A Closer Look at Our Evolution

Appalachian commemorates Charles Darwin’s revolutionary theory and its cultural impact.

Tending the Blue Ridge Parkway

Committing to green energy
Coming to Appalachian!

Through April 2009
The Darwin Bicentennial at Appalachian State University: A Celebration of His Ideas & Their Impact, a year-long series of lectures and events. For a listing of events, visit www.universityforum.appstate.edu.

Oct. 1-4
“A Shayna Maidel,” Department of Theatre and Dance, 7 p.m., Valborg Theatre; plus 2 p.m. matinee Oct. 5

Oct. 9
Capitol Steps, Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Farthing Auditorium

Oct. 9
Fiction writer Nancy Huddleston Packer, Visiting Writers Series, 7:30 p.m., Plemmons Student Union

Oct. 24
Doc Watson & David Holt with special guest Riley Baugus: “Hills of Home,” Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Farthing Auditorium

Nov. 14
Teatro Lirico D’Europa: Bizet’s “Carmen,” Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. Farthing Auditorium

Nov. 7-Febr. 7, 2009
Andy Warhol: A Photographic Legacy, Turchin Center for the Visual Arts; Reception for Fall Exhibition Celebration, Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 19-22
“The Servant of Two Masters,” Department of Theatre and Dance, 7 p.m., Valborg Theatre plus 2 p.m. matinee Nov. 23

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

North Carolina Dance Theatre

Appalachian State University: www.appstate.edu
Alumni Affairs: www.alumni.appstate.edu
Admissions: www.admissions.appstate.edu
Athletics: www.goasu.com
Office of Cultural Affairs: www.highsouth.com/oca
Human Resource Services: www.hrs.appstate.edu
University Advancement: www.give.appstate.edu

Appalachian State University is committed to providing equal opportunity in education and employment to all applicants, students, and employees. The university does not discriminate in access to its educational programs and activities, or with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. The university actively promotes diversity among students and employees.

57,500 copies of this document were printed at a cost of $36,743, or 64 cents per copy.

©2008 Appalachian State University
Rising to a new level of excellence

Earlier this year I hosted a series of Chancellor’s Receptions and had the privilege of meeting loyal alumni and friends of Appalachian State University in cities across the country. It is evident that people hold immense pride for this institution. They also dream big for Appalachian, and so do I. We talked about what can make Appalachian even better for students, the region and the world – and with our shared enthusiasm and drive, I believe anything is possible.

This year’s freshman class is just one example of Appalachian’s exciting momentum. More than 15,000 students applied for admission and from that group we have selected our most impressive incoming class yet. Their average SAT score is 1163, 42 percent had a 4.0 grade point average in high school and 13 percent come from underrepresented groups. This distinguished admission profile is what we’ll be continuing to recruit as outlined in Appalachian’s new strategic plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in late September after months of campus-wide input from faculty, students and administrators.

Essentially a blueprint for Appalachian’s future, the strategic plan will raise the university to a new level of excellence. It consists of six priorities:

• Create and maintain superior curricula, programs, financial incentives and intellectual environments to attract, educate and graduate an exceptional and diverse community of students.

• Provide resources to enable all faculty members to perform quality research and creative activities, and enhance resources in successive, focus areas of strength to enable Appalachian to make sustained and major contributions in those fields.

• Allocate resources, develop support services and promote a collegial culture to attract, develop and retain an exceptional and diverse faculty and staff.

• Apply our intellectual, academic, cultural and research resources to promote sustainable economic growth, prosperity, and quality of life throughout this region and state.

• Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to protect and enhance our distinctive historical, geographical and cultural identity associated with our location in the Appalachian mountains.

• Practice sound management of institutional resources to continue to be a best value for students.

Within these key priorities, I see Appalachian further emphasizing sustainable development and renewable energy, and other central areas such as graduate education and the health sciences.

I am pleased the North Carolina General Assembly granted Appalachian full funding for enrollment growth. Additionally, toward our commitment to the health sciences, the General Assembly has allocated $4.2 million in planning money for a health sciences building to be constructed across from Watauga Medical Center, part of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare System. Join me in thanking our legislators and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System for their support and shared vision in this endeavor.

This is an exciting time at Appalachian. In addition to the pending approval of our strategic plan, plans are underway for a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will support our dreams and take Appalachian to new heights. Together, we can make it all happen.

With Mountaineer Pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
features

A Road Most Traveled ........................................... 7
The Blue Ridge Parkway has been a recreational escape for generations of Appalachian students. Now, students connect with the parkway through academic and service-learning opportunities.

Charles Darwin at 200 ......................................... 12
His theory of natural selection is perhaps the most comprehensive scientific theory ever proposed. Select Appalachian faculty members explain why it still matters.

University College ................................................ 16
This new design for academic inquiry and success will benefit students from their first year until they graduate.

departments

On Campus ......................................................... 4
College of Arts and Sciences ................................. 17
Walker College of Business ................................ 18
Reich College of Education ................................ 19
College of Fine and Applied Arts ......................... 20
Cratis D. Williams Graduate School ..................... 21
Hayes School of Music ......................................... 22
Belk Library and Information Commons ............... 23
Alumni News ...................................................... 24

On the cover…
This skeleton of Archaeopteryx, the world’s oldest known bird, is approximately 150 million years old and was discovered just one year after Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species.” It is one of the best-known transitional fossils – sometimes referred to as “missing links.” It has the flight feathers of a bird combined with the skeleton of a dinosaur, which helped scientists recognize the evolutionary transition from dinosaurs to birds. A cast of Archaeopteryx is on display in Appalachian’s McKinney Geology Teaching Museum.
A new season, a new look

Amid construction of Appalachian State University’s new athletics complex, a record crowd of 30,718 roars as the three-time national champions enter the field for a home opener against Jacksonville University. Appalachian won 56-7. The new complex under construction behind the west-side stands will support student-athletes in all sports with new locker rooms, a study hall and strength and conditioning facilities. To be completed in 2009, the complex will also house athletics offices, club seating and stadium suites. The stadium was enhanced this summer with the addition of 4,400 seats on the east side and new restrooms and concession stands.
Appalachian rose one point to No. 9 in the “Best Universities-Master’s in the South” category in U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 America’s Best Colleges Guide. Appalachian tied with the College of Charleston for the ninth-place ranking.

The university also climbed to fourth place in the magazine’s category of top public master-degree granting universities in the South, also in a tie with the College of Charleston.

Appalachian also is included in the magazine’s first-year experiences and learning communities listing in the “Programs to Look For” category.

“Appalachian continues to rise to new levels of excellence,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. “It’s no secret that Appalachian offers top academic programs, has a highly qualified faculty and staff, and provides the mentorship and support that helps our students make a difference in the state, nation and world. It is always gratifying to see our work recognized.”

A PASSION FOR RADIO: Naming WASU’s new studio in honor of Wayne Sumner ’75 ensures his love for broadcasting will be remembered at Appalachian.

WASU’s new studio named for Boone businessman

When Appalachian’s WASU FM radio station began broadcasting in 1972, Wayne Sumner ’75 was one of the first people to go “on air.”

The Board of Trustees recently approved naming WASU’s new studio in honor of Sumner, who is president of Jackson Sumner & Associates, an insurance underwriting firm in Boone.

“Over the years radio has been a passion of mine, and my business degree from Appalachian helped me to fulfill a dream of owning my own radio station when I bought WBAG in Burlington in 1993,” Sumner said.

The Wayne L. Sumner Radio Studio will be located on the first floor of the Department of Communication’s George G. Beasley Broadcasting Complex, projected to open in 2010 at the corner of Rivers and Depot streets.
Construction site cleared for new education building

Construction of the new Reich College of Education building progressed this summer with the demolition of existing buildings on the site near Howard and College streets and the firming of architectural plans.

The new five-story, 123,000 square-foot building will expand faculty and staff office space, classrooms, clinic and lab space, and include instructional space for specialized activities and an open student commons. It will face King Street, and have a side orientation toward the College Street parking deck and First Baptist Church.

“It’s been exciting to watch the shape and function of the building emerge, and to see faculty and staff take ownership in the fine-tuning of the design,” said RCOE Dean Charles Duke. “The environment of this new space will be so much better for all of us and our endeavors in the college.”

Construction should begin next spring.

Appalachian joins N.C. Research Campus

Appalachian will have a presence on the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis, a 350-acre campus devoted to research in the fields of human health and nutrition.

David Nieman, a professor in Appalachian’s Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science, is establishing a laboratory on the campus that is expected to be fully operational this fall.

The N.C. Research Campus (NCRC) is the brainchild of David H. Murdock, owner of Castle & Cooke Inc. and Dole Food Company Inc. It will house state-of-the-art laboratory space and more than 100 biotechnology companies, infusing the region’s economy with high-tech job opportunities.

“When we learned about the capabilities at Appalachian, and specifically Dr. Nieman’s lab, Mr. Murdock was excited to include them as a first-tier partner at the campus,” said Clyde Higgs, vice president for business development at NCRC.

Appalachian is one of seven UNC institutions to participate in Murdock’s venture. The others are UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte, N.C. State, N.C. A&T, and N.C. Central.
Hickory center expands economic opportunity

Through the N.C. Center for Engineering Technologies in Hickory, Appalachian is providing advanced training and educational opportunities for the region’s citizens.

“We’ve been in discussion with regional business and industry leaders to identify the kinds of knowledge skills and abilities they want their workers to have, to match those needs with an appropriate baccalaureate program, and to identify a university to deliver it,” said Sid Connor, special assistant to the provost and director of the center.

