medical operations squadron, U. S. Air Force, Cheyenne, WY. Vnene Chatmon, pro-
fessor of applied academics, Kentucky Commu-
nity and Technical College, Louisville, KY. Kathy Metcalfe Petersen, owner, KP Communi-
tcations, Asheville. Cathy Dominick Massett, master facilitator, School Improvement County Office, Cobb County School District, Marietta, GA. Dean Mills, director of sales-North America, T/R Sys-
tems, Inc., Norcross, GA. Craig James, chief executive officer, Person Memorial Hospital, Roxboro.

\textbf{WEDDINGS:} Linda Welker and Stephen Carey, Flower Mound, TX, Sept. 8.

\textbf{RETIREMENTS:} John Keeton, Navarre, FL, from U. S. Coast Guard. He is a pilot at ExecutiveJet Aviation. John Spicer, as financial analysis manager at Lowe’s Companies, North Wilkes-
boro, after 21 years of service.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Gail Gaskin Mills, licensed realtor-N. C. and S. C., Allen Tate Real-

\textbf{REUNION:} Erin Elam and Gerry Pearson, Huntersville, Nov. 30.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Craig Mundy, Matthews, Radio Ink magazine Street Fighter of The Year finalist and National Sales Award, WSOC FM Radio Infinity Broadcasting. Cindy Lambert, awarded Qualified 401K Administrator designa-
tion by American Society of Pension Actuaries. She is vice president/defined contribution at W. E. Stanley and Company, Inc., Greensboro. Tim Wesemann, three books published, Seasona under the Sun, Being a Good Dad When You Did’n’t Have One, and Dr. Levo’s Likeliest Spots Devo-
tions. He is a freelance writer and speaker, Saint Louis, MO.

\textbf{DEATHS:} Susan Fraley, master’s of public administration, Troy State University. She is the crime stoppers coordinator for Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Largo, FL.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} DeeAnne Ward Lancaster, director of accounting/development, Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden. David Chambiere, direc-
tor for customer systems IT, AT&T Wireless, Greensboro. Paula Stone Rosor, office sys-
tems technology instructor, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh. Michael Quisett, chief resident, Hamot Family Medicine Resi-
dency, Hamot Medical Center, Erie, PA. Julian Trail Jr., dean, Levine School of Music, Washing-
ton, DC. Mark Linville, sales representative, Packaging Services, Inc., Rockwell. Betty Ever-
hart Howard, consumer and sales service manager, News & Record, Greensboro.

\textbf{NEWS:} Leslie and Mark French, Taylors, SC, a daughter, Abigail Regina, Oct. 23.

\textbf{RETIREMENTS:} Phillip Ray, as major in the U.S. Air Force, after 20 years of service. He also received the Defense Mentorship Service Medal and the NRO Silver Superior Service Medal. He is an aerospace consultant to the National Recon-
nnaissance Office at Sictor Corporation, Washing-
ton, DC. Frankie Wilson, as assistant principal at C. B. Elner Elementary School, Ekin, after 33 years of service.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Laurie Smith, achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. She is a teacher at Pisgah High School, Canton. John Pearson, Wilkesboro, completed course study and passed General Securities Representative Examination, Series 7 and Series 65 Exams, administered by NASD. J. Pernell Collett, degree of Advanced Toastmaster, Bronze Level, Toastmasters International. He is a social studies teacher with Davidson County Schools, Thomasville.

\textbf{NEW POSITIONS:} Gregory Proctor, presi-
dent, The Windsor Group, LLC, Lexington, KY. Doug Keel, regional sales director, Dallas/Austin region, OxoXchange, com, Pflugerville, TX.


\textbf{DEATHS:} Beth and Doug Keel, Pflugerville, TX, a son, Colby Brian, Nov. 5.

\textbf{AWARDS/HONORS:} Jack Christian, achieved Chartered Financial Analyst designa-
tion. He is senior vice president at Wachovia
Eustace Conway ’86, the subject of The Last American Man, teaches life skills at Turtle Island Preserve. The preserve targets elementary classes to business professionals with camps and workshops.

New Book Spreads Alum’s Message of Simple Living

Eustace Conway ’86 has been a local celebrity of sorts in the High Country for years. Often dressed in buckskins like Daniel Boone, Conway espouses the philosophy of simple living.

