Cultural Exchange
There's strength in collaboration
Coming to Appalachian!

Oct. 3-6
“His Not a Pipe Dream,” Department of Theatre and Dance, 8 p.m. Valborg Theatre; plus 2 p.m. matinee Oct. 7

Oct. 5-Jan. 3, 2008
Holla Chesrian: Antiques to Abstracts, Turchin Center for the Visual Arts

Oct. 20
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Pahaning Auditorium

Oct. 25-27
North Carolina Dance Festival, Department of Theatre and Dance, 8 p.m. Valborg Theatre

Oct. 30
Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Pahaning Auditorium

Nov. 8
Novelist Robert Morgan, Visiting Writers Series, 7:30 p.m. Plemmons Student Union

Nov. 9
Seán Curran Dance Company, Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Pahaning Auditorium

Jan. 26, 2008
Golden Dragon Acrobats, Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Pahaning Auditorium

For a complete listing of cultural events on campus and admission information, visit Appalachian’s Arts Calendar at www.thearts.appstate.edu

A Vote of Confidence

This summer, the N.C. General Assembly approved a state budget that demonstrates higher education is a priority in this state, and all of us at Appalachian State University are pleased with this vote of confidence.

Appalachian received full funding to cover enrollment growth, as well as funds to construct a new, much-needed college of education building. I extend my sincere appreciation to Gov. Mike Easley, UNC President Erskine Bowers and our legislative leaders for their unwavering commitment to higher education, and to the alumni and special friends of Appalachian who worked diligently in Raleigh to spread the message of Appalachian’s contributions to the state and region. These people include Appalachian Alumni Association leaders Damien Carper and Jon Parks, and the university’s Student Government Association President Forrest Gilliam.

While we start the 2007-08 academic year on this high note, we are also saddened by the loss of our dear friend Mariam Cannon Hayes. Her heartfelt generosity, combined with her sincere interest in personal relationships, made a difference for so many young people at Appalachian. She will never be forgotten.

My desire is that young people continue to be inspired through opportunities. That is what we do at Appalachian. In the following pages, you will read the latest of what Appalachian offers: a new scholarship for select students, incredible cultural exchanges, and career possibilities born from the state’s need for more teachers.

Recognition from national publications and agencies confirms Appalachian’s quality, both as an institution and a return on investment. Our students excel nationally in their fields, as evidenced by the appropriate technology students’ back-to-back P3 Awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the financial planning students’ first-place win at the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants (IARFC) competition.

I believe Appalachian’s reputation will rise even more. The freshman class, for instance, continues to increase in academic quality. This year’s 2,775 freshmen have a grade point average of 3.7 and average SAT score of 1153. Fourteen percent come from underrepresented populations, the largest percentage in a freshman class to date. Nearly 13,000 young people applied for admission. Students increasingly are turning to Appalachian for their graduate education, too. The Nazir D. Williams Graduate School reports a record number of applications: 2,198 – a 25 percent increase over last year. More than 700 graduate students have enrolled this fall, and I expect graduate education to continue to grow on this campus in the coming years.

The university’s administration has been enhanced with the addition of Susan Petryjohn, who has returned to her native North Carolina as Appalachian’s new vice chancellor for university advancement. Soon we will welcome a new director of human resource services, after concluding a national search in August to fill the position.

As Appalachian Today magazine goes to press, we again are enjoying the warmth of the chancellor’s column Boone, NC 28608-2153, (828) 262-2342.

Appalachian State University:
www.appstate.edu
Admissions:
www.admissions.appstate.edu
Athletics:
www.goasu.com
Human Resource Services:
www.hrs.appstate.edu
University Advancement:
www.give.appstate.edu

Appalachian State University is committed to excellence in the education of its students. As an equal opportunity institution, it is the policy of Appalachian that no person shall be excluded or discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity, or marital status. Appalachian State University is committed to actively promotes diversity among students and employees. It does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity, or marital status.

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Mountaineers ‘Rock’ the ‘Big House’

Before 109,000 stunned fans, the Mountaineers run the field in celebration of their stupendous 34-32 win against University of Michigan. Called the biggest upset in the history of college football, the Mountaineers’ season opener in Michigan’s “Big House” garnered media attention across the world, including weekend-long coverage on ESPN, a cover story in Sports Illustrated and coverage in Beijing’s China Daily News. The New York Times reported that after Appalachian’s victory, the NCAA’s top teams “will probably be more selective in scheduling those early games.”
I want (students) to know that I am their advocate, that it is my pleasure to work with them, and that I want them to be successful in my class and in their own future classrooms.

—MELANIE GREEN, a professor in the Reich College of Education, winner of a 2007 Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UNC Board of Governors

Challenging courses, accessible faculty, and welcoming administrators are among its treasures. Professors take their roles as educators beyond the classroom to serve as mentors and advisors within a cohesive community.

—THE PRINCETON REVIEW, in describing Appalachian as one of 186 “best values” for undergraduate education.

Metallica’s Kirk Hammett impresses

Appalachian is becoming well known for its diverse music program, something that will become even stronger in the next few years.

—ADAM HAMMER, former president of the Appalachian Steel Drums Association

**QUOTES TO PONDER**

**NUMBERS**

“The Impacts of Global Warming on North Carolina’s Coastal Economy” – a report released this summer by Appalachian, UNC-Wilmington, East Carolina University and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research Duke University – gave startling figures on the future of the state’s popular beaches.

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**Appalachian Today**/Jul 30

*Appalachian TODAY*

6

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“We are very pleased that the number of applications for the fall 2007 term is up 11% from last year, said Admissions Director Paul Hiatt. ‘It’s an exciting time for all of us as the admissions team works hard to enroll the brightest students.’

Pettyjohn joins Appalachian’s senior administrative team.

The university also awarded summer grants to 20 faculty members to design and implement new courses that reflect the updated educational goals.

“1. Of my priorities for Appalachian is to maintain and continually improve our outstanding undergraduate educational program, especially in the transferrable skills and knowledge fostered by general education,” said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Stan Auselmann.

**DIFFERENT NATIONS, SAME PASSION:** One hundred soccer players representing 20 countries gathered for the first-ever Appalachian’s People of the Planet Soccer Tournament this spring as part of campus’s 4th Annual Diversity Celebration. The queen brought together Appalachian students, faculty and staff and local players representing their nation of origin to celebrate diversity on the soccer field. Elementary school students participated by carrying small flags and escorting players to the field. The tournament was so successful that a repeat event is being planned for April 2008. For details, contact computer science professor Ruhman Taskehkeri at rta@appstate.edu. Learn more about Appalachian’s commitment to diversity at www.odi.appstate.edu/diversity.