As the fiscal agent and lead partner of the initiative, Appalachian has helped establish working relationships with Western Carolina University, UNC Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College, Catawba Valley Community College and Caldwell Community College to support academic programming. Degree programs are designed for students who have associate of applied science degrees.

Classes began at the center last January with coursework in engineering technology delivered by Western Carolina. Appalachian will offer a program in building science next spring.

Read more On Campus news at www.today.appstate.edu

Appalachian commits to ‘green’ energy plan

This past Earth Day, Appalachian joined more than 500 universities, colleges and community colleges in pledging to implement a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by the year 2050.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which outlines specific strategies these institutions must meet to achieve climate neutrality.

“This can’t think of a more appropriate day to sign this agreement than on Earth Day,” Peacock said. “It took a while to get to this point, but Appalachian has been careful to make sure we can fulfill the requirements in the document.”

Appalachian already has implemented three of seven actions to reduce campus greenhouse gases outlined in the commitment:

- Adoption of an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy.
- Access to public transportation for faculty, staff, students and visitors through AppalCart, Appalachian’s biodiesel-powered fleet.
- Participation in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition.

Appalachian’s commitment to grow and sustain “green” programs and initiatives extends far beyond this agreement:

- A wind turbine for student and faculty research is being installed near the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center. It will generate enough electricity to power 10-15 homes each year.

- The Sustainability Council, comprised of faculty, staff and student representatives, is writing a plan to reduce the university’s greenhouse gas emissions.

- A new degree program in environmental science joins existing programs such as appropriate technology, building science, sustainable development, the Appalachian Energy Center, and the Western North Carolina Renewable Energy Initiative.

- Student-led organizations such as the Renewable Energy Initiative (REI), Sustainable Energy Society and the Collaborative Biodiesel Project sponsor numerous educational workshops and alternative-energy initiatives.

- Belk Library and Information Commons was recently recognized by two leading library magazines – American Libraries and Library Journal – for its green architecture.

- The Energy Center’s CommunityTIES – Trash Into Energy Savings – Project received $134,673 this year from the Golden LEAF Foundation and Z. Smith Reynolds to promote using landfill gas as an economic development engine in local communities.

- Researchers are partnering with Catawba County to test biodiesel crops near the county’s landfill to determine which crops produce the best oils in the local climate.

Read the full American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php
A ROAD MOST TRAVELED

Like good neighbors, Appalachian and the Blue Ridge Parkway take care of one another

By Linda Coutant

It's a long distance between Las Vegas and Vale, N.C., but teachers from both locales met this summer on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Julie Candland excitedly snapped photographs for her third-graders back home in Nevada who have never seen the parkway's lush greenery and majestic views. She hopes images of a contrasting landscape will enliven her geography lessons and inspire students' writing exercises.

Social studies teacher Rene Porch '79 used to consider the parkway an escape from college homework, but now it's a perfect metaphor for social change when discussing “roads to civilization” – like the ancient Silk Road and the modern-day Internet – with her students at West Lincoln High School.

What brought the teachers together was a weeklong National Endowment for the Humanities institute hosted by Appalachian State University called “Not Just a Scenic Road: The Blue Ridge Parkway and Its History.” Candland and Porch were among 75 school teachers participating in the institute, which was offered twice in July, to learn from Appalachian faculty and other experts what the roadway can teach about the environment, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal and social issues both old and new. Besides visiting popular tourist spots, the K-12 teachers learned about the parkway’s historical, social and recreational significance and designed lesson plans around topics such
The parkway is, in essence, a continuing saga of American life. And like a trusted neighbor, Appalachian honors its story and tends to its care.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to revisit the college experience and academically investigate an experience we all loved,” Porch said of her summer experience. “And all Appalachian alumni love the Blue Ridge Parkway!”

THE MOST VISITED PARK SITE

The Blue Ridge Parkway is certainly more than a narrow stretch of asphalt. As a roadway, its 469 miles connect two national parks, the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina and the Shenandoah in Virginia. As a national treasure, it connects the hearts of its visitors with the regional landscape. With more than 20 million travelers a year, the Blue Ridge Parkway is the National Park Service’s most visited site.

It’s a natural fit that Appalachian, located so nearby, can help care for the Blue Ridge Parkway, which for generations of students has been “the” getaway for hiking, quiet time or a relaxing drive. That recreational relationship has turned far more academic and service-learning oriented in recent years.

Since 2006, Appalachian has had an official partnership with the National Park Service for research and public service projects that help the Blue Ridge Parkway’s management team in tight budget times and give the university an easily accessible learning lab.

As the teachers’ NEH institute at Appalachian this summer proved, there are many ways to experience the Blue Ridge Parkway. Academic disciplines from biology and geography to communication generate useful information and services for the parkway that its management otherwise may not have pursued or would have found costly (see page 16).

“There’s a lot of work on the parkway that simply doesn’t get done,” explained Bambi Teague, chief of resource management and science for the Blue Ridge Parkway. “Appalachian is able to give us what we need and in turn we can give experience to students. I love that we’re able to offer students real-life problems.”

While some faculty had been working with the Blue Ridge Parkway for several years, a key project leading to the official partnership took place in spring 2006 when the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation approached the Department of History about having someone investigate the history of Moses Cone’s Flat Top Manor, especially its original furnishings. Neva Specht was teaching a graduate-level course in material culture at the time and thought the request could make an interesting class exercise.

“The class did a fantastic job. They looked into all aspects of the house, they tracked down the will, made contacts with people who may have had the original furnishings, and they came up with an interpretive notebook currently used by interpreters as they give tours of the house,” Specht said.

The history class’s success with Flat Top Manor sparked more conversations between
the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian. Soon after, Provost Stan Aeschleman appointed Specht the official go-to person for matching parkway needs with faculty expertise. The faculty members, in turn, make what could be single-person research projects into class-wide activities that connect textbook theory with real social issues.

“A lot of people on campus are taking part in the parkway,” said Specht. “It’s very cross-disciplinary.”

Associate professor Norman Clark, who teaches in the Department of Communication, said he chose the parkway for his Public Service Research Program course because it has “such a wide range of issues – plant life, economic issues, political issues, communication issues, sociological issues.”

He led students on a project involving trail use. “The Blue Ridge Parkway provides an amazing learning opportunity. Students get a sense of the history of the parkway but also how to be forward-looking in their problem solving and not just come up with short-term fixes.”

**CARING FOR ITS FUTURE**

Long-term stewardship is what citizens in both North Carolina and Virginia are being asked to remember as the parkway prepares for its 75th anniversary celebration in 2010 and another century of visitors.

Towards that goal, the Blue Ridge Parkway management team has sought public comments for a general management plan which will be approved by 2010, its first since the 1940s.

“The parkway is a special place, and if we care about it we need to focus on the responsibility that comes with it. We’re facing issues. The budget isn’t what it needs to be and the natural resources are being impacted by visitors,” said Leesa Brandon, the parkway’s 75th anniversary coordinator.

A series of events involving local communities is being planned to emphasize stewardship and connect the parkway’s anniversary with the 75th anniversaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2009 and Shenandoah National Park in 2011.

“The parkway is a national treasure,” Brandon said. “Its biodiversity and cultural memories are an important part of the American story. Everyone from elected officials to the general public, including people who may take it for granted, have a chance to get involved. If you love it, consider what’s happening and how you can be involved.”

*Learn more at www.nps.gov/blri/ and www.brpfoundation.org/*

---

**PARKWAY FACTS**

- The most visited unit of America’s National Park System, attracting 20 million visitors a year.
- The longest road ever planned as a single unit in America at the time of its construction.
- A subject studied by more than 30,000 school children in Virginia and North Carolina each year who receive educational programs in their classrooms from Blue Ridge Parkway rangers.
- An idea born out of the Great Depression for the purpose of putting as many people as possible to work. These included private contractors, the state and federal highway departments, Italian and Spanish immigrant stonemasons, and thousands of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees.
- Completed in “sections,” beginning with a groundbreaking in September 1935. Half of the road was completed by World War II with all but one section open to the public by the 1960s. The last section, Linn Cove Viaduct around Grandfather Mountain, was completed in 1987.
- Contains 26 tunnels, all but one in North Carolina, where the mountains are more rugged than those in Virginia.
- Travels through 29 counties and accounts for $2 billion each year in revenue to North Carolina and Virginia.

*Source: National Park Service*
Appalachian State University and the Blue Ridge Parkway collaborate on numerous projects. Highlights include the following:

**TOXICOLOGY STUDIES**
In the early 1900s at the peak of the Moses Cone Estate’s apple production, workers spread a white powder containing lead arsenate throughout the orchards as a pesticide. Today, students in an environmental toxicology course sample the grass, soil, apples, trees and stream sediment and are finding that certain amounts of the lead arsenate continue to permeate the property.

This summer, the students expanded last year’s toxicology studies to measure the contaminant’s presence in the food chain, such as in the cattle that graze the property and the fish in Bass Lake, just downhill from the orchards.

“It is an issue? We want to find out,” Shea Tiberty, assistant professor of biology, said about possible food-chain contamination. “This is an incredible opportunity for undergraduates to perform cutting edge research using equipment that most schools don’t even have, and do it as a public service.”

**TRAIL USE**
The National Park Service considers two popular trails problematic because of user issues: Rough Ridge Trail, where hikers frequently leave marked paths and damage native plants, and Bass Lake Trail, where horseback riders and walkers with dogs must share the same path.

Students in an interdisciplinary Public Service Research Program course last spring developed possible solutions to these issues.