With the publication of The Last American Man (Viking), the Appalachian State University alum has taken on the epic proportions of a living legend.

Published May 13, 2002, and already in its third printing, The Last American Man chronicles Conway’s life and his passionate commitment to an archaic lifestyle. At Turtle Island Preserve, a thousand-acre primitive skills camp near Deep Gap, he lives without the amenities of modern life. He washes in a stream, makes his own clothes, and grows or kills his own food. His teachings have won him the hearts of admirers both near and far, including Elizabeth Gilbert’s, the book’s author.

“Eustace’s drive and personality connect to the 19th-century American ideal-based masculinity,” Gilbert told the Asheville Citizen-Times. “Today’s man is a great deal better off…. But Eustace has skills to make anything work…. You can drop him into the Alaska wilderness, and he would come out with a nicely built house,” she said.

As described in a Chicago Tribune review, “Gilbert sees in Conway’s life a parable for our time… We have forgotten what freedom means just as surely as we have forgotten where our food comes from… Conway sought respite in the woods where, like iconic American heroes, he practiced Emersonian self-reliance to a fault.”

In a Washington Post review, Jennifer Greenstein writes that, “Gilbert sees Conway as a remnant of America’s frontier tradition, the last brave, resourceful pioneer we have. But she isn’t reluctant to tell us that he can also be petty, stubborn and unrealistic. Her witty, graceful narrative provides an absorbing portrait of an intriguing man.”

For a man at home in the woods, and comfortable with slaughtering chickens and mending fences, the publicity rounds associated with the book’s promotion in New York City proved a challenge. “I could hardly stand the noise and the car exhaust,” Conway told the Asheville Citizen-Times. “It completely wore me out.”

But, according to Gilbert, Conway has sought publicity for his message. With the mass-marketing of The Last American Man, and a potential movie contract with Ron Howard, it’s likely he’ll get more attention than he bargained for.

–Kate Cahow
DECEASED: Ron Jennings, master of science in organizational management, Pfeiffer University. He is a captain in the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office, Charlotte.


WEDDINGS: David Bloom and Tracy Sharkey, Vienna, VA, Oct. 27.


AWARDS/HONORS: Kathy Cozort Oliver, Watauga County Teacher of the Year. She is a second grade teacher at Green Valley School, Boone. Matheny, named N. C. Middle School Principal of the Year by National Association of Secondary School Principals. He is principal at Millers Creek Intermediate School, Millers Creek. Beverly Huffman Veals, Newton, received the first Suzy Komen Award from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the National Distance Running Hall of Fame. Melissa Ryan Wade, elected president of Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges. She was also elected commissioner for the Commission of Massage Therapy Accreditation. She is vice president of compliance at Steiner Education Group, Pompano Beach, FL.


WEDDINGS: Terry Tunstill and Stuart Davis, Hickory, Nov. 3.


1998 AWARDS/HONORS: Thomas Hoffman, Lawton, OK, promoted to major in the U.S. Army. Doug Shank, Williamstown, KY, elected president of the Northern Kentucky City County Administrator’s Association. Richard Watts Jr., named Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Principal of the Year in Wachovia Principal of the Year awards competition. He is principal at Gibson Elementary School, Winston-Salem. Stan Latta, earned Certified Park and Recreation Professional designation. He is vice president at NCI, Raleigh. Mark Hudec, Glade Hill, VA, elected to a term on the Franklin County YMCA Board of Directors. He was also elected to a term on the Franklin County Charter School Board of Directors. Susan Stockard Reed, Orlando, FL, Teacher of the Year at Azalea Park Elementary School.

NEW POSITIONS: Renee Adams Snipes, purchasing manager, Fun-Tee’s, Inc., Concord.

Terry Oliver, district sales manager, Bardag, Inc., Raleigh. Daniel Ayscue, group vice president/senior market lender, South Trust Bank, Gastonia. Brad Burris, national accounts manager, InterMune, Inc., Brisbane, CA. Chris Rohrbach, professional pharmaceutical sales representative, Purdue Pharma, Stamford, CT. Kathryn Yang, assistant clinical director/president of medical staff, Augusta Mental Health Institute, Augusta, ME.