**No more paper applications**

It’s the end of an era. The days of filling out a paper application for admission to Appalachian are over.

Beginning this academic year, the Office of Admissions is accepting only online applications, except in special circumstances. The percentage of online applications being submitted by prospective students has been increasing steadily for many years – reaching 95 percent in 2006-07 – so the transition is quite seamless, said Admissions Director Paul Hiatt.

The online application process is easier and offers a faster response to prospective students, which means they can immediately begin checking online to track their admissions status and receive further information about campus visits and other news,” Hiatt said.

Admission to Appalachian is competitive and is based on a review of each applicant’s academic qualifications, test scores and personal qualities. Prospective students can apply and enroll at Appalachian through a new personal admissions Web site called First Connections. Learn more at www.admissions.appstate.edu.
$2.8 million in gifts benefit campus programs

There were major gifts made to the Appalachian State University Foundation Inc. in honor of individuals who are enhancing opportunities for students and the community.

Turchin Center for the Visual Arts

An anonymous family with ties to Appalachian made a $500,000 cash donation to the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts (TCVA) in honor of Peter Petschauer, who retired from the Department of History after 28 years of teaching. He now serves as the center’s advisory board chairman.

The gift provides enough funding to pay off construction costs of the Turchin Center, which opened in 2003, and strengthens private funding for the center’s arts programming.

Harper Hall

Ron Harper of Charlotte made a $1 million cash gift in honor of his wife, Katherine Harper, to support Appalachian’s Department of Technology. The university named the building that houses the department in her honor.

Katherine Harper is co-founder of global printing equipment supplier Harper Corporation of America.

The gift provides $380,000 to purchase and upgrade Stegasophoric-related equipment, $100,000 to establish the Katherine Harper Scholarship Endowment for Harper Corporation employees or their children, $400,000 to purchase equipment and upgrade materials in all of the department of Technology programs, and $200,000 to fund emerging technological needs and priorities identified by faculty and department leaders.

Goodnight Family Sustainable Development Program

Watauga County businessman Peter Walsh has completed a gift in 2005 of approximately 25 acres of land valued at more than $1.3 million. The gift establishes the Thomas Walsh and Audrey Goodnight Endowment for Sustainable Development.

The Goodnight Family Sustainable Development Program – an academic and outreach program committed to academic interdisciplinary study, environmental education and awareness, and sustainable community outreach and development.

The program’s assistant director of outreach, He and Brown are longtime friends who have worked together on a variety of economic and sustainable development projects in the region.

Mountaineers win German Commissioner’s cups

For the eighth time in school and conference history and the second-consecutive year, Appalachian won both the Southern Conference’s Commissioner’s and Germann Cups for 2006-07. The cups are presented annually to the league’s top all-around men’s and women’s athletics programs.

Appalachian is the only school in SoCon history and the second-consecutive year, to win both cups in the same year.

The German Cup is the eighth overall and second in 15 years for the Mountaineer women. They were league champions in indoor track and field, and second-place winners in volleyball, cross country and outdoor track and field.

Learn more at www.gsu.com/Board_of_Trustees/appstate.edu/board_of_trustees/
Shazia Naz had never ventured outside of her country before, but a newspaper ad soliciting applicants for a summer academic institute in the United States changed all that.

Naz, who lives in the Sindh Province of Pakistan, was one of 15 secondary-level biology teachers selected by the Fulbright Commission to attend a six-week training program at Appalachian in July and August. They spent four weeks strengthening their skills in science, educational technology, teaching and English. Then, they spent two weeks applying what they learned by team teaching in Watauga County Schools. While in the public schools, they also shared information about their native culture with children in social studies and other non-science classes.

“Appalachian has a strong commitment and interest in expanding its service mission beyond the U.S. borders,” said Jesse Lutabingwa, the university’s associate vice chancellor for international education and development. “This project is part of the new effort by the Office of International Education and Development to engage Appalachian in international development and short-term training and exchange activities in the regions of the world where traditionally we have not been involved.”

The program was funded by a $124,782 grant from the U.S. Department of State through the International Institute of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. Strengthening education in Pakistan and broadening mutual understanding between Americans and Pakistanis were its goals.

Despite concerns about Americans’ perceptions of Pakistanis, dietary issues related to the Muslim faith, and a first-ever plane ride lasting more than 17 hours, Naz was eager to participate in the program.

Her motivation, like that of others chosen for the program, was to become a better teacher by learning new ways to teach. In Pakistan, teachers are specialists in their particular subject area but don’t receive specific teacher training as their American counterparts do.

“We want to learn more about the different technologies and methods...
The teachers also will be able to maintain contact with Ap- palachian professors and create online learning communities for their students and students in Watauga County.

Getting feedback on her teach- ing method was one of the most valuable aspects of the program, according to Haider, who learned how to develop effective teaching plans based on the five E’s: en- gage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate.

Appalachian biology professor Max Das said that approach is especially useful when teaching abstract concepts. “They saw how engaging the students through activities keeps them interested and curious throughout the les- son,” he said.

“I saw what I’m doing that might not help the students and how I can make them better,” she said. “It’s a new and interesting way to look at things. I do that very good and are helping the students, what I’m doing that might not help the students and how I can make them better. I was not getting this assurance in Pakistan,” Haider said.

The teachers also learned that it doesn’t always take a big budget or the latest technology to have effective learning materials, thanks to Das and biology professor Michael Windelspecht. They took the teachers to Boone Creek on campus to test water samples and collect mushrooms. They learned to use empty soda bottles to create small aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and how to use an eye dropper and a small coin to teach about the properties of water molecules.

“We realized we can use everyday items that are around us to create activities that will increase student attention and interest in the class,” Haider said.

Other teachers in Pakistan will benefit from the institute as well. “We realized we can use everyday items that are around us to create activities that will increase student attention and interest in the class,” Haider said.

“I’m very impressed that people with so many different back- grounds worked together. This has been a really good sharing experi- ence for both sides. While in the public schools, the Pakistani teachers shared the similarities in what students in their country and students in our country are doing. It’s good that students see that,” she said.

“Learning about their culture really did make me see things differently,” said Brooke Trivette, a sophomore at Watauga High School.

“Learning about their culture really did make me see things differently,” - Brooke Trivette, a sophomore at Watauga High School.

Legislature funds $34 million for new education facility

This summer, the North Carolina General Assem- bly approved $34.5 million for Appalachian State University to construct a new education building – a capital project that underscores Appalachian’s longtime commitment to preparing the best teachers for North Carolina.