Their research included conducting trail-use studies and examining policies at other national parks. In their presentation to the NPS, they recommended better instructional signage at both locations; a designated rock at Rough Ridge where hikers could leave the trail without risk of damaging vegetation; and establishment of a dog park at Bass Lake.

The course was funded by a federal Learn and Serve America grant, which will support the class for two more years.

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**
Walkers at Bass Lake now have a much-needed restroom facility thanks to students in the Department of Technology.

A studio class led by assistant professor Chad Everhart came up with 10 designs a year ago, which they presented to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and National Park Service. The organizations chose the best design elements, and the Foundation raised money for the project. Construction began over the summer.

Megan Harris, a sophomore building science major, participated in the studio class and assisted with the construction. “The biggest thing that I have learned from this is the overall experience of seeing a project go from the design stage to being laid out in drawings to seeing it all be built,” she said. “It has helped me to understand a lot more about the details of how a building fits together, something that can’t be read in a book.”

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
Students in a public relations class founded the first-ever college chapter of the nonprofit FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway in early 2008. The chapter volunteers time to help operate facilities and programs at the level expected by visitors despite federal budgetary shortfalls – which last year alone resulted in 57 unfilled positions. In April, the students held their first trail maintenance project at Price Park, where they cleaned up debris and reinstalled a wooden bridge.

Meanwhile, Outdoor Programs has partnered with FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway to form a service-learning opportunity called the Blue Ridge Parkway Corps. The corps consists of 12 student volunteers who serve as a uniformed presence along popular trails and overlooks. They educate hikers in hopes they will stay on the trail and not trample sensitive vegetation.

Joanna Pardo, a junior biology major, is among the volunteers. “The parkway is such a beautiful and popular area. Most kids I know go out on the parkway usually at least once a week,” she said. “I’ve stepped off the hiking trails before and never considered the impact. Now I’ll be one of those who informs others ‘don’t step there.’”

**GLOBAL POSITIONING**
Graduate student Stephanie Smith in the Department of Geography and Planning is using Google Earth to create an information map for the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation’s Web site, detailing where the parkway is located and how private support creates opportunities beyond what’s possible with federal funding.

Smith is continuing a connection between Appalachian geographers and the Blue Ridge Parkway that started in the late 1980s when professor Art Rex used Geographic Information Systems and satellite imagery to document the vieshesh from various overlooks.

As the university has expanded its involvement with the parkway, Rex said he still sees the collaboration as a natural fit: “Appalachian can do these things, we want to be involved with the parkway, and we have students who need good, practical experience.”

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**
In 1947, the NPS acquired the 3,600-acre Moses Cone Estate and its Flat Top Manor. In 2007, Appalachian co-hosted a symposium on the majestic home and its residents, including Bertha Cone who adroitly ran her husband’s apple orchards for 40 years after his death.

The two-day event featured public presentations on issues of class, gender, race and religion and brought new insight into the story of the textile king’s summer home. It was sponsored with the Blowing Rock Historical Society and Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

The university has sponsored campus presentations by UNC-Chapel Hill’s Anne Whisnant, author of “Super-Scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History.” Her research reveals lesser-known facts about the parkway – including the political connections that reversed a federal decision favoring a Tennessee route and instead made possible the existing North Carolina route.
One hundred and eighty years ago, Charles Darwin enrolled in Christ’s College, University of Cambridge after a disastrous year studying medicine at Edinburgh University. He was 20 years old.

Darwin graduated in 1831 with a degree in theology. By the end of the year, he was on board the HMS Beagle as it left Britain on a voyage that lasted almost five years, and changed his life forever.

How did Darwin grow from an undistinguished college student into one of the world’s great scientists? His transformation can be attributed to the mentoring of botanist John Stevens Henslow and geologist Adam Sedgwick, both faculty members at Cambridge. They provided him with the framework for understanding the world through observation and experiment, taught him methods of data collection, instilled in him a love of fieldwork, and inflamed his desire to see the world. Thanks to their efforts, Darwin returned from his travels to become one of the most influential scientists of all time.

In 2009, scientists and educators around the world will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his most influential work, “On the Origin of Species,” in which he defined his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In its modern incarnation, Darwin’s theory is perhaps the most comprehensive scientific theory ever proposed. It draws on and links evidence and theories from across the academic disciplines.

Though scholars continue to debate issues related to the theory, natural selection is one of the principle foundations of the life and human sciences. In fact, Darwin’s theory that some life forms survive and reproduce because they are better suited to environmental pressures, ensuring their genes are perpetuated in the gene pool, has become a cornerstone of modern education. Its impact is evident across university curricula.

Appalachian commemorates the Darwin anniversaries with a year-long lecture series that brings to campus award-winning scientists, philosophers, theologians and historians, and a variety of events and activities focusing on Darwin’s ideas and their impacts on society.

Today’s Darwins are attending colleges and universities around the world, including Appalachian. Like Darwin, they will avail themselves of opportunities presented to them and change the world in ways we cannot imagine.

— Introduction by Johnny Waters, left, chair, Department of Geology; and David Reid, assistant professor of history
Appalachian scholars reflect on Darwin’s legacy

Editor’s Note: In the following essays, Appalachian faculty members reflect on the influence Darwin’s theory has had on their respective disciplines, and upon past and contemporary culture.

CONVEYING DARWIN TO THE MASSES

MARTHA MCCAUGHEY
Professor, Women’s Studies and Sociology

Most people have not read the works of Darwin. His ideas, like those of many great thinkers, ended up in the minds of millions thanks to journalists, scholars, activists and others eager to convey the significance of such ideas.

But popularizers have not always been the best source of information about Darwin’s theory. For instance, Darwin never said “man came from apes” or uttered the phrase “survival of the fittest,” though many attribute such views to him.

Today, evolutionary theories are applied in a variety of ways throughout academia and popular culture. And, right or wrong, popularizers and enthusiasts continue to convey the significance of these theories to the masses. For instance, some breastfeeding advocates invoke evolutionary theory to convince people that breastfeeding and a close mother-and-baby relationship are most in sync with an evolved human nature.

Some men’s magazines, television shows and books offer a version of evolutionary theory telling us men’s brains evolved in a way that makes them sexually promiscuous, and even sexually aggressive.

There are those who worry that applying evolutionary theory in this way will enable men to rationalize such behavior. Others suggest becoming aware of the evolutionary roots of our behavioral tendencies will make us more conscientious actors in the world.

Cleary, Darwin’s theory has never had one simple meaning. For this reason, his legacy is important to examine – whether or not we understand or agree with his big idea.

DARWIN AND THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE

DAVID REID
Assistant Professor, History

Given how closely the theory of evolution is associated with Darwin, many find it surprising that he was not the first to propose the concept. By 1859, European naturalists had been developing such theories for more than 100 years.

But Darwin’s work came at a time of tremendous scientific and social change, and as a result was the subject of vigorous public debate, especially with respect to the relationship between science and religion.

Within Victorian science, Darwin’s theory of natural selection became a modernizing force. His contemporaries recognized it as the most logical and cohesive evolutionary theory yet devised. What set it apart was Darwin’s rigorous use of evidence, namely animals, plants, fossils, and rock formations observed worldwide.

Furthermore, professionally trained “scientists” — a term coined in the 1830s — were gradually replacing “gentlemen naturalists,” many of whom, like Darwin, were trained in theology. Darwin’s theory created a research agenda these new scientists pursued in the making of their careers.

For most of Darwin’s contemporaries, science and religion were not in conflict. And by the end of the 19th century, many scientists had developed versions of evolutionary theory they believed were compatible with Christianity.

Although scientists of the early 20th century pursued several non-Darwinian theories of evolution, between 1930 and 1960 a new generation synthesized developments in genetics, paleontology and ecology, thereby revising Darwin’s theory. This “Darwinian synthesis” set the stage for future progress in the biological sciences.
When Darwin departed on his life-altering voyage, he took with him the equivalent of a minor in geology. He appreciated the key concepts of geology and understood what they contributed to his theories.

Geology holds the key to the deep time of evolutionary change, and paleontology is the only discipline that reveals the story of past life. Data from fossils and the rocks encasing them are the only information we will ever have for 99.99 percent of Earth's history.

As a paleontologist, I test evolutionary concepts against fossils and the rocks that hold them. I’m most interested in the Late Triassic period – more than 200 million years ago – when the first tiny dinosaurs evolved.

Each year I take students to New Mexico and Arizona on “Triassic trips.” We advance the fossil record a little further as we sweat in the desert uncovering the fossil bones of animals the first dinosaurs feared.

But, you don’t have to camp in the desert to witness this record of evolution. A cast of Archaeopteryx, the oldest known bird, is in Appalachian's McKinney Geology Teaching Museum and on the cover of this issue of Appalachian Today. My introductory students study this cast, taking note of its toothy mouth, clawed hands and long, bony tail. Most experts would call this specimen a dinosaur, until they see the feathers.
DARWIN AND THE MORALITY DEBATE

KIM Q. HALL
Associate Professor, Philosophy

Within the discipline of philosophy, Darwinian evolution has sparked debate that impacts many everyday practices and assumptions. For instance, most people take for granted that humans are different from animals; but, Darwin demonstrated that the differences between humans and animals are differences of degree, not kind.

Many of our ordinary activities assume it's morally justifiable to treat animals in ways we would not treat humans. For example, some humans hunt and kill animals, but hunting and killing humans is considered morally wrong. Many people eat animals and confine them in zoos, but would consider it morally unacceptable to eat or enslave human beings.

These distinctions between acceptable treatment of humans versus animals are rooted in the belief that humans and animals don't possess the same abilities (such as reasoning or communication) and thus are radically different kinds of beings. Such distinctions profoundly affect personal decision-making and public policy.