AWARDS/HONORS: Lee Ann Thrillik Luman, recipient of the First Union Award for Outstanding Educator of the Year. She is a kindergarten teacher at Granite Falls Elementary School, Granite Falls. Susan Sentell Newman, elected by faculty as Teacher of the Year. She is a second grade teacher at Tryon Elementary School, Tryon. Crista Westbrook Toler, Wrightsville Beach, received Entrepreneur of the Year award from WICCA Cape Fear Women of Achievement. She was also elected to the board of directors for Contemporary Ceramic Studios Association.

DECEASED: Bill Goins, master’s in school administration, Appalachian State University. He is assistant principal at Surry Central High School, Dobson. Jerry Bohnsack, Pleasant Garden, MBA, UNC-Greensboro. Joy Bell, director of musical arts, organ performance, Rice University. He is an organist at First Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX.


Virginia Young Johnson, 73, Mineral, Jan. 17, retired teacher.

Farrell G. Anderson, 65, Chesapeake, VA, Jan. 6, retired teacher; survived by wife, Judith Lewis Anderson ‘62.

Tillney Hartley Salseed, 62, Brevard, CA, Jan. 12, teacher at Fern Drive Elementary School.


Ernest L. Baggott Jr., 59, Sanford, April 20, funeral director. Richard F. “Dick” Burkhardt, 57, Whiteville, instructor at Southeastern Community College.


James E. Johnson, 62, Valdese, Oct. 31, retired media specialist.


Eric M. Gaddy, 49, Wilkesboro, April 2, owner of Gaddy Motor Company.

Loys S. “Steven” Drum, 55, Blowing Rock, April 4, retired human resources manager at NAOCO Materials Handling Group.

Barry W. Ridley, 48, Elberon, Nov. 8, principal at Mineral Springs School.


Dennis P. Rice, 45, Winston-Salem, Feb. 22.

Takahiro Takayama, 41, Winston- Salem, April 15, general manager of Angato Restaurants.
Isabel Eggers Zuber ’54 read Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights every year when she was growing up. It remains her favorite novel. Now she has a skillfully crafted, beautifully written novel of her own, Salt (Picador), which some critics have described as “styled...in the tradition of Emily Bronte.” Indeed, Isabel does for the mountains that surround Boone what Bronte did for the moors of England. A sense of place is one of Salt’s finest achievements. Zuber has said that “place, the North Carolina mountains themselves, was the most powerful inspiration for Salt.”

Salt, published this spring, traces the joys and sorrows of a passionate but troubled marriage in early twentieth-century Appalachia. “Long hours of listening to family stories, reading, and research went into the writing of Salt,” the author says. The mountains, a home in a college town in which she was surrounded by books and good talkers, made her a voracious reader early. Books have taken her through a lifetime. She always planned to write a novel.

Zuber’s father, Herman Eggers, Appalachian’s long-time registrar and advisor to generations of students, read to the family every evening. Her uncle, Gladon Eggers, was the chair of the Department of English and standard-bearer for quality at the then Appalachian State Teachers College. He called books to her attention, later taught her, and participated vigorously in the family storytelling.

She had good teachers who encouraged reading and writing. At Appalachian’s Demonstration School, held in Chapell Wilson Hall, “Tommy” Thompson pronounced, “Write!” and she wrote every week. At Appalachian, the legendary Dave Hodgins demanded, “Write about what you know!” English professor Cratis Williams exercised powerful motivation, stimulation, and inspired even more enthusiasm. There is one character in Salt who bears resemblance to Williams.

She has always loved old things, and she has a strong interest in family history and local history, particularly many of the fine points of mountain history and culture, “a way of life that has been lost.” The Washington Post observed of Salt, “...the author must be an expert on folklore, folk tales, and all things botanical...[she] invokes the clarity and magical colors of golden rod, gleaming jars of jam, fresh mountain meadows.” When asked about many aspects of mountain culture in Salt, Zuber responds, “I’ve always known it.”

Zuber graduated magna cum laude from Appalachian with a major in library science and a minor in English. After she married and had children—Jonathan and Elizabeth, to whom the book is dedicated—she wrote in bits and starts, saving things. “I’m a very Eudora Welty-like writer in that regard,” she says.

Zuber earned a master’s degree in library science from UNC Greensboro. She is currently collections development assistant at Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem where she has lived for twenty-five years.