The 120,000-square-foot building will house all programs currently based in Eshun Duncan Hall, which was built in 1965 for a student population just one-third of what the Reich College of Education now supports. The facility will provide additional class- rooms, faculty offices and clinical training space, improved technology and handicap access, and a “gathering hall” with catering kitchen and space for up to 300 people that is ideal for expanding Appalachian’s collaboration with off-campus partners.

“This will be a destination for the region’s teachers and agri- culture,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. “A new facility has been needed for a long time, and now Appalachian will be able to train more teachers and further strengthen our sense of community with the public schools in a building that truly reflects the importance of this academic program.”

Two state leaders instrumental in securing the legislative funding were Rep. Collie Tarleton (D-D3) and Sen. Steve Goss (D-43). Tarleton said in a statement after the General Assembly approved the 2007-08 state budget, “This building will allow the university to expand its teacher training program, a critical part of its mission as the teacher shortage all across North Carolina persists. AIS graduates more classroom teachers than any of the UNC-system universities.”

ROE produces 15 percent of the teachers from the UNC system, the largest percentage of any of the 15 institutions preparing teachers.

Even with Appalachian graduating 400 to 450 teachers annu- ally, North Carolina needs about 11,000 new teachers every year. This includes about 5,000 new positions created based on student enrollment in the public schools. Under a University of North Carolina mandate to increase teacher education enrollment and the number of teacher education graduates to meet that need, Appalachian has written a Teacher Education Recruitment Plan for 2007-2010 stating it will increase its total number of teacher education graduates to more than 600 teachers by 2010.

“This building will allow the university to expand its teacher training program, a critical part of its mission as the teacher shortage all across North Carolina persists. AIS graduates more classroom teachers than any of the UNC-system universities.” — Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock
More effective recruiting

Diana Beasley had full intentions of attending medical school after finishing her bachelor’s degree in biology. Then, during her junior year at the University of Virginia, she had the opportunity to tutor local children through her sorority. That service project changed her life.

“I fell in love with the kids,” Beasley said.

She scrapped plans for medical school and became a teacher, eventually moving to North Carolina where she taught biology at Hickory High School for 18 years. Her passion and excellence in the classroom earned her the recognition as the 2010-07 North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Now, she works as Appalachian’s director of teacher education recruitment. She will work directly with Appalachian’s Office of Admissions and Reich College of Education to increase the number of students pursuing majors in teacher education.

“Without that service project, I never would have been exposed to teaching,” Beasley said. “At Appalachian, about 50 percent of Appalachian freshmen are undecided about their intended major. If we can reach out to them and let them know teaching is a career option, we can increase our numbers.”

Under its new comprehensive Teacher Education Recruitment Plan for 2007-2010, Appalachian is working to increase its annual number of teacher education graduates to more than 650.

The plan, which is awaiting approval by the UNC Board of Governors, also calls for increasing by 15 percent over the next five years the number of prospective teachers enrolled in math/science education, middle school math and science, and exceptional children’s programs, and by 6 percent over the next five years the number of prospective teachers enrolled in foreign languages.

Besides on-campus recruiting, Beasley will visit the region’s middle schools and high schools to identify and encourage young people who are interested in becoming teachers. She also will work with the 10 community colleges participating in the Appalachian Learning Alliance to encourage two-year students to also consider teaching as a career.

Appalachian created Beasley’s position in response to a UNC-system-wide study initiated by President Erskine Bowles to address the state’s annual shortage of 11,000 teachers. The UNC system hired Noel Levitz, a nationally recognized consulting firm specializing in higher education student recruitment, to guide its education colleges and programs toward developing recruitment goals and strategies.

The No. 1 recommendation from the consultants was for each school to hire someone to coordinate and direct all recruitment of future teachers. Rather than wait for additional state monies to fund such a position, Appalachian used available resources to hire someone right away.

According to the Noel-Levitz report, there are multiple contributing factors to North Carolina’s teacher shortage, but two trends amplify the demand: North Carolina’s growth rate, one of the highest in the nation, and the significant number of teachers who are approaching retirement age. Also, low teacher pay is by far the largest barrier in North Carolina, as well as nationally, in dealing with the teacher shortage crisis.

“It will be critical for North Carolina to support teacher pay improvements if it wishes to solve (its) teacher shortages,” the firm stated in its final report.

Reducing teacher turnover

Each year, North Carolina loses between 15-18 percent of its teachers through attrition. Their reasons vary, but most teachers leave because of issues related to working conditions, lack of community support, and salary. ROCE’s Dean Charles R. Duke says.

“People have begun to realize that simply graduating more teachers may not be the most effective approach, in the long run, to solving the teacher shortage problem,” Duke said. “It won’t make any difference how many we pump through the system, because they are still flowing out the back door.”

Beginning teachers, in particular, talk about isolation, lack of support, lack of time and a general sense of being overwhelmed. That’s why ROCE has initiated a project to bolster new teachers—by strengthening their connection to Appalachian and learning how to use their alma mater as a resource.

With a two-year, $310,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to address teacher turnover and retention, the university is establishing the Appalachian State University Beginning Teacher Support Network (ASU-BSN).

Alice Krueger ‘07 EdD, a national Certified® teacher with 16 years of teaching experience in all grades and in special education, has been hired as the network’s coordinator. “I was a co-operating teacher and mentor to new teachers in New Jersey, and a cooperating teacher in North Carolina. I enjoy helping new teachers get a good start,” she said.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction has a mentoring program through which each new teacher in the state is assigned a mentor from within their school; however, the support varies from district to district, Duke said. The ASU-BSN will fill in the gaps by working with schools in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes counties—all districts that belong to the Appalachian Public School Partnership.

Krueger has been meeting with school districts and teachers to determine their greatest needs and how Appalachian can assist, but the network expects to focus on three key elements:

• The network will provide opportunities for new teachers from Appalachian to establish and/or maintain relationships with the university community, their fellow graduates, and other Appalachian alumni.

• Workshops to address classroom management and other topics of concern typically faced by new teachers will be provided, as well as an online information resource.

The network also is working toward a beginning teacher support warranty stating that the Reich College of Education will augment the remediation provided by local school districts to assist any beginning teacher who is not meeting performance expectations.