Darwin, however, extensively studied animal behavior in developing his theory of evolution and concluded that many non-human creatures possess the ability to reason and communicate. For philosophers, this raises moral questions. If there are no morally relevant differences between humans and animals, society would be forced to reexamine the ethics of eating animals, using them for medical experiments, and displaying them in circuses and zoos. Philosophers continue to debate this.

FROM DARWIN TO FREUD

JOAN B. WOODWORTH and DOUGLAS WARING
Professors, Psychology

By identifying humans as biological beings within the context of all living organisms, Darwin's ideas changed the traditional view of human nature, and thus the history and discipline of psychology.

The field of comparative psychology compares human physical and psychological characteristics and processes to their origins in animals. Investigations in this field focus on comparisons between animals and humans with regard to the development of the nervous system and the brain, consciousness and behavior. For instance, researchers at Stanford University found that studying the intellectual capacity of Koko, a young gorilla, helped them better understand the development of human language and intelligence.

Extensive research on the role of heredity and environment on human evolution has contributed to what we know about learning, personality, individual differences and motivation. Even Freud understood the importance of the environment in human development, and believed human behavior resulted from primitive, unconscious instincts that are essential for survival. These are concepts he derived from Darwin's work.

Because of Darwin, modern psychology is a more applied, practical discipline that explores the survival value of mental and behavioral processes, such as the “fight or flight” response, which evolved to promote survival in the presence of immediate danger.

LIFE WILL FIND A WAY

DANIEL B. CATON
Professor, Physics and Astronomy

The idea that life will evolve by Darwinian natural selection has become a driving force in astronomical research. Within this field there is no greater question to answer than “Are we alone in the universe?”

Physicist Enrico Fermi asked at a conference luncheon, “Where is everybody?” His colleagues knew he meant not “Where are the other diners?” but “Where is ET?”

A simple mathematical calculation shows that intelligent life should spread quickly throughout the galaxy, yet we have no real documented visits. And the search for radio signals has found nothing.

The likelihood of contacting other civilizations is proportional to how long a civilization survives. War may be the sad solution selected by nature to control intelligent populations. One answer to Fermi's paradox is we will destroy ourselves before we meet “the other.”

Yet, to paraphrase Ian Malcom, the mathematician in “Jurassic Park,” life will find a way. Life has evolved to survive in virtually every environment on Earth, and evolution will proceed wherever life starts.

It is equally as profound to believe we are alone in the galaxy as to believe that intelligence has evolved many times. I choose the latter.
A year from now, incoming freshmen will experience an Appalachian education quite differently than their older peers. The university is redesigning its basic requirements for a bachelor’s degree and already has created a new portal for academic success – called University College – that is dedicated to developing students’ reflective, life-long learning and transferable skills necessary for a changing world.

Students benefit from University College’s programs from their first step onto campus until they graduate.

“The college was founded in the summer of 2007 in order to coordinate programs that meet a broad range of needs for 21st-century students as they prepare to live and work in a complex network of local, regional and global communities,” explained Dave Haney, Appalachian’s vice provost for undergraduate education. “University College crosses many of the boundaries that separate traditional colleges and departments, and we are committed to the idea that a college education should connect what goes on inside and outside the classroom.”

Haney has spent the past year coordinating the major components of University College, which include the new General Education Program – the 44-semester hours required of all students regardless of their major. The General Education Program will span the four years of a student’s academic career and will focus on four goals: thinking critically and creatively, communicating effectively, making local to global connections, and understanding responsibilities of community membership. The program begins in fall 2009.

This fall, Appalachian began offering a redesigned version of its Freshman Seminar course, called First Year Seminar, which will be required of all entering students as part of the General Education Program next year. More academically challenging than its predecessor, First Year Seminar will be taught by experienced faculty who are committed to helping freshmen successfully transition from high school to college by developing creative and critical thinking abilities, cultivating effective communication skills, and introducing students to a variety of research tools and methods.

A student’s path through University College looks like this:

Both freshmen and transfer students are introduced to Appalachian and given their initial academic guidance through University College’s advising and orientation offices. The college’s curricular programs – from General Education and Heltzer Honors to undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary degree programs – are designed to help students achieve the essential learning outcomes of a liberal education. Through its co-curricular programs, students learn from distinguished visiting authors and speakers, blend their classroom learning with community service, and pursue independent research with faculty mentors.

Throughout their time at Appalachian, students benefit from University College’s other support services to improve their writing, work on other academic skills, and take the tests necessary to advance their careers at Appalachian and beyond. University College also provides faculty members with innovative teaching opportunities, and supports them in developing successful learning practices, especially in the important area of writing.

University College oversees Appalachian’s bachelor of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies, as well as five new degrees approved in June by the UNC Board of Governors. They are the bachelor of arts degrees in Appalachian studies, global studies, sustainable development and women’s studies, and a bachelor of science degree in sustainable development. These five academic areas were previously offered as concentrations through the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, which has since been dissolved.

“The establishment of these areas as full-fledged degree programs is an important recognition of the increasing significance of interdisciplinary teaching and learning at Appalachian,” Haney said.

Learn more at www.universitycollege.appstate.edu
Student receives national service

awards

Andrew C. Young served two tours of duty as a medic in a special operations unit in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was recognized for his volunteer work with Western Youth Network, a non-profit organization serving young people and their families in Watauga, Avery and Ashe counties.

“When I got out of the Army I wanted to do something to help our community, so I volunteered as a big brother,” said Young of Greensboro. “I spent a year and a half working with a 10-year-old who had a pretty tough family life, trying to steer him in a good direction.”

The Scholar of Promise Award is given to NSCS members who complete 50 hours of youth-oriented community service within a 12-month period. The President’s Volunteer Service Award is given to members who complete at least 100 hours of service during one year.

“To receive either award is an outstanding achievement, but to receive both is truly exemplary,” said Stephen E. Loflin, NSCS executive director.

Science program fills gap for home-schooled and minority students

The AppalSEED Academy, an after-school science enrichment program for High Country home-schooled students and minority students from Hickory, begins this fall to increase their access to technology and scientific expertise.

AppalSEED stands for Appalachian Student Experience-based Education. The academy is funded by a three-year, $179,000 grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

A total of 20 students, 10 home schooled and 10 from Hickory, will participate in the program free of charge. They will meet on campus once a week from September through April, with a new group admitted to the program each year by application.

The students will participate in team-building activities and work with Appalachian faculty on projects in chemistry, eco-toxicology, microscopy and biomedical science.

For more information visit www.appalseed.appstate.edu.

NSF grant a boost to math and science majors

The College of Arts and Sciences has received a $1 million grant to help increase the number of students majoring in math, computer science and physics and astronomy.

The five-year National Science Foundation Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program grant will enable the college to establish the Appalachian Undergraduate Academy of Science, designed to attract and retain freshman and sophomore students.

Appalachian was one of 22 institutions receiving a STEP grant from a total of 168 submissions from across the country.

Forty students have been selected to participate in the academy this fall. The academy will build a learning community of students in science and math who take similar classes and collaborate on their coursework, and will expand faculty accessibility.

The students will work on research ranging from forensic science and nanotechnology to computational physics and image processing.

The grant also will fully fund a three-week summer “bridge” program designed to support incoming freshmen who may be underprepared in mathematics.

Social work to be its own department

The Department of Sociology and Social Work has been divided into two academic units in order to better serve students seeking specialized programming.

The Department of Social Work, a candidate for inclusion in Appalachian’s proposed health college, will offer bachelor of social work and master of social work degrees.

The Department of Sociology will remain in the College of Arts and Sciences and offer bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, and a master of arts in gerontology.

New name better reflects department’s identity

The Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice has changed its name to the Department of Government and Justice Studies.

The name change more accurately describes the scope of programming, teaching and research, as well as faculty members who include criminologists, public administrators and policy specialists. The department continues to offer degree programming in political science, criminal justice and public administration.

www.cas.appstate.edu
Mentoring program nurtures young entrepreneurs

Starting this fall, students at Appalachian will learn firsthand about entrepreneurship from successful business professionals through the Dale Tweedy Mentoring Program for Entrepreneur Scholars.

“A select group of Appalachian students will have the opportunity to learn from some of the most successful entrepreneurs in our region,” said Bryan Toney, director of the Walker College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship.

The program, coordinated by the Center for Entrepreneurship, is open to all Appalachian students through an application process. It is designed to help students develop the skills and mindset needed to achieve entrepreneurial success. A group of 10 students was selected to take part in the inaugural program.

“Mindset is a critical factor for success in business, both as an employee and as a business owner, according to Dale Tweedy ’89, a technology and business consulting entrepreneur who provided the financial support to create the program.

“I want to share my experiences with the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders by providing access to real world experiences,” he said.

Perseverance, focus, calculated risk assessment, business development, and ethics are other themes that will be addressed in the program.

Mindset is a critical factor for success in business, both as an employee and as a business owner, according to Dale Tweedy ’89, a technology and business-consulting entrepreneur who provided the financial support to create the program.

“I want to share my experiences with the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders by providing access to real world experiences,” he said.

Perseverance, focus, calculated risk assessment, business development, and ethics are other themes that will be addressed in the program.


Faculty members awarded professorships

Professors have been awarded to six faculty members in the Walker College of Business.

The professorships recognize faculty for outstanding instruction, scholarship, service, and for serving as role models for students. Recipients receive a salary stipend and retain the professorship for two years.

Dick Crandall (computer information systems) was awarded the Beroth Oil – Four Brothers Food Stores Professorship.