She has published short stories and poetry in periodicals and anthologies. For her fiction, Zuber has won the Lee Smith Award from the Appalachian Writers Association, the University of Tennessee Press Prize, and Irene Leach Contest (four awards), among others.

Salt has been twenty years in the making. Zuber says the book “grew from a packet of letters from my great-grandmother to my grandmother. Very little else belonging to my grandmother had survived. As in the novel, a new wife had set out to obliterate her... Letters opened a tiny window to her experience, questions [and...] notes began what I thought would be a family history, but the dead could not be raised. The fictional Anna is not my grandmother. She is a composite as are the other characters. Perhaps some part of the truth, the past, the real thing has come into existence on the page along with the fiction.”

Zuber is at work on a second novel.

– Joanne Aldridge '55, '81 MA, '82 MA, '91 EdS

Other recent books by Appalachian alumni:

Scott Nicholson ‘96, The Red Church (Pinnacle Books/Kensington). Critics compare this first novel, based on the legend of a “haunted” Episcopal church outside Boone, to the horror works of Stephen King. Strange happenings at the church coincide with one boy’s struggle to make sense of his Christian faith.

Mark Vertreese ’94, The Brotherhood (1st Books Library). This debut novel depicts the political game plan between an upstanding U.S. president and an elite and deceptively dangerous group of men called The Brotherhood. Vertreese is a portfolio relationship sales manager with Wachovia National Bank.

D. Kelley Steele ’00 EdD, Fire In Her Hair: A story of friendship (Hidden Path Publications Inc.). The story tells of the adventures of a young girl with bright, red hair who is raised among Native Americans. It is about being different, feeling different, and then finding the strength of heart to accept our own differences and the differences found in others.
Gayle W. Teal, 62, Rural Hall, March 5, criminal justice instructor at Forsyth Technical Community College.

Gregory R. Black, 38, Salisbury, MD, Jan. 3.

Becky Comer Mann, 54, Wilkesboro, March 18, English instructor emeritus at Wilkes Community College; survived by husband, Pete Mann ‘73. T. Scott Treadway, 42, Salisbury, Feb. 10; survived by wife, Levon Liddle Treadway ‘81.

Gwendolyn Wannemacher Tyrie, 61, Boone, Jan. 12, third-grade teacher at Blowing Rock Elementary School.

Sherry Richards Rollins, 34, Abemarie, Dec. 11.

Michael L. Henderson, 37, Banner Elk, March 6, owner and operator of Appalachian Challenge Guide Service.


Janette Lucas Stanley, 48, Hickory, Nov. 15, math instructor at Catawba Valley Community College.

Erie S. Brooks, 27, Winston-Salem, May 6, computer systems engineer at Lowe’s; survived by wife, Marcia Adams Brooks ’37.

Christopher L. Durham, 29, East Bend, Nov. 14.

Jason E. McCoy, 28, Cornelius, Jan. 31, former at Draw Enterprises.

Franz E. Merrill, 24, Salisbury, March 14.

Ivan E. Colon, 32, Durham, Feb. 15, photographer.

In Memoriam

E. Miles Annas ‘42 of Charlotte, a former chairman and former member of Appalachian State University’s Board of Trustees, died May 31. He was chairman of Southern Comfort of Charlotte Inc. He was a former chairman of the Appalachian State University Foundation, former president of Appalachian’s Alumni Council, and had served on the university’s athletic council. Annas received the alumni association’s Outstanding Service Award in 1992. The student services building that houses student health services and the campus post office bears his name.

Retired businessman and philanthropist Seby B. Jones of Raleigh died June 7. Jones created several scholarships at Appalachian. He supported the university’s Yosef Endowment, An Appalachian Summer, the Harlan Boyles Lecture Series, and construction of Appalachian House. He served on the board of trustees and had been a member of the Appalachian State University Foundation. The arena in the Holmes Convocation Center was named in Jones’ honor in 2000.

Boone residents knew Jones as past owner of the Sheraton Appalachian Conference Center, now the Quality Inn, and for his support of the Seby B. Jones Regional Cancer Center at Watauga Medical Center.

Jones was a past recipient of the Outstanding Service Award, was named an honorary alumnus in 1992, received an honorary doctor of law degree in 1995, and received the Appalachian Medallion in 1999.