—Kate Cahow, Linda Coutant and Jane Nicholson

Are you interested in helping new teachers from Appalachian in your community? Contact Alice Krueger, coordinator, at (828) 262-0010 or kruegera@appstate.edu.
Creating New Opportunities

Appalachian ACCESS scholarship program offers debt-free education

The greatest deterrent to students from low-income families pursuing higher education is cost. That’s why the university has developed the Appalachian Commitment to a College Education for Student Success (ACCESS) Program to allow North Carolina students from low-income families to attend Appalachian State University debt-free.

Appalachian ACCESS, which brought its first group of recipients to campus this fall, provides scholarship money to about 40 of Appalachian’s most financially needy, in-state freshmen. The money pays for institutional costs (tuition, fees, room and board) beyond that covered by state and federal financial aid and other grants and scholarships. Students are also offered an on-campus job for personal expenses for up to four years, as well as other services such as long-term academic advising, mentoring, academic progress reports and financial planning.

To be eligible, students must enroll full time, make satisfactory academic progress and be from a family with an income below the Federal Poverty Level.

“Within the past decade, there has been a shift in national policy from providing financial aid grants to providing financial aid loans,” said Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy Wallace.

“As a result, students from North Carolina’s low-income families are either reluctant to pursue educational opportunities, or they work full-time, or borrow heavily to pay for college, which can delay graduation and/or leave them in substantial debt,” she said.

According to the non-profit Institute for College Access and Success, the average debt accrued by a student at a North Carolina public university is about $16,000.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock started Appalachian ACCESS using $5,000 that was contributed to the Appalachian State University Foundation Inc. in memory of his mother, who passed away in late 2005.

“She loved our students at Appalachian, and I know she would have been pleased with this idea,” he said.

A first-generation college student, Peacock said scholarships and other financial support allowed him to graduate from college debt free in 1970. “That was important to my being able to start my life and career, and I want today’s students to have that same opportunity,” he said.

An endowment has been created to support Appalachian ACCESS. To contribute, visit www.give.appstate.edu or call (828) 262-2090.

Among the new faces…

James “Trey” Clevenger

Family is the foundation of Trey Clevenger’s experience growing up in Aberdeen, just outside of Pinehurst. His extended family lives on several acres of land first belonging to his great-grandparents. His father, stepmother, brother, four sisters, uncle, aunt and cousins live all around him, and he even brought his grandfather’s refurbished 1991 van to Boone when he started classes.

“When I first found out about getting the ACCESS scholarship I was literally dancing around,” Clevenger said. “I was thinking I would have to go to the community college here, which has great classes, but just wasn’t the total college experience I was seeking.”

Clevenger plans to major in psychology and minor in Spanish. He took five classes of Spanish in high school, the last few in the International Baccalaureate program, which is similar to an AP class but teaches the subject from a global perspective and requires essays, presentations and other benchmarks throughout the year rather than a single, final AP exam. One of his older sisters, Casey, is a chemistry major at Appalachian already.

“I want to major in psychology because I like to help people,” Clevenger said. “My friends talk to me a lot and we talk through problems and issues. I want to do more of that.”

Staci Owens

Staci Owens plans to make biology and the marching band her focus while attending Appalachian. She’s been playing the alto saxophone in her high school marching band since 8th grade and attended the Appalachian Mountaineers Marching Band camp the week before school started, which meant moving into her residence hall room seven days before her other two roommates. While one side of her room remains empty awaiting her roommates, the other is filled with her clothing, shoes, snacks, photos and computer. Her bright pink chair and bed with matching pink and yellow pillows echo the exuberance of a first-time student.

She was already looking forward to the football team’s opening game against the University of Michigan the first Saturday in September. “It’s going to be awesome,” she predicted.

Owens wants to go to medical school and become a surgeon or emergency room doctor, so with eight science credits from high school already, she will be starting pre-med, one of Appalachian’s several pre-professional programs.

“We really didn’t think I could afford to go to Appalachian with just my dad working,” she said. “The ACCESS scholarship made us all so happy because I knew this is where I wanted to be from the very beginning.”

— Lynn Drury
In Memoriam

University benefactress Mariam Cannon Hayes, a longtime supporter of higher education and the arts across North Carolina, passed away at her home in Blowing Rock Aug. 4. She was 91.

Mrs. Hayes gave the largest gift ever received by Appalachian State University: $10 million to create an endowment in the School of Music, which bears her name. She began her affiliation with Appalachian in 1969 when her father helped establish Cannon Music Camp. Since that time, she served on the Board of Trustees, the Appalachian Summer Festival Advisory Board and the Hayes School of Music Advisory Board.

Although she never played an instrument, she loved music and frequently visited campus to attend concerts and spend time with students and faculty.

“She made it possible for me to go to school and continue as a graduate student. My daily experience is more fulfilling because of what she made possible.” – violinist Page de Camara ’95, Hayes Scholarship recipient and member of the Hayes String Quartet.

“We will miss her smile and her friendship more than we can express, but we will forever miss the spirit of her generosity and kindness through her historic gift.” – William Harbinson, dean of the Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music.

“It is indeed rare that such a person comes along in our lifetime. She gave for the right reason, never expecting to receive anything in return. For that, for her life, and for her enduring spirit, this community is truly grateful.” – Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock.

“Her gift funds environmental conferences preserving Boone’s community character and viability amid rapid growth and change has been the focus of two local forums sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the university’s Energy Center and the non-profit Partnership for Watauga’s Future.

The forums were held in April and early September. As many as 200 elected officials, town managers and county planners attended. The four events were designed to share approaches to “smart growth” strategies implemented in other areas of the state, ways to reduce the community’s energy dependence and other topics related to balancing preservation and development.

Both forums were made possible by a generous gift from alumnus Mazie Levenson ’56 of Winston-Salem.

Cold Mountain Review celebrates 35 years

Many literary journals fold after a few years, so it’s a big deal that Appalachian’s Cold Mountain Review is celebrating 35 years of publication.

Awarded in the Department of English, Cold Mountain Review publishes many of the best writers in the country, such as Betty Adcock, James Applewhite, Houston Baker, Ron Bayne, Fred Chappell, Susan Lindgren, Lewis Nordan, Vivian Shipley and Virgil Suarez.

All are included in the upcoming special double-issue 35th anniversary edition of Cold Mountain Review, which celebrates the journal’s success. It is guest edited by faculty member and novelist Joseph Bathanti. The anniversary issue will be unveiled at a celebration Oct. 27 at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Cold Mountain Review was started by then-students R.T. Smith ’75 MA and Donald Secreast ’72 MA, both respected teachers and accomplished teachers at universities in Virginia. It continues to provide learning opportunities for student interns.