Claudia Kelly (accounting) was awarded the Honorable Harlan E. Boyles Professorship.

Lyle Schoenfeldt (management) was awarded the L.M. Baker Jr. Professorship.

Mike Dotson (marketing) was awarded the John W. Guffey Jr. Professorship.

Jim Westerman (management) was awarded the Duane D. Daggett Professorship in Management.

Alan E. Singer (management) was awarded the James E. Holshouser, Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Ethics.

The professorship named for Duane D. Daggett, pictured, is the most recently established in the Walker College of Business.

TVA president to speak at fall CEO Series

Tom Kilgore, president and chief executive officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority, is the Fall 2008 Harlan E. Boyles Distinguished CEO Lecturer.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 8, in Farthing Auditorium at 2 p.m. The lecture series, named for the late State Treasurer Harlan E. Boyles, is open to the public. Learn more at www.business.appstate.edu/ceo

College maintains accreditation

The Walker College of Business has maintained accreditation of its undergraduate and graduate business programs with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The college has held AACSB accreditation since 1976.

“Accreditation by AACSB International is only granted to high-quality business programs in the United States and around the world,” said Dean Randy Edwards. “This is a great accomplishment for the college, and reflects the high quality of our faculty, staff and students.”

AACSB accredited schools undergo a peer review every five years in order to maintain accreditation. Programs seeking accreditation must meet a range of AACSB standards relating to resource management, faculty and student interactions, and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

As part of the accreditation process, the college shows evidence of a strategic plan to provide a quality-teaching environment, a curriculum responsive to the needs of business, and continuous program improvement.

AACSB International is an association of more than 1,100 educational institutions, businesses and organizations in 70 countries dedicated to the advancement of business education. Less than one-third of business schools in the United States and one-tenth globally are accredited by AACSB.
LRE professor helps transform Qatar’s education system

The cultural gap between the Western world and the Middle East can best be bridged through educational outreach rather than military action, says Gary Moorman, a professor in the Department of Language, Reading and Exceptionalities.

“We’re spending a lot of time and money on military activities, but not nearly enough on educational assistance,” he said.

To that end, Moorman spent four months last spring at Qatar University leading faculty development workshops, and helping develop the university’s reading and writing curriculum. This was his third trip to Qatar, a neighbor to Saudi Arabia, and one of the wealthiest nations on earth due to its rich reserves of oil and natural gas.

“The university is moving away from the traditional British lecture and recitation model of learning to a model of engaged learning,” Moorman said.

“That is the focus of our conceptual framework in the Reich College of Education, learning not by isolated study or reading other people’s works, but by engaging actively in the learning process,” he said.

During his last visit to Qatar, Moorman taught a post-graduate diploma class to students planning to become teachers. Six students were from Sudan, one from Algeria, one from Syria, and one from Qatar.

“My students and I quickly became an interdependent learning group. They called our class ‘the family,’ and me ‘father,’” he said. “We began each class with open discussion, talking about life in our home countries, Islam and Christianity, our families, educational philosophy and psychology, and, most of all, the profession of teaching.”

Moorman’s efforts to help transform Qatar University’s education system will continue in the future.

“I’ve been invited to collaborate on a variety of projects, including a literacy grant with other university faculty, and to consult with the council that oversees education in Qatar,” he said. “I look at this opportunity and think there is so much I can do that will make a difference.”

Sisters’ estate gift will benefit future teachers

This fall, the Carender Endowed Scholarship will enable Reich College of Education to offer more scholarships to students preparing to enter the teaching profession.

Lavola ’36 and Mary Launa ’34 Carender established the endowment with the Appalachian State University Foundation in 1993, along with two trusts to fund the endowment.

The sisters, descendents of the earliest settlers of Banner Elk, were both lifelong teachers. Their generous gift is one of the largest estate gifts ever received by RCCE. It will fund several four-year scholarships for students from Watauga and Avery counties, and support additional students from Western North Carolina who want to become teachers.

Earlier this year, Appalachian’s foundation received the first distributions from the Carender trusts, which totaled $452,000. Additional distributions are expected, including 35 percent of the proceeds of the sale of the 100-acre farm that belonged to the Carender family for more than 100 years.

After retirement, the sisters lived out their lives on the family farm. “Miss Mary” died in 2003 at age 92, and Lavola died in 2007 at age 94.

2008 Rhododendron Society Inductees

Three alumni who committed their careers to the teaching profession were inducted into the Reich College of Education’s Rhododendron Society in July:

William D. “Bill” Killian ’43 ’60 served 39 years as a teacher and administrator at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Peggy Badgett Rickert ’56 served for 50 years in the Iredell-Statesville school system. Judy Gibson Mays ’69 began and continues her 40-year career at Mendenhall Middle School in Greensboro where she is a business and computer technology teacher.

The Rhododendron Society recognizes Appalachian alumni whose service to the field of education has been outstanding. Killian, Rickert and Mays were honored at an induction breakfast during the annual Black and Gold Reunion sponsored by the Alumni Association. Read about their careers at www.ced.appstate.edu/alumni/societies/rhododendron.

Gary Moorman’s use of the “Community of Learners” conceptual model engendered a sense of family among his students.

Qatar is considered the highest per-capita income country in the world, and one of the fastest growing.

Pictured from left are Judy Gibson Mays, William D. Killian and Peggy Badgett Rickert.
Students step into ‘freeze’ time

Members of the student photography club F Stop took part in “Stopping Time: The Art and Science of ‘Doc’ Edgerton’s Lifework,” an exhibit at the Hickory Museum of Art last spring.

Harold “Doc” Edgerton, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, pioneered strobe photography. Using a stroboscope, he was able to photographically freeze time, capturing details the human eye cannot see.

David Crosby, an adjunct instructor in Appalachian’s Department of Technology, serves on the museum’s exhibition committee. He arranged for the Edgerton exhibit to incorporate a demonstration of high-speed photography and invited technology students to participate.

Members of F Stop who took part in the event were Ashley Bartholomew, William Hockaday, Rachel Jones, Amelia Davis and Will Connelly.

On opening night of the exhibit, Edgerton’s images highlighting the precise detail of stillness served as a backdrop to F Stop’s demonstration, including one of a bullet piercing an apple and another of a football caving to the toe of an athlete’s cleat.

With lights dimmed, strobe light flashing, and music playing, a group of Appalachian break-dancers took turns moving in the center of the gallery as F Stop members shot digital images. The photographs were transferred to a nearby laptop and instantly projected upon the museum’s walls.

“People who may not have known anything about high-speed photography really began to understand it that night,” said Kate Worm, an art educator at the museum.

“One was all about curiosity and education. Seeing these students use his technique 70 years later was great.”

Communication kudos

It’s been a year of recognition for the Department of Communication, as indicated by the following awards:

- Glenda Treadaway, College of Fine and Applied Arts’ interim dean, received the John Shields award for Outstanding Contributions to Pi Kappa Delta, a public speaking and debate honor society.
- Professor Terry Cole was elected to the Pi Kappa Delta Hall of Fame, Class of 2009.
- Brandon Brown ’08, a journalism major, received a Region 2 Mark of Excellence Award for his online opinion and commentary, Pop Culture Commentary.
- Ben Park ’08, an electronic media/broadcasting major, won the grand prize in the “Video Magazine Program” category at the National Broadcasting Societies’ National Convention for his video “Visual Arts In Boone.”
- Jim Lail ’08, an electronic media/broadcasting major, won first place for his audio documentary “The Blue Ridge Goes Green” at the National Broadcasting Society Regional Convention.
- Juston Smith ’08 and Ashley Poag ’08, both electronic media/broadcasting majors, won first place for their public service announcement “Open Door Policy” at the National Broadcasting Society Regional Competition.
- Appalachian’s debate team ranked ninth in the American Debate Association National final rankings.
- Appalachian’s chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists received, for the second consecutive year, the organization’s four-star chapter award, the highest rating given to chapters. The chapter was also named Region 2 Outstanding Campus Chapter for 2006-07.
Students Stefka Yordanova and Sambuddha Ghatak bring to the classroom an enriching perspective for their American counterparts.

International students enrich graduate program

Sambuddha Ghatak and Stefka Yordanova come from very different cultures. Their presence in the political science graduate program has enriched the classroom environment for both students and faculty.

“Sam and Stefka's life experiences and perspectives of the world are quite different than their American counterparts, who have lived under a stable and democratic government,” said Phillip Ardoin, director of the political science graduate program in the Department of Government and Justice Studies.

Ghatak, who is from India, is able to share personal accounts of how ethnic groups are segregated in India, and how his generation challenges these divisions. His educational experience at Appalachian State University has been quite different than in India, where open discussion in classrooms is not allowed.

“It was a tough decision to leave my family to come here, especially my 11-year-old son,” Ghatak said. “But it has been worth it. I believe my experience here will allow me to give him a better future.”

Yordanova is from Bulgaria, which was under communist rule during her childhood.

“When discussions about the Cold War or the role of communism come up in the comparative politics course, Stefka can talk about her country's transition to democracy. She experienced it firsthand,” said Ardoin.

While at Appalachian, Yordanova has experienced the ways of young American women through her work as a residence director. She has also developed a healthy appreciation for Appalachian football.

“We have only soccer in Europe, so this is completely new to me,” she said of the Mountaineers. “I am a huge fan, and can't wait for the coming season.”

While Yordanova and Ghatak bring to the classroom very different life experiences, their time with Appalachian students proves true an old adage.

“They're all finding they have more in common with each other than they have differences,” said Ardoin.

Workshops enhance grant-writing skills in the sciences and humanities

Two grant-writing workshops offered last spring taught faculty how to pursue external funding for research in the sciences and humanities.