Class Notes and Alumni News

Melissa Kugel Smith, Cross Lanes, WV, a daughter, Allison Nicole, Aug. 28. Jack and Leslie Caldwell Puckhaber, Charleston, SC, a daughter, Emma Kate, Dec. 4.

19 Awards/Honors: Jim Woody, named Assistant Principal of the Year by N.C. Association of Educators. He is assistant principal at Weaver Education Center, Greensboro.


Paul Matney, project account manager, Republic Mortgage Insurance Company, Winston-Salem. Robert Donnelly, salesperson, Cushman & Wakefield, Parsippany, NJ, Wallace Greer, area president, Watauga County, Wachovia Corporation, Boone. Kris Hobson, director of brand, Bic’s Italy Division, TUMI Luggage, South Plainfield, NJ. Andrea McDonald Matney, chief financial officer, Forsyth County Day School, Lewisville. Nola Lopp Moore, banking officer, BB&T, Richmond, VA. Jennifer Dean Chase, assistant research data coordinator, Abbott Labs, Ross Products Division, Columbus, OH.


Births: Denise and Tommy Blinkley, Mooresville, a daughter, Kendall Blake, April 5.


Chad and Monica Carpenter Frye ’92, Greensboro, a son, Landon Gray, Oct. 5. Wayne and Sheila Chalk Prince, Raleigh, a son, William Blake, Feb. 3. Teresa and Mark Ray, Hillsborough, a son, Aidan James, Sept. 5.

Tedman and Leigh Ann Black Myers ’92, Lexington, a son, Jacob Lee, Nov. 5.

Awards/Honors: Stacy Sears, recognized as Officer of the Year by Boone Optimist Club in observation of Respect for Law week. She is a crime prevention officer at Appalachian State University police department, Boone.

Roni Peal, appointed by National Arthritis Foundation to serve on Board of Trustees for the National Arthritis Foundation. He is vice president mid-market lending at Regions Bank, NA, Little Rock, AR.

Degrees: Thomas Nye, BS in accounting, Coastal Carolina University. He is in senior sales administration at Equivest, North Myrtle Beach, SC.


**AWARDS/HO SongS:** Robert Kasser- man, selectee for Who’s Who Among International Professionals. He is a planning operations manager at RF Micro Devices, Greensboro.

**New Positions:** Kristi Holden Trickett, Corn-ing Excellence in Teaching Award for math and science K-8. She is a special education teacher at Hudson Middle School, Hudson. Roger Ruzow received grant from Chely Wright Foundation to start the first band program at Hendrix Drive Elementary School. He will also be a featured artist on Gold Sparkle Band’s fifth CD release on Squealer Records. He is the director of music at Hendrix Drive Elementary School, Forest Park, GA.


cord. Carol Lee Carstensen, band director, Midland High School, Wyoming, IA.

**WEDDINGS:**


**AWARDS/HO SongS:**

- Matthew Smith, Rocky Mount, awarded National Boards Certification for teachers. Carmen Nicholas De Nicholas, Unisys Achievement Award for Excellence. She is a product information specialist at Unisys, Lake Wylie, SC. Mark Turner, passed the BICSI RCDD exam. He is a systems engineer private networks at Corning CableSystems, Hickory.

**New Positions:**

- Stacey Stills Libbitt, State Road, MA in education, UNC-Greensboro.
- Theresa Ewing, applications design manager, RitzGreenasoon Technologies, Charlotte. Julie Westbrook, director of sales and marketing, The Chandler Collector, A Classic Concepts Com-pany, Bell, CA. Shawn Vincent, business direc-tor system diagnostic services, Children’s HealthCare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA. I. Sean Ricker, controller, Doral USA, LLC, Mequon, WI.

**AWARDS/HO SongS:**

- Virginia Rea, awarded U. S. Army Mentorship Service Medal for service as operations officer U. S. Army Reserve Emergency Operations Center in New York City during World Trade Center attack and ensuing crises. She is a major in the U. S. Army, 77th Regional Support Command, Rhus, NY. David Tutmirre, completed Patrol Officer’s Response to Street Narcotics at Regional Counter-Drug Training Center at Naval Air Station in Meridian, MS. He is a police officer with the Selmer Police Department, Selmer, TN.
- Carmen Pyles Davis, admitted to PhD Counselor Education Program at N. C. State University. She is a program manager at Caring Family Network, Fayetteville.
- Leah Harkness, master of educa-tion, Meredith College. She is an ESL teacher in Wake County Public Schools, Apex. Julie Shive-lyn, Charlotte, master of education in instruc-tional systems technology, UNC-Charlotte. She was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.