About 500 copies of each issue are printed. Learn more about the journal and its celebration at www.coldmountainreview.appstate.edu

Watauga College class studies Iraq war and seeks solutions to its end

For nearly a third of their lives, today’s college students have known their country to be at war in Iraq. Yet, many students haven’t fully understood why.

In Watauga College, a residential learning community where no assumption goes unchallenged, a group of freshmen dove into the issue and spent spring semester asking difficult questions – of Washington, D.C.’s elite and themselves.

In an experimental current-events-based course led by faculty member Joseph Gonzalez, the Watauga Iraq Study Group researched all aspects of the conflict – including the media, Sept. 11 and the many facets of Islam – and then spent four days in Washington asking questions to better understand why the U.S. military is there, and how and when it can leave.

The class spoke with Robert Perito, senior program officer at the U.S. Institute for Peace; Larry Keach, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress; and representatives from the offices of senators Elizabeth Dole, Chuck Hagel and Joe Lieberman.

Based on their interviews, the students came up with their own solutions, which included creating a more stable security force that integrates more Iraqis, letting Iraqis choose the type of government they want, and then fixing the infrastructure so that the country has a functioning environment in which more solutions can be created.

“Going to D.C. showed how we can go up and meet with policymakers. I didn’t think it was possible before,” said John McCauley of Winston-Salem, who now sees a future for himself in either politics or policymaking.

Liz Fleming of Raleigh said, “Now that we’ve informed, we have a greater responsibility to do something about the war. I wasn’t informed enough to express my views before.”

Gonzalez created the class because he wanted to offer students a current events problem to solve. “I was pleased with the class’s high level of commitment,” he said. “Our students impressed the people in Washington, some of whom commented that the students asked better questions than many reporters do.”

Watauga College is a general education program within the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.
Financial planning team excels nationally

Financial planning students competed in the final phase of two national competitions: the Ameriprise Invitational in Minneapolis held in April and the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants (IARFC) competition in Las Vegas in May.

After being selected as one of eight teams to compete in the final phase of the Ameriprise Competition, Appalachian’s Clayton Quamme, Darren Caputo and Jack Barton placed third in the knowledge part of the competition. They also were selected, along with teams from Kansas State and Virginia Tech, for the final phase of the IARFC competition. Each team presented their comprehensive case in approximately 200 practitioners, and Appalachian won first place.

The students were selected from a capstone class in the college’s financial planning certificate program. Ivan C. Roter, CFP®, the course’s instructor and director of Appalachian’s Financial Planning Center, mentored the students in preparing for, and escorted the teams to, the competitions.

CIS students take national top honors

Ten Walker College students traveled to Detroit to compete in the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) National Collegiate Conference in March. Approximately 750 people attended schools across the country.

Jessica Russ was awarded first place in the undergraduate student project competition and Ashley Holt took second place honors in the same category, earning both students a place in the finals. Russ received $500 and Holt received $250. The Appalachian student chapter was the only chapter in the same category, earning both students first place honors.

The students held a steak dinner and silent auction to raise funds for the trip. Alana Ierk, student president of Appalachian’s chapter, said she hopes attendance at the national competition will become an annual event. Ierk was recently honored on campus with a Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) Presidential Award for her work with AITP, including increasing its membership.

Student teaching expands overseas

“Swing for Scholarships” to be held Oct. 9

The second annual “Swing for Scholarships” golf benefit for the Reich College of Education will be held Oct. 9 at Reck Barr Golf & Spa in Conover.

All proceeds will benefit teacher education majors through scholarships and support of teacher education programs.

To register or obtain more details, contact Dolly Farrell, RCOE’s director of development, at (828) 262-2804.
Faculty and student research attracts national recognition

A number of programs in the College of Fine and Applied Arts have gained national recognition because of funded and applied research.

For the second year in a row, a student team from the Department of Technology has won a $75,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) P3 Award at EPA’s National Sustainable Design Expo. The student project “The Affordable Bioshelters Project: Testing Technologies for Affordable Bioshelters” will design, build and test affordable greenhouses that are powered renewably to conserve energy, reduce the demand for fossil fuels and allow more food to be grown locally at lower economic and ecological cost. In 2006, a team of students was recognized for their biodiesel production facility that uses renewable energy and recycles its own waste.

Researchers led by Professor David Norman in the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science have proven that quercetin, a natural anti-inflammation derived from plants, is able to reduce illness and maintain mental performance in physically stressed test subjects. The research was funded by a $1.1 million contract award to the university in 2005 by DARPA, the U.S. Department of Defense’s high risk research and development organization. DARPA is seeking ways to maintain the immune systems of troops who are undergoing the physical and cognitive stresses of combat. Learn more about Nie- man’s career research under “Who, What, Where” at www.appstate.edu.

Jeff Ramsdell, a professor in the Department of Technology, received a $756,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation to construct and operate a modular biodiesel testing facility that will provide valuable feedback, fuel quality and emissions data to the growing biodiesel industry in North Carolina. The initiative is responsive to the needs of mid-sized biodiesel producers in the state and will further the development of a decentralized fuel production model that relies heavily on local feedstocks and fuel markets.

In May, Appalachian hosted 400 professionals at the Seventh Conference of the International Expansive Arts Therapy Association. It was held in conjunction with North Carolina Arts for Health.

Appalachian’s location and acclaimed interdisciplinary programs make expansive arts therapy make it a perfect location for the conference’s theme of “Ancient Mountains, Whispering Waters and Sacred Stones.”

“The arts belong together, and they belong to everyone,” said conference co-chair Sally Atkins, professor of human development and psychological counseling (HPC).

The use of the arts in healing practices is both ancient and modern. Earth-based cultures have always danced, drummed and sung songs, made pictures in the sand and created ceremonies to honor the cycles of life of the human and nonhuman worlds. Today, music, movement, poetry, dramatic enactment, dream work, journal writing and the visual arts are used to help people with physical and psychological difficulties, as well as those who simply wish to live a fuller, more creative and well-balanced life.

Since the mid-1990s, Appalachian has offered a 60-hour master’s degree in counseling with a concentration in expressive arts therapy. It has since added an off-campus graduate certificate in expressive arts therapy.

The program started with seven founding members representing different disciplines yet sharing a desire to utilize the arts for healing. Today, it includes professors from the departments of HPC, psychology, theatre and dance, English, art, anthropology, psychology, special education and educational studies, and the Hayes School of Music. The program also hosts national and international visiting faculty.