The programs were coordinated by Pollyanne Frantz, director of proposal development in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Cratis D. Williams Graduate School.

“Writing Excellent Proposals” focused on grant writing for faculty in the sciences. It was conducted by Thomas R. Blackburn of the Grants Consultancy of Washington, D.C.

The National Endowment for the Humanities Proposal Writing workshop featured Marion Tangum, an educational consultant based in Washington, D.C.

According to Edelma Huntley, dean of research and graduate studies, workshops like these help faculty in a variety of projects and underscore Appalachian's commitment to combining quality research with quality teaching.

“We're providing the support and training they need to pursue activities that make Appalachian an outstanding university, including faculty projects, student research, and community outreach,” she said.

Hunter applies technology to assist mountain vineyards

Lauren Hunter ’06 ’08 benefited the mountain region's wine industry while combining her interests in biology, viticulture and geographic information systems technology.

Before completing her master’s degree in geography in August, she used environmental data collecting devices, called geosensors, to collect information on climate and soil characteristics in mountain vineyards. She conducted her research at Banner Elk Winery in Avery County.

“My goal is to use this information to help vineyard managers identify and act in response to variations in local environmental conditions,” Hunter said. “This will help them to effectively tailor their irrigation, fertilization and fungicide applications, and ultimately to produce higher quality grapes.”

For her efforts, Hunter received the Precision Agriculture Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 2008 from the International Conference on Precision Agriculture. She is one of 10 graduate students from six countries to receive the award. She also received a $10,000 NC Beautiful grant to purchase equipment used in her research.

Lauren Hunter holds geosensor technology she used to help vineyard managers improve grape quality and productivity.

Students Stefka Yordanova and Sambuddha Ghatak bring to the classroom an enriching perspective for their American counterparts.

International students enrich graduate program

Sambuddha Ghatak and Stefka Yordanova come from very different cultures. Their presence in the political science graduate program has enriched the classroom environment for both students and faculty.

“Sam and Stefka’s life experiences and perspectives of the world are quite different than their American counterparts, who have lived under a stable and democratic government,” said Phillip Ardoin, director of the political science graduate program in the Department of Government and Justice Studies.

Ghatak, who is from India, is able to share personal accounts of how ethnic groups are segregated in India, and how his generation challenges these divisions. His educational experience at Appalachian State University has been quite different than in India, where open discussion in classrooms is not allowed.

“It was a tough decision to leave my family to come here, especially my 11-year-old son,” Ghatak said. “But it has been worth it. I believe my experience here will allow me to give him a better future.”

Yordanova is from Bulgaria, which was under communist rule during her childhood.

“When discussions about the Cold War or the role of communism come up in the comparative politics course, Stefka can talk about her country's transition to democracy. She experienced it firsthand,” said Ardoin.

While at Appalachian, Yordanova has experienced the ways of young American women through her work as a residence director. She has also developed a healthy appreciation for Appalachian football.

“We have only soccer in Europe, so this is completely new to me,” she said of the Mountaineers. “I am a huge fan, and can't wait for the coming season.”

While Yordanova and Ghatak bring to the classroom very different life experiences, their time with Appalachian students proves true an old adage.

“They're all finding they have more in common with each other than they have differences,” said Ardoin.

Workshops enhance grant-writing skills in the sciences and humanities

Two grant-writing workshops offered last spring taught faculty how to pursue external funding for research in the sciences and humanities.

The programs were coordinated by Pollyanne Frantz, director of proposal development in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Cratis D. Williams Graduate School.

“Writing Excellent Proposals” focused on grant writing for faculty in the sciences. It was conducted by Thomas R. Blackburn of the Grants Consultancy of Washington, D.C.

The National Endowment for the Humanities Proposal Writing workshop featured Marion Tangum, an educational consultant based in Washington, D.C.

According to Edelma Huntley, dean of research and graduate studies, workshops like these help faculty in a variety of projects and underscore Appalachian's commitment to combining quality research with quality teaching.

“We're providing the support and training they need to pursue activities that make Appalachian an outstanding university, including faculty projects, student research, and community outreach,” she said.

Hunter applies technology to assist mountain vineyards

Lauren Hunter ’06 ’08 benefited the mountain region's wine industry while combining her interests in biology, viticulture and geographic information systems technology.

Before completing her master’s degree in geography in August, she used environmental data collecting devices, called geosensors, to collect information on climate and soil characteristics in mountain vineyards. She conducted her research at Banner Elk Winery in Avery County.

“My goal is to use this information to help vineyard managers identify and act in response to variations in local environmental conditions,” Hunter said. “This will help them to effectively tailor their irrigation, fertilization and fungicide applications, and ultimately to produce higher quality grapes.”

For her efforts, Hunter received the Precision Agriculture Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 2008 from the International Conference on Precision Agriculture. She is one of 10 graduate students from six countries to receive the award. She also received a $10,000 NC Beautiful grant to purchase equipment used in her research.

Lauren Hunter holds geosensor technology she used to help vineyard managers improve grape quality and productivity.
This summer, Cannon Music Camp celebrated 40 years of delivering comprehensive musical instruction to young musicians, with a focus on college preparatory work in performance and music theory.

The camp has attracted middle and high school students from North Carolina and across the country since 1969.

Campers receive four weeks of instruction and take part in ensemble performances, choir, orchestra, band, jazz, chamber music and private lessons.

For first-year camper Kayla D. Watson, who wants to be a professional vocalist, her experience this summer was a resounding success.

“The faculty has been great,” the senior from Trinity High School said. “We’ve learned something new every day, and it’s been fun getting to know other people who are serious about their music.”

Jennifer Kloetzel attended Cannon Music camp in 1986 and is now a member of the Cypress String Quartet, which performed in Farthing Auditorium last February.

According to Kloetzel, the camp’s rigorous performance and rehearsal schedule helped prepare her to be a professional musician.

“Working one on one with teachers nearly every day is very different from having a music lesson once a week. When you’re in that situation you begin to understand how hard you will have to work to establish a performance career,” she said.

Jay Jackson ’76 ’81, associate dean of the Hayes School of Music, attended the camp during its early years. He attributes his decision to attend Appalachian to his experience at the camp.

“It convinced me that this was where I wanted to study music,” he said. “And, there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of students who have attended Appalachian for that same reason – their experience at the camp.”

Jay Jackson ’76 ’81, associate dean of the Hayes School of Music, attended the camp during its early years. He attributes his decision to attend Appalachian to his experience at the camp.

“Working one on one with teachers nearly every day is very different from having a music lesson once a week. When you’re in that situation you begin to understand how hard you will have to work to establish a performance career,” she said.

Jay Jackson ’76 ’81, associate dean of the Hayes School of Music, attended the camp during its early years. He attributes his decision to attend Appalachian to his experience at the camp.

“Working one on one with teachers nearly every day is very different from having a music lesson once a week. When you’re in that situation you begin to understand how hard you will have to work to establish a performance career,” she said.
Trip to China finalizes exchange with Fudan University

Representatives from Appalachian’s Belk Library and Information Commons traveled to Shanghai, China last spring to finalize an exchange between Appalachian and the Fudan University Library.

“The primary purpose of the exchange is to provide our faculty with the type of international perspective we hope to develop in our students,” said University Librarian Mary Reichel.

“The visit to Fudan University and their libraries was a wonderful experience, full of new wonders and adventures every day,” she said. “Our universities will also learn from one another how to best serve our students in this international capacity, and to provide the best research support for faculty and students.”

Also present to sign the Fudan-Appalachian Library Exchange Program agreement were Appalachian librarians Allan Scherlen, Beth Cramer and Xiaorong Shao.

Through the program, a librarian from Fudan University will be in residence at Belk Library for three to six months, while a librarian from Appalachian is in residence at Fudan University Library for one to two months. The program will begin in fall 2009.

In addition to visiting Fudan University, the Appalachian contingency also visited libraries at Shaanxi Normal University and Beijing Normal University.

Fudan University is a premier university with 45,000 students, and its several libraries contain more than 3 million volumes. SNU has 40,000 students and is located in Xi’an, China.

“While at Shaanxi, we discussed possible cooperative endeavors between our two universities as well,” said Beth Cramer.

“This would include library visits, librarian exchanges, and student study abroad opportunities.”

Learn more at www.appfudan.blogspot.com

Lounge honors Judaic center and donor

A reading lounge honoring Appalachian’s Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies has been dedicated in the Belk Library and Information Commons by Molle Grad in memory of her husband, Ed Grad, who helped establish the center.

“I’m pleased to be able to fulfill my husband’s wish to showcase the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies here in the library,” she said.

Founded in 2002, the center seeks to strengthen tolerance, understanding and remembrance by increasing knowledge of Jewish culture and history, teaching the history and meaning of the Holocaust, and using these experiences to explore peaceful avenues for human improvement and the prevention of future genocides. Learn more about the center at www.holocaust.appstate.edu.

For information on naming opportunities with the library, contact Johnny Burleson, director of library development, burlesonjd@appstate.edu or (828) 262-4973.

www.library.appstate.edu
LESTER HARDIN: The Black & Gold’s Hardest Hitting Little Man

Lester Hardin ’52 (No. 24) was an Appalachian legend, one of the “Duggins Boys” who played football for E.C. Duggins in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A long-time supporter and fan of all things Appalachian, Hardin was a founding member of both the Yosef Club and the Mountaineer Club. He died Feb. 20, 2008, at age 79.

“Lester was the hardest hitting little man ever to wear the Black & Gold,” said teammate and friend Bodie Bodenheimer ’51 (No. 44), who established the Big Little Man Endowed Scholarship in Lester’s honor.