**NEW POSITIONS:**


**WEDDINGS:**


**AWARDS/HO SongS:** Teresa Sanders, earned National Board Certification. She is a teacher at Lebanon Road Elementary School, Charlotte.
Class Notes and Alumni News

DICKENS: Spencer Willbanks, Chicago, IL, MBA, Goizueta Business School, Emory University.


Please check the boxes for which you would like more information.
- NC Regional Alumni Chapters
- Appalachian Merchandise
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- Alumni News
- Appalachian/BB&T Credit Card
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- Temporary Major Medical Insurance
- Greek Alumni Scholarship Fund

If your spouse is an Appalachian alumnus, please fill in the information below.

TODAY’S DATE ____________________________ □ Address Change □ Alumni Notes

I.D. Number/SS # (Provision of Social Security number is voluntary and will only be used as a personal identifier for record keeping purposes.)

Current Name: Last First Middle/Maiden
If you prefer to be called by your middle name rather than your first, give your full name above and underline your middle name.

Title: Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr., etc.
Class Year

Spouse: Last First Middle/Maiden
Title: Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr., etc.
Class Year

Home Address: Street or Route
City State ZIP
Home Phone (area code) Home Fax (area code)
Home E-mail Address

Employer Information:

Street or Route
City State ZIP
Business Phone (area code) Business Fax (area code)
Business E-mail Address
Position/Occupation

HELP KEEP CLASS NOTES TIMELY BY REPORTING YOUR NEWS WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EVENT

Alumni News: (weddings, births, deaths, promotions, honors, and awards within the past six months)

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McKinney Alumni Center • ASU Box 32015 • Boone, NC 28608-2015
Phone: (828) 262-2038 • FAX: (828) 262-4962 • E-mail: alumni@appstate.edu
Complete this form online by going to www.alumni.appstate.edu


**REUNION:** 5th Reunion, October 26, 2002.

**AWARDS/HONORS:** Beth Tilley received Best of the Best award for highest sales in the nation in her division. She is an account executive at Muzak, Fort Mill, SC. Matthew Faw, Millers Creek, completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. Julie Neathery Wiggins, Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce Chamber Chalice Award winner. She is a fourth grade teacher at Rolesville Elementary School, Rolesville. Evan Saxton, awarded licensure as professional counselor. He is an itinerant therapist II at Manilagh Health Center, Kottezeb, AK. Mark Smith, inducted into Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, Eta Chi Chapter at East Carolina University.

**DEGREES:** Anita Brendle-Corum, master of education in early education, UNC Charlotte. She is a teacher at Bolton Elementary, Winston-Salem. Heidi Jackson Ellis, MA in special education, Appalachian State University. She is a compensation and benefits manager at Wilkes Regional Medical Center, North Wilkesboro. Amy Morris Sadler, Raleigh, master’s in accounting information systems, Virginia Tech. Leslie McInturf, master’s in education, Tuolumne College. She is a ninth grade honors English teacher at Science Hill High School, Johnson City, TN. Mark Smith, graduate certificate in tele-learning, East Carolina University.


**AWARDS/HONORS:** Chris Claridge, winner of the National Writing Institute at UNCC with a 4.0 GPA and winner of the Impact II Grant Award. She is a kindergarten teacher with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte. Les Caillion III, Asheville, selected to participate in Green River Hill Center for N. C. Art Annual Winter Show Invitational. Brian Bean, Hickory, Awards of Excellence, Distinction, and an Honorable Mention in Communicator Awards. Angela McNell, Raleigh, received the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Employers New Professional Award. John Flynn II, Taylors, SC, completed Master CIW Designer Certification. Alison Shevin, Teacher of the Year. She is an ESE teacher at The Carrie Brazer Center for Autism, Miami, FL.