FCS alumna honored, shares experiences from Africa

Food and nutrition alumna Ruthsga “Bibi” Gipson ‘08, center, was named Appalachian’s Distinguished Alumna Award winner in April. She visited campus for several days and shared her experiences as senior food and nutrition security advisor for the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AU NAPPa) in Midwinto, South Africa. Also pictured are Samenie Garner, left, and family and consumer sciences advisor of Appalachian and a former professor of Gipson’s, and Sarah Jordan, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Gipson spoke to students about her work to eradicate poverty and place African countries on a path of sustainable growth, as well as her work to empower women. Watch a video clip of her interview as “Appalachian Perspective” at www.perspective.appstate.edu.

Students interview community about President Jimmy Carter

Jennifer Cohen-Jordan and Leila Weinstein in the Appalachian studies program conducted an oral history project in Plains, Ga., this summer for the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. Their work was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service.

Through audio and videotaped interviews with people associated with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, the students gained insight into the small community and its social history, as well as residents’ opinions of the 39th president of the United States.

Carter was born and raised in Plains, which has about 615 residents. He served as Georgia’s governor before being elected president in 1976.

The Appalachian students talked with 17 people on a variety of topics, from integration and changing demographics to individuals’ personal relationships with the Carters.

“I felt very welcomed by everybody that I talked to,” Cohen-Jordan said. “I was really surprised at how much people opened up during these interviews. People shared very intimate and personal things. They laughed and they cried.”

The stories she and Weinstein documented will be archived in the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and made available to researchers.

Graduate student Jennifer Cohen-Jordan, right, poses with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in Georgia.
Grant supports Tablet PC project

The Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music has received $39,823 from Microsoft Research and External Programs to explore the use and efficiency of Tablet PCs in teaching music.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Snodgrass is evaluating the Tablet PC laptop computer in her theory classes.

“I used the Tablet PC for a semester, and my students were just amazed that I could scan a piece of music, then zoom in on a particular measure of music, draw on it, and zoom out so that they could see how the measure works within an entire piece,” Snodgrass said.

Snodgrass said she is also developing a Web-based program to complement a widely used music theory textbook, “Anthology for Musical Analysis.”

To date, successful use of Tablet PCs has been tested in math and science classes, no students and instructors can use technology to “write” or “draw” using a special stylus. Images from the laptop can be projected onto a large screen for classroom viewing.

New faculty hires

ClariNetter Catherine Wauh sees the music school faculty from Michigan’s Flint Institute of Music. She has extensive performing experience in Canada and the United States as a member of various orchestras and chamber ensembles. She also taught clarinet and coached chamber music at the L’ecole de musicque de limonest, France. She holds a doctorate in clarinet performance from Michigan State University.

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Charlie Mosdorff teaches a Tablet PC laptop computer to teach music theory.

School’s dean will return to teaching and composing

William B. “Bill” Harbinson will step down as dean of the Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music effective July 1, 2008, to devote more time to teaching and composing.

“I am not retiring, just changing responsibilities,” said Harbinson, who earned his undergraduate degree from Appalachian in 1975. “The time is perfect for a fresh set of eyes to come in and help faculty determine what the next great development will be for this school.”

Harbinson has spent 20 years in administration. He was associate dean of the music school for 12 years prior to being named dean in 2000. The Hayes School of Music has almost 500 student majors and 40 full-time faculty members, about half of whom were hired by Harbinson. During his tenure, the school added a master’s degree in music therapy, diversified course offerings and developed new ensembles, and received the historic $10 million gift from Mariam Cannon Hayes that named the school and endowed its future.

Composition wins national award

Bill Harbinson’s composition “Kaladanta” recently won the national Merle J. Jans Senior Composition Contest sponsored by the American String Teachers Association. The symphony overture was written for Mariam Cannon Hayes, who has since passed away, and takes its name from her summer home in Blowing Rock.

Hear a sound file at www.appalachiantoday.appstate.edu.

Archives seeks stories of campus life

Appalachian’s University Archives, W.E. Eury Appalachian Collection and Stock Car Racing Collection are undertaking a major oral history project to preserve and celebrate student experiences at the university.

Project Manager Pam Mitchem and Kathy Staley have begun conducting informal interviews with alumni and local residents for a glimpse into student life in the past. While several oral histories of the surrounding communities exist, this will be the first project specific to Appalachian.

“We have a very fascinating history,” said Staley, archivist for the Appalachian Collection. “The university was created to improve the education of mountain children by training mountain teachers and now it has been transformed into an award-winning comprehensive university. To document the history of our institution’s transformation will be very useful.”

The project will eventually include a Web site with transcribed interviews, streaming audio and photos – all designed to make the information more accessible to the public.

“We have quite a demand for information on the university, and the Appalachian Collection gets a lot of requests from researchers, so these collections get a lot of use,” said Mitchem. “We want to make everything more visible.”

As part of the project, University Archives is working to increase its holdings of records that document student and employee life, especially from the 1970s and before. Of particular interest are letters to parents or friends, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks and albums (but no yearbooks) and memorabilia, as well as any information relating to student organizations.

To donate materials, contact University Archives at (828) 262-7424 or keachel@appstate.edu.

E-learning institute enhances access

To broaden access to an Appalachian education, the university is giving more attention to online courses and how best to utilize the Internet and other electronic resources for teaching.

Learning Technology Services sponsored an e-learning institute for 25 faculty members this summer in Belk Library and Information Commons. The faculty designed “hybrid” courses (at least 50 percent online) that can be offered as early as 2007-08, with plans to offer them completely online in the future. Faculty also learned about new electronic resources to enhance traditional classes.

Online courses are an important element in meeting UNC System President Erikene Bovles’ call for increased access to higher education, particularly by non-traditional students, said Appalachian’s LTS director, Steve Brenizer.

This semester’s participants said online courses can be just as effective – and possibly even more effective – than traditional teaching.

“An online class is not simply uploading information onto a Web site. Effective online classes require the instructor to focus the learners toward discovery-based learning. The instructor becomes a participant in the process as well, not simply a conveyer of information. I especially like this approach,” said Professor Rick McGraw, who is planning online graduate certificate courses for teaching English as a second language.

Already about 25 percent of Appalachian courses incorporate some form of electronically enhanced learning, from eandi and supplemental materials posted on the Interner, to student discussion boards and online testing.

Defending human rights


“Speak Truth to Power” was hosted by the library and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies. An endowment fund is being created to ensure continuity of the center’s activities, which include the annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium “Remembering the Holocaust.” To contribute, contact Wileen Mcdonald, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences, at mcmahonvl@appstate.edu.

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This issue includes class notes received from December 12, 2006, through June 21, 2007. Submit notes via the Alumni Association’s online community. Readers may visit www.alumni.app State.edu and click on Gold Book to post notes online.