“When I came to school here in 1950, Lester was the first person I met,” said Gerald Adams ’54 (No. 48), director of the Yosef Club. “He was a 140-pound fullback and I was a tackle. Our friendship and his support of Appalachian have continued ever since.”
'58 Beverly Christopher ‘59 ’62 MA was awarded an Unsung Hero Award by the students of Wingate University. She retired in 2007 after 45 years as a professor of English.

'62 Oval Jaynes was inducted into the Burke County Sports Hall of Fame, May 30.

'71 Amy (Belk) Hurst retired after 35 years with Kannapolis City Schools where she taught 7th and 8th grade social studies for 25 years, and spent 10 years as the technology facilitator. She also taught the first Dell Techknow Program in North Carolina. Dianne Ellis retired after 21 years employment in the Operations, Technology, and E-Commerce Division of the Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte. Butch Spain, after 34 years of coaching football and soccer, will coach baseball for the Kubasaki High School Dragons in Okinawa, Japan. Vaughn Lowe was honored by Xerox Corporation at the INFORMS Edelman Awards Gala in Baltimore, Md., April 15, for exemplary use of operations research to improve the print industry.

'72 Bonnie Trexler Hodges retired from 35 years in Hospital Dietary Services in March.

'73 Rachel (Garner) Leach, after retiring from 30 years of teaching science and math in Randolph County schools, opened her own business, Victoria’s Baskets & Gifts in Asheboro. Helen Elizabeth Peacock and her husband, William Wetzel, both retired in 2007 from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga where he was president and CEO, and she was director of planned giving. David Wright’s fourth play, “Ruthie,” performed by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre premiered at Owen Theatre, Mars Hill College, July 30 - Aug. 3.


'77 Billy Medlin is associate executive director at Professional Educators of North Carolina, Raleigh. George Adams is sales manager at Loamy, LLC.

'78 Mark Williams is 2007-08 Teacher of the Year, Middle College, Greensboro Technical Community College.

'81 Donald Jim is theater operations coordinator for the Joint Expeditionary Forensics program in Iraq with BAE Systems, Inc., Dahlgren, Va. Terry Gryder and James Wagoner of Glade Valley were married June 14. Dan Alion and his 15-year-old son Tyler competed in the Charlotte Mountain Bike Series.


This issue includes portions of class notes received from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2008. Notes may be submitted via the Alumni Association’s online community. Visit www.alumni.appstate.edu and click on Gold Book to post notes instantly. Keep class notes timely by reporting news within six months of the event.
The pursuit of knowledge may call young people to Appalachian,
but once here their thoughts often turn to pursuits of the heart.

The Alumni Association has launched Love at Appalachian, a Web site featuring photographs and stories of graduates who found the love of their lives here on campus. To view Appalachian love stories and photographs, visit www.alumni.appstate.edu/photos/Love.

OR... To share your Appalachian love story, send a photo with your names, class years, and brief story to parkerlb@appstate.edu.

The site’s happy couples represent the “new millennium” of love commitments kindled at Appalachian. But, deep and abiding romances have blossomed here since Appalachian’s founding in the late 1800s.

Lloyd LeRoy Hobbs and Ella Williams Thompson Hobbs ’37 met and fell in love while attending Appalachian Teachers College in the 1930s, a time when social interaction between young men and women was closely monitored and restricted as dictated by the school’s Student Handbook.

Sharing affection through the written word was one way young lovers of the day circumvented the restrictions. Following are excerpts from letters shared between Lloyd and Ella prior to her graduating in 1937. The letters are part of The Ella W. Thompson and Lloyd L. Hobbs Collection, provided courtesy of The University Archives. Both Lloyd and Ella are now deceased.

Lloyd Darling,

After spending those few heavenly moments with you my mind must have followed you for I couldn’t seem to think of anything other than seeing you. It made me so happy to even be able to dream some day you might be coming instead of leaving at the close of the day. ‘Ere another day has passed, we will have said the things I’d like to have said tonite...

Dearest Sweetheart,

Just remember that to me you are the greatest person in the world. I’m so happy to be lucky enough to go with you. The person I know will stand by me if all the rest of the world lets me down. How could I help from being happy?

With all my love,

d Lloyd

Ella and Lloyd married after she graduated in 1937. Their marriage lasted 57 years.

ADORABLE AND IN LOVE IN CAPS AND GOWNS: Jonathan Kappler ’05 and April (Stewart) Kappler ’05 married shortly after graduation. They live in Washington, D.C.
Alumni Profiles Online

In the world of Major League Soccer, the Columbus Crew team is one of the best places to be. And, it’s where Tucker Walther ’97 has been team manager for the past eight years.

Read about Walther and other successful alumni online at www.today.appstate.edu.

Current profiles also include:

- John Loftin ’06, who was named “Carolina’s Funniest Comic” for his relaxed and canonical humor by audience voters at DSI Comedy Theater in Carrboro this summer.


- Angela (Leigh) Ranson was installed as president of the North Carolina Magistrates Association, Oct. 2007.
- Paul Whippo was promoted to colonel of the veterinary corps, U.S. Army, Feb. 1.
- Karen (Hunt) Moss is controller at Triangle Brick Company, Durham.

- Daniel Wilkins is an operation and system analyst at the N.C. Office of Technology Services, Forest City.
- Kelly and Sherri York announce the birth of Katherine Elizabeth, April 26.
- Suzanne (Miller) Campoli and Glenn Campoli of Cary were married March 8.
- Marni (Kaufman) Setless and Marc Setless announce the birth of Eli Maxwell, June 10.
- Tony R. Green, a realtor with Benham Real Estate Group, is leading Benham’s expansion into the Piedmont Triad. Based in Concord, Benham specializes in bank foreclosures.
- Russell and Stephanie Parker announce the birth of Ethan Samuel, April 11.
- William Zadeits is executive vice president at S&A Cherokee.

- Rebecca (Sumrall) Sides and Mike Sides announce the birth of Landis John, Nov. 6, 2007.
- Christopher Haas, of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, received the 2008 Missing and Exploited Children’s Award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- Paige (Cline) Layne successfully completed the examination to be Accredited in Public Relations (APR).

- Lee Hinesley and Jennifer (Carroll) Hinesley announce the birth of twins (a girl and a boy), Anna and Lake, March 19.

- Amy Smith is a paralegal/legal secretary at Smith & Alspaugh, PC in Birmingham, Ala.
- Tim Pruitt was chosen as the Carolina Panthers High School Football Coach of the Year, 2007. He is head football coach at West Wilkes High School in Millers Creek.

- Christy (Bennett) Yazan and Murat Yazan announce the adoption of Emerson H., at age 6.
- Kevin DioQuino and Kathryn DioQuino announce the birth of Kevin Lee Jr., Feb. 7.
- Robin Bates is assistant profes-

Alum honored for 50 years as volunteer EMT and firefighter

Michael A. Wiwczar ’57, a self-proclaimed “Yankee with a Southern heart,” was honored this spring for 50 years of volunteer service with the Wading River Fire Department, Long Island, N.Y. He is the third person in the department’s 75-year history to achieve this honor.

Born and raised in Long Island, Wiwczar attended Appalachian State Teachers College on the advice of his middle school teacher and principle, William O. Good ’38, who now lives in Winston-Salem with his wife, Catherine Morris Clark-Good ’41.

Wiwczar started at Appalachian in 1950, but was drafted into the U.S. Army—where he honed his first-aid skills—in 1953. He returned in 1956 with a wife and child in tow, completed a bachelor of science degree in 1957, and went on to teach in Long Island’s Rocky Point school district for 31 years.

“For a boy from Long Island, Boone was definitely a culture shock. But I loved it, and made some lifelong friends there,” he said. “John Pyecha ’55, who is in the Appalachian Hall of Fame and pitched professionally with the Chicago Cubs, is my son’s godfather. He lives in Chapel Hill.”

“I may be a Yankee,” Wiwczar said, “but my experience at Appalachian left me with a Southern heart.”
sor of renaissance literature at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va. ■ Eric Mangum is machine sales representative of general construction products with Caterpillar Inc., in the Minneapolis, Minn., district. ■ James K. Reaves, MSFS, certified financial planner and accredited estate planner of Kernersville, has qualified for the “Top of the Table” of the Million Dollar Round Table with The Premier Association of Financial Professionals. ■ Paul Hespelt’s abstract, On-Line HIV-1 Western Blot Proficiency Testing, was accepted for presentation at the Microbicides 2008 Conference in New Delhi, India in Feb. The abstract describes a test Hespelt developed to help build HIV testing capacity in laboratories in developing countries. He is an information and communication manager at Family Health International, Research Triangle Park.


'92 ■ Jeffrey Rhodes, Charlotte, June 21.

'93 ■ Frank Nicholson, April 27.

Andrew Jackson Graham Jr. ’79 ’89 MA, a member of the Department of Physics and Astronomy for more than 26 years, died March 29 at age 59. He served as an instructor and lab director and was the driving force behind the department’s demonstration outreach program, which educates and entertains school children in the discipline of physics. He earned a PhD from Wake Forest University in 1999.

Graham served as associate editor with the journal The Physics Teacher, co-founded the Physics Instructional Resource Association, and created and moderated the association’s Teaching Apparatus Listserv. He was also the department’s chief mathematician, the one his colleagues turned to for help with their most complicated calculations.

Elizabeth Brown Scoggins, a longtime supporter of Appalachian, died March 9 in Boone. She was 85.