**DEGREES:** Elizabeth Bergamo Bassett, MA in art education, SUNY New Paltz. She is an art educator at Valley Central High School, Montgomery, NY. Bethany Parrish Smith, associates in photography, RCC. She is a freelance photographer/photo assistant, Gadsen, AL. Emily Campbell, Harmony, master of science in accounting, UNC-G. Shane Greene, Winston-Salem, MA in history, Wake Forest University.


**NEW POSITIONS:** Ashley and John McCormick III, High Point, a daughter, Logan Bailey, Dec. 31. Jeff and...
Letters to the Editor

Readers are encouraged to share their ideas with Appalachian Today. Send correspondence to Linda Coutant, Editor, Appalachian Today, Office of Public Affairs, PO Box 32100, Boone, NC 28608-2100 or coutantla@appstate.edu

Organization Seeks Alumni Input

Dear Editor:
The National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) is getting ready to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The organization began in 1954 as the Midwest Dormitory Conference and evolved over the years into the Association of College and University Residence Halls (ACURH) and then into its current form.

We are in the process of creating a book celebrating the history of NACURH and we need help from Appalachian State University alumni. If you have any photos of NACURH or the regional conferences that you would be willing to donate, or lend, we would greatly appreciate it.

We are also trying to create a NACURH “Museum” for display at the national conferences and we need any memorabilia (+shirts, binders, gift items, etc.) that people would be willing to donate for this use.

If you would like to reach us, send an e-mail to NACURH@yahoo.com or mail to:

NACURH
1892 Commodore Point Dr.
Orange Park, FL 32003

We have also begun compiling an alumni database for mailings and e-mail updates about the organization. If alumni would like to be added to it, they should let us know.

Jon Coleman
NACURH

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Class Notes and Alumni News


AWARDS/HONORS: William Brock, awarded academic scholarship from the University of Northern Colorado. He is a student teaching supervisor at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO.

DEGREES: Lindsay Phillips, Richmond, VA, juris doctorate, The University of Richmond’s T. C. Williams School of Law. Sherri Sieler, Wilmington, BS computer science, UNCW. Barbara Bowers Vicente, Winston-Salem, MA in clinical psychology, Appalachian State University.


Kevin Fair, worker compensation claims adjuster, Key Risk Management, Greensboro.

Scott Wilson, credit officer, BB&T, High Point.

Kathryn Sowers Kaptanak, catalog librarian of Technical and Automated Services Division, F. D. Biordi Library, N. C. A&T State University, Greensboro.

Ryan Hardesty, tour manager for Atlantic recording artist Will Hoge, Nashville, TN.

Heather Presley, family caregiver support specialist, Area Agency on Aging, Boone.


BIRTHS: Jeremy and Tracey Hilton Ray '98, Thomasville, a daughter, Ivy Nicole, March 30.

AWARDS/HONORS: Karen Houston, obtained CPA license. She is a staff associate at KPMG LLP, Greensboro. Nathaniel Medlin, Indian Trail, received CPA license.

Robert Sturdivant, Charlotte, VA, awarded status of Nationally Certified Counselor. Jennifer Bubenis, San Diego, CA, appeared on The Price is Right. She is a student at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

DEGREES: W. Christopher Ellen, Bujes Creek, master of business administration, Campbell University.

NEW POSITIONS: Samantha Reed, wellness service coordinator, Winthrop University Health and Counseling Services, Rock Hill, SC. Heather Leith, marketing assistant, Heery International, P. C., Raleigh.

Patrick Hicks, quality assurance chemist, Piedmont Chemical Industries, High Point.


Leslie Steelman, legal assistant, U.S. Attorneys Office, Civil Division, Raleigh.

Joe Gibbons, financial services representative, First Citizens Bank, Charlotte.


David Ayers and Amanda Shore, Kernersville, Aug. 4.

Sara Elliott and Andrew Tsidale, Rutherfordford, Dec. 8.


Kristen Bolen and Brian Westmoreland, Raleigh, TX, Oct. 12.

BIRTHS: Robin and Amy Robertson Davis '98, Lewistown, a son, Robert Teo, Feb. 11. Derrick and Denise Clemmons Reynolds, Winston-Salem, a daughter, Denae Victoria, Sept. 15.


Melanie Wiesthal, admissions counselor, Lanor-Rhyne College, Hickory. Alison Jenkins, human resources assistant, EquiFirst, Charlotte.


Irene Lockamy and Christopher Phipps, Fayetteville, Nov. 3.