57 Julia (Hough) Brown, the founder and namesake of the Julia Brown Montessori School, celebrated the 40th year of her first Montessori school. Donald Palmer resigned from his career in education in Catawba County as a teacher-coach, athletics director, principal and school board member. Todd Brown was inducted into the Catawba College Sports Hall of Fame after 47 years of coaching and teaching at the Forest High School.

58 Ralph Barnhardt was awarded the 2006 National Service Award from the N.C. Hospital Association.

59 Ronald Beane was among the 2007 inductees into the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor. Richard Culpepper co-authored a textbook titled “Schooling: An Introduction to Education.” Barbara Dwyer was the Outstanding Citizen of Canton Honored by the North Carolina National Guard for her work with the Family Readiness Group of the Hilltop Transportation Company.

62 Larry Nance was inducted into the Caldwell Community College Athletics Hall of Fame.

63 A Rex Stewart Jr. retired after 28 years as an agent with State Farm Insurance Co. in Raleigh and was inducted into the Lincoln-County High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

64 Mary Morreca was elected to the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners.

65 Thomas Payne retired from Appalachian’s Department of Chemistry after 35 years of teaching at the university.

66 Judith (Coripes) Lewis is a music teacher at Christian School of Alpharetta, Ga., after retiring from Cabarrus County Schools.

68 Douglas Allen, a counselor at Catawba Valley Community College’s Newton Regional Center, received the N.C. Community College Student Development Personnel Association’s Edward Placek Endowment Scholarship. The $6,000 award was given by the Catamount Foundation to help Appalachian students who have transferred to Catawba College.

69 Wayne Caldwell, publisher, debuted his novel with Random House Publishing titled “Cata-
locaces.” Beverly (Canley) Finney retired as a vice president of member services with Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative Corporation after 25 years with the company. Andrea “Green” Miller is an assistant superintendent for operations with the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education.

70 James Delinger was appointed to a District Court bench in Goodson-Eddy. He has worked as an assistant district attorney since 1982. Judith (Apilin) Haslett retired from Kids County School District in Georgia after 17 years of service. Barbara (Gaddis) Taylor received Catawba College’s College Community Excellence in Teaching Award. She is a department head of liberal arts at the college.

71 Marilyn (Hinman) Fox received national certification in music education. She is the music teacher at Elon Elementary. Rick Goiz retired as director of housing and residence life at Appalachian. He was in the honors for 35 years.

72 Anna (Toney) Heard retired from Rowan-Salisbury Schools after 31 years in education. Speaking as director of student activities at Appalachian, dean of students at Catawba College, and an elementary and high school counselor, Donald Kemp was appointed to the United States University in Tennessee. Janet (Stovers) McCoy retired from the Battle Creek Public Schools in Michigan as a reading specialist. She will now teach at the BCPS Charter Education Center.

73 Lydia (Searfs) Simmons has been appointed to the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission. She is a dean of the School of Education at Gardner-Webb University.

74 Charles Beddington resigned as senior associate director of tennis at the Cradle to start a consulting business in Charlotte.

75 Jim Harriss was selected to the Charlotte Association of Insurance Women as Associate of the Year for his work in the profession and community involvement. He is president of Martin & Harris Insurance Agency.

76 Tommy Blalock received the Herald-Telch 2006 Coach of the Year award. He led the Riverside High football team to the state title. Marvin Davis is the town manager of Kernersville. Jim Horrell was selected to the South. The Appalachian Repertory Theatre.

77 Alan Miller was senior vice president – sales at CHC National in Scottsdale, Ariz. Fred Pettryjohn was inducted into the Carolina Bowling Hall of Fame at Lowry Motor Speedway in Charlotte. Woose Rogers is president of the new South Texas Basketball League, an affiliate of the National Adult Basketball Association, and manager of the Play. Steven Yogger is a section manager of communications at Pleasanton Manufacturing in Smyrna, Tenn. William “Bill” Teager is the new wireless receivers coach at UNC Pembroke.

78 Steven Little retired after 30 years with Cabarrus County Parks and Recreation. Robert “Bob” Palmer retired as principal of Bethel Elementary School in Cabotville, S.C., after 30 years.

79 Kathryn Auger is a executive director of alumni resources with the Cabarrus County School System. Cheryl (Blaire) Barns was among the 2007 inductees into the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor. Bruce James has been appointed to the board of directors of Alliance for Tomorrow, a group expanding the knowledge and understanding of global issues and their impact on Cabarrus County. Preston Laney was recently appointed as senior advisor to the N.C. National Board Certification. He also received certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Paul Staufer was named N.C. Professional Teaching Standards Commission’s 2007 Teacher of the Year.

80 Jeannette (Westinet) Pete co-founded Pinny-Pete’s Tater Skins. She works for Richard Perkins and Son in Winston-Salem. David Powell Alphonse, Ga., has been named managing principal and chief financial officer of a medical services firm focused specializing in healthcare information and clinical education. Christopher Raymond joined White Insurance Group, including the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Paul Staufer was named N.C. Professional Teaching Standards Commission’s 2007 Teacher of the Year.

81 Ron Jester is a recycling specialist and as part-time director of environmental services for Fred Health. He is chair of the N.C. Professional Teaching Standards Commission’s 2007 Teacher of the Year.

82 Debra Moore is the executive director of training and development at BB&T in Winston-Salem. Michael Morton was recently promoted to CEO of Carolina Community Federal Credit located in Statesville. Jerry Wood was recognized as a 2006 Lifetime Achievement award winner in the Cabarrus County School System.

83 Caryl (Blair) Burns is president of the new South Texas Basketball League, an affiliate of the National Adult Basketball Association, and manager of the Play. Steven Yogger is a section manager of communications at Pleasanton Manufacturing in Smyrna, Tenn. William “Bill” Teager is the new wireless receivers coach at UNC Pembroke.

84 Christopher Raymond joined White Insurance Group, including the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Paul Staufer was named N.C. Professional Teaching Standards Commission’s 2007 Teacher of the Year.
**2007 Spring Alumni Award Winners**

Each spring the Appalachian Alumni Association recognizes great alumni and outstanding service to the alma mater in their careers.

The awards are presented during the Alumni Awards Banquet during Spring Alumni Weekend in April. This year’s honorees were, pictured left, from left, Honorary Alumni Award recipients Frank and Kay Komoroski, Young Alumni Award recipient Rachel Truesdale, and staff assistant Karen (Judson) Hornbuckle. Above, Terri Sewell Brown, Steve Brown and Cathy (Benz) Tipton announce the birth of their daughter, Kielwasser Truesdale. 

**Brian Arachamer and El- khody Elgindy** were named the birth of their son, William Brose Jan. 30.

**Emily (Scrugh) Almany** was named as an account services at Smith & Co. Jan. 26.

**Paul (Lucas) Bostick** was named as traffic on-air talent at CBS Radio in Charlotte. Jan. 6.

**Kevin (Daugherty) Breier** was named as an associate director of residence life at Campbell University. Feb. 13.

**Stephanie Horvath** was named as an assistant professor at the 2007 Merck-Meridian Workshops in New York City. Feb. 20.

**Kimberly (Brendle) Wendell** and Ware Wendell announced the birth of their daughter, Adel Brenda Jan. 7.

**Theresa Sanders** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 2.

**Natalie (Williamson) Willis** was named as principal at Western Randolph County High School. Feb. 8.

**Bill Terry** was named as the 2007 NC Wildlife Resource Commission. Feb. 13.

**Reginald Dixon** was named as office manager at Deloitte Service, LP in Hermitage, Tenn. Feb. 21.

**Michael Neese ’91** was named as an instructor at Davidson, Holward and Williams, Feb. 25.

**Caroline Cargill (McKellar) Manning** was named as the 2006-2007 director of the Ambulace County Board Certification. Feb. 25.

**Julie Myatt** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Mary Quinn** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Mary (Vermilye) Fawcett** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Dawn Frank** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Sharon Nelson** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Katherine (Badders) Lyall** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. Feb. 25.

**Elliott, April 7.** They live in Vilas.

**Eric Baucom** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. May 16.

**Mary V. (Stomez) Maltsby** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. May 17.

**Marcy (Cline) George** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. May 18.

**Mary (Vermilye) Fawcett** was named as the 2007 National Award for Teaching Excellence in South Carolina. May 18.

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Online Profiles

Salaging old barn wood to create custom tables, boxes and staircases has made Melissa Manes a surefire business for herself.

Several'07 MBA, pictured left. His Gum

He advisory opinion interested in entering the field to do whatevers necessary to get this.
Alumni among reectors of Captain. John Smith’s historic 1608 voyage. 

Our boat, eight oars, 12 explorers, 1,200 miles – an epic Chesapeake-Advent. That’s how the “Captain John Smith Four Hundred” project describes its renacement of European settlers’ 1608 voyage to explore and map the Chesapeake Bay.

Appalachian graduates Don Dover ’02 and Liz Schult ’99 are among the tiny group of scholars reenacting Capt. John Smith’s voyage. The thalassophiles propelled themselves solely by oar and sail to find one Smith, 1,200 miles of exploration.

The modern crew of seven men and five women comprised historians, naturalists, and their trip up to more than 20 stops along the route for public appearances to educate others about Smith’s voyage. Another goal of their trip was to introduce the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, a component of the National Park Service.

Billed on the project’s official Web site as having “perhaps the most unique professional background of any voyage crew member,” Dover earned a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian in criminal justice. He worked as a forensic scientist with the New York Police Department collecting evidence; has worked for the U.S. Marshals Service; and has extensive rowing and kayaking experience before joining the John Smith Expedition.

Dover Don Dover ’02, third from right, rows with his cronies. Their 121-day journey included blisters and 110-degree heat, but lots of community support.

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Our boat, eight oars, 12 explorers, 1,200 miles – an epic Chesapeake-Advent. That’s how the “Captain John Smith Four Hundred” project describes its renacement of European settlers’ 1608 voyage to explore and map the Chesapeake Bay.

Appalachian graduates Don Dover ’02 and Liz Schult ’99 are among the tiny group of scholars reenacting Capt. John Smith’s voyage. The thalassophiles propelled themselves solely by oar and sail to find one Smith, 1,200 miles of exploration.

The modern crew of seven men and five women comprised historians, naturalists, and their trip up to more than 20 stops along the route for public appearances to educate others about Smith’s voyage. Another goal of their trip was to introduce the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, a component of the National Park Service.

Billed on the project’s official Web site as having “perhaps the most unique professional background of any voyage crew member,” Dover earned a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian in criminal justice. He worked as a forensic scientist with the New York Police Department collecting evidence; has worked for the U.S. Marshals Service; and has extensive rowing and kayaking experience before joining the John Smith Expedition.

Dover Don Dover ’02, third from right, rows with his cronies. Their 121-day journey included blisters and 110-degree heat, but lots of community support.
Bennett and Damar Overcash were married May 11. They live in Winston-Salem. Megan Poleser was the 2007 winner of the 25th Annual College Country Showdown. The contest is billed as “America’s Largest Country Music Talent Search.”

Brandon Shivers received the First-Year Teacher of the Year Award from Vermont Elementary School in Cabot County, Fla. He is a fourth-grade teacher and the youth education coordinator for theời Elementary Youth Education Series. Brookie Spada and Derrick Ray Sides ’04 were married Sept. 24. Brookie is a program director and an installer for Randall Arts Gold. Ashleigh Dorrick is development director for Center for Visual Art, Greensboro. Daniel Stevenson works at Compu- num Communications, Pohick, Va., as a broadband technical support technician. Air Force Arman 1st Class Courtney A. Taylor graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. Megan Davis and Brent Michael Wells ’04 were married Sept. 5. Megan works for Wells Fargo University Health Sciences and Brent works for Farmers’ Insurance. Carol Faith Willis works at American International Group Inc. in New York within the International Tax Group. Emily Woods and Joshua Casey (’05) were mar- ried Jan. 12. They live in Kernersville. Andre Schindlhorst and Bradley Eugene Wright were married March 26. The couple works with The Contractor Ford in Charlotte. Brenna Fisher and Daniel Whitman were married June 8. They live in Boone. Caroline Smith is a marketing assistant at Charlotte Regional Sports Commission. She also finished a master’s degree in sport administration from the University of Louisville.

For more information about this alumni & friends tour, call (866)756-2586

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‘Big House’ winners deserve a bigger house

Appalachian State University Athletics has reached new heights, and it’s time to Leave Your Mark. Contribute financially to the Athletics Facilities Enhancement Campaign that is creating major improvements in the Mountaineer experience for all student-athletes. Already, they enjoy a new indoor practice facility, and softball and baseball stadiums. And, site work has begun on the project’s centerpiece: a state-of-the-art athletics complex to be built behind the west grandstand at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Naming opportunities exist at each facility – from bricks to lockers and club seats – so be sure to Leave Your Mark!

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