Misty Bishop and Junior Price, Millers Creek, Aug. 4.


BIRTHS: Emily and Aaron Wilson, Boone, a daughter, Anna Kathleen, Sept. 30.

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Friday, October 25

**Spirit Under the Stars**
6:00-9:00 p.m., Duck Pond Field  
Come out on Friday night to the Mountaineer pep rally where the Appalachian spirit won’t disappear. The pep rally will be headed up by the ever-popular student lip sync contest and then followed by a bonfire, breathtaking fireworks and celebration music. Sponsored by Campus Resident Student Association, Appalachian Student Programs, Athletic Department, Alumni Association, and Appalachian/BB&T credit cards.

**Alumni Awards Banquet**
6:00-9:00 p.m., Trillium Ballroom, Broyhill Inn  
Hear about astonishing accomplishments from award-winning alumni. The Distinguished Alumni Awards and Outstanding Service Awards will be presented. $22 per person, advance reservations required.

**Dazzle Dance**
9:30 p.m.-Midnight, Broyhill Room, Broyhill Inn  
DJ Chad Sain ’84 will once again conjure up a good time for everyone. Free admission. Potions (beer, wine and mixers) must be purchased on site; BYO liquor. Sponsored by the Homecoming Dance Patrons.

Saturday, October 26

**Appalachian Friends Breakfast**
9:00-10:00 a.m., McKinney Alumni Center  
Drop by the alumni center for a complimentary continental breakfast (biscuits, fruit, drinks) before the parade. Sponsored by Dan ’Boone Inn.

**Homecoming Parade**
10:00 a.m. The parade will wind around campus beginning on Rivers Street and ending on King Street. Sponsored by the Student Government Association.

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**Homecoming Dance Patron Program**
By becoming a dance patron, you can help make Homecoming a success! As a thank you for your sponsorship of only $100, you will receive:
- Two complimentary tickets to the Crystal Ball
- The privilege of booking a room at Broyhill Inn for the weekend
- Recognition as a dance sponsor throughout the weekend

Rooms at Broyhill Inn are limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. For a dance patron reservation form, email the McKinney Alumni Center at alumni@appstate.edu, or call 828-262-2038.

**Magician’s Tailgate Party**
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Duck Pond Field  
It is no illusion - this is the place to be on Homecoming Day! Come by the black & gold alumni tent prior to the football game for music, giveaways, food vendors, and lots of Mountaineer magical fun. Sponsored by the Alumni Association and Appalachian Popular Programming Society.

**Class Reunions**
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Alumni Headquarters, Duck Pond Field  
All members from the Classes of 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1977, and 1972 are encouraged to meet at the black & gold alumni tent during the Tailgate Party. Reunion directories and class member memories will be on display.

**ASU vs. Wofford Football Game**
2:00 p.m., Kidd Brewer Stadium  
Watch the Mountaineers as they put a spell on the Wofford Terriers. Game tickets may be purchased in advance by calling 800-919-APPS. Check out www.goASU.com for the latest Appalachian sports information.

**National PanHellenic Council Greek Step-Show**
8:00 p.m., Farthing Auditorium  
Call 828-262-6252 for additional information.

**Crystal Ball**
8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Trillium Ballroom, Broyhill Inn  
Enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres while you are mesmerized by the talents of General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board. Potions (beer, wine & mixers) to be purchased on site; BYO liquor. $12.50 per person in advance, $15 day of the dance. Sponsored by the Homecoming Dance Patrons.

**Council for Cultural Awareness After Party**
10:00 p.m., Legends  
Call 828-262-3032 for additional information.

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**General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board**
As educators, Jim and Elaine Jones helped shape Appalachian State University in the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s. As retirees, they’re ensuring its future through charitable gift planning.

For the past six years, they have annually purchased a charitable gift annuity. They direct the remainder interests from these gift annuities to two endowments: the Jim Jones Scholarship Endowment and the James F. Jones Endowed Fund, created by friends and colleagues in honor of Jim’s retirement as teacher and administrator.

Learn how you can help yourself and the university by visiting Appalachian’s “Gift Planning” Web site. This new site also features:

- Donor honor rolls
- Donor services
- Annual gift information
- Frequently asked questions about financial contributions to Appalachian

www.give.appstate.edu