Mrs. Scoggins was the fourth of eight children born to Oscar Lester Brown and his wife Clara Bartlett Dougherty Brown, sister of Appalachian co-founders D.D. and B.B. Dougherty.

Between 1996 and 2002, Mrs. Scoggins donated to Appalachian a collection of mementos, personal papers, artifacts and memorabilia of the Dougherty, Bartlett and Brown families, now referred to as the Brown-Scoggins Collections. The collection spans 1866 to the present, and represents the history of these families and their association with Appalachian.

John Foster West, a member of the Appalachian Family from 1968 to 1991, died May 2. He was 89. As a result of his leadership in establishing the university’s creative writing program, the Department of English has built a faculty of accomplished poets, playwrights, fiction writers and novelists. West also mentored students and young faculty members. His support of aspiring writers continues with the John Foster West Creative Writing Prize, a scholarship fund he established for creative writing students.

'34 ■ Lucile Wallace, Boone, May 14.


'44 ■ Mary Culp, Jan. 11. ■ Cecil Hackney, Robbins, Jan. 3.

'46 ■ Mary Kilby, Winston-Salem, March 7.


'54 ■ Mary Crews, Cornellus, March 31.


'56 ■ James Moore, Boone, June 13.

'59 ■ Gladys Bridges, Feb. 23.


'63 ■ Peter Greene, Greensboro, Jan. 29.

'65 ■ Gilma Roberts, Jan. 15.


'75 ■ Judith Bishop, Charlotte, April 30.


'80 ■ Dale Ward, Boone, March 27.

'83 ■ Rick Chamera, Boone, May 27.

'86 ■ Gerald Abernathy, Charlotte, Jan. 11.

'91 ■ Mary Pennestri, Boone, Feb. 17.

The birth of Lea Ruby, May 8.

Wachovia Corporation.

Shanghai, China.

Limited (NASDAQ: NCTY), based in

is senior legal director at The9

Hammerstrom

11, 2008.

ership from UNC Chapel Hill, May

or of education in educational lead-

Baseball Championships.

(Morch) Langan

of Kaitlyn Mary, April 20.

were married April 5.

DeShield

and children.

and Angela.

Scrubgs)

Elliott '90 announce the birth of

Maddox-Borton, May 28.

(Barghothi) Barghothi is director of

development, Health Sciences, at The

University of Wyoming, Laramie.

Russell Yelton is executive director of

Entrepreneurial Ventures at Asheville-

Buncombe Technical Community

College. He was recently elected to

vice president of the North Carolina

Business Incubation Association.

Matthew D. Davison is a new share

holder in the Tri-Cities office of Baker;

Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &

Berkowitz, PC, one of the 100 larg-

est law firms in the country.

Pat

Brooks, owner of Brooks Wealth

Management in Savannah, Ga., was se-

lected by the Consumer’s Resource

Council as one of “America’s Best

Financial Planners” in 2008 for inclu-

sion in their annual publication.

Bradley Tadlock and

Kimberly (DeWeese)

Tadlock ’97 announce the birth of

Kaitlyn Mary, April 20.

Kara

(Morch) Langan and Michael Langan

announce the birth of Jane Elizabeth,

Feb. 5.

Avery (Hawarah) Houdek and Joe Houdek

announce the birth of Paige Kristen, Nov. 11, 2007.

Christina (Thurkill) Nichols and

Daniel Nichols announce the birth of


Dawn A. Perry received a doctor of

musical arts from the University of

Southern Mississippi. She is now as-

sistant professor of music and direc-

tor of bands at Wingate University.

Akram Barghothi is an assistant

professor of political science at the

University of Wyoming, Laramie.

Willard (Billy) Green is a custom-
er care giver with 1-800-PetMeds in

Pompano Beach, Fla.

Adam Hatch is assistant principal at Tarboro High

School. He recently completed a mas-
ter’s degree in school administra-

tion at East Carolina University.

Christopher Scott received a doc-
tor of education in educational lead-

ership from UNC Chapel Hill, May

11, 2008.

Gina (Ledford) King and Jeffrey Scott King of Conover

were married March 1.

Harven DeShield passed the Missouri Bar

Exam, and is now a licensed attorney

in Missouri.

Steve McCallister, an

attorney with Shanahan Law Group in

Raleigh, has joined the board of direc-
tors of the Women’s Center of Wake

County. The center provides services

for low-income and homeless women

and children.

Kara (Stafkey) Morgan

and Craig Morgan announce the birth of

Lea Ruby, May 8.

Leigh (Kendrick) Bell and Michael

Bell announce the birth of Reese


Shawn Elliott and Summer (Scruggs)

Elliott ’90 announce the birth of

Maddox-Borton, May 28.

2008 Spring Alumni Award Winners

This year’s annual Spring Alumni Weekend in April kicked off with the Appalachian Alumni Awards Banquet, recognizing three alumni for service to the university and accomplishments in their careers. Recipients were, pictured from left, Outstanding Service Award recipient Julia Ross Adams ’95, Young Alumnus Award recipient Bobby Martin ’92, and Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Dexter Coakley ’97. Recipients of the Alumni Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually to incoming freshmen who are children of alumni, were also honored at the banquet. They include Elle Elizabeth Talient, Riley McNeil Jones, and Whitney Nicole Snyder.
International alumna wins ‘best of show’

Attabel Artiga ’08, a graphic design major from El Salvador, won Best of Show at the 2008 AIGA Charlotte Student Portfolio Review in May. As the winner, she was awarded three consecutive one-month internships with Charlotte-based businesses, which she completed this summer.

“The environment is what made my experience at each location so valuable,” Artiga said of her summer experiences. “I did computer work, met and worked with creative teams, and even worked on ideas for new products. I’ve learned that pushing yourself beyond the limit in every aspect of life takes you far.”

Read more about Artiga at www.today.appstate.edu.

quarter 2007 Sterling Performer for Financial Center Leaders in BB&T’s Western Region, his fifth consecutive year of quarterly or annual Sterling Performance recognition with NCBB&T.

’98


Baker Perry, assistant professor of geography at Appalachian, is lead researcher on a research project to improve Western North Carolina snowfall projections.

’99

Jenny (Ben) Johnson and Ryan Johnson ’98 announce the birth of Kinley Alice, March 21.

Michael and Tina Ackerman announce the birth of Sara Elizabeth, April 25. Tara (Matthews) Ervin and Brandon Ervin announce the birth of Nicholas Luke, March 17.

Brian Hall is manager of campus relations at SPX Corporation, Charlotte. Jon Bailey accepted a commission as first lieutenant in the U.S. Army to serve as a chaplain. Melissa Deere is a division HR manager at Parsons in Charlotte.

Erin (Atkins) Janssen is an associate with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, a Chicago-based firm with more than 700 attorneys. Erin’s practice group joined the firm to facilitate the opening of its Charlotte office. Joey Hinson, a psychology instructor at Bladen Community College in Dublin, was awarded Instructor of the Month, December 2007.

’00

David Jackson, associate athletics director for public affairs at Appalachian, and “The Voice” of the Mountaineers, was recognized this past spring by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame as the North Carolina Sportscaster of the Year. Franklin Hanna and Deetz (Whichard) Hanna ’99 announce the birth of Greyson Abigail.

Jacqueline (Pose) Hunter and Wesley Hunter ’01 announce the birth of Camryn Amina, Feb. 7.


Kimberly (Hurely) Shoaf and Bobby Shoaf announce the birth of Dana Elizabeth, Feb. 15. Todd and Jessica Sides announce the birth of Coen Adler, Feb. 24.

Sonja McKay, selected by the Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum and Leadership Development at NCSU, will engage in a two-year fellowship to develop innovative curricula for use in North Carolina classrooms. Her project is “Sustainable Stewards through Science Literacy.” Belinda Prawdzik was accepted into the National Association for Professional Women.

’01


Abigail (Peacock) West and Chris West ’01 announce the birth of Sawyer; June 15, 2007. James Dobkins is national technical manager for the Green Building Council of Australia, a non-profit, non-government organization that creates guidelines for rating the environmental sustainability of commercial buildings in Australia. Dobkins lives and works in Sydney.

Diana Harris received Certified Insurance Service Representative designation in February from the National Alliance of Education & Research. She will pursue the Certified Insurance Counselor designation beginning this July. She was accepted into the National Association of Insurance Women, which sponsors the Certified Professional Insurance Woman designation as well as working to achieve.

Anne (Turnmyre) Moser and Trey Moser of Hickory were married Oct. 27, 2007. Anne was selected as one of 15 U.S. representatives to attend the Toyota Material Handling Dealership Leadership Forum, which will focus on the history of NFL-recruited Mountaineers!

Congratulations to Dexter Jackson ’08 and Corey Lynch ’08 for their success in the NFL Draft this past spring. Jackson was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Lynch by the Cincinnati Bengals.
Mother inspires award-winning counselor

Gretchen Woodall Krueger ’99 ’00 MA, a counselor at Greenhope High School in Wake County, grew up witnessing the positive impact her mother had on the lives of families in their community.

“When we’d go out in public we always ran into a parent or student who wanted to talk to mom. It didn't matter if we were in a hurry, she always took the time to visit. She really made a difference in a lot of people’s lives,” Krueger said of her mother, Carolyn Glascoe Woodall ’65, whose 31 years as a school counselor in Roxboro inspired her daughter to follow a similar career path.

“If I can be half the counselor my mother is, I'll be doing a great job. She’s very gifted, and I aspire to be like her,” she said.

Krueger’s efforts to emulate her mother have resulted in kudos on many levels. This spring she was named North Carolina High School Counselor of the Year, and was honored in Washington, D.C. as one of 10 finalists for National School Counselor of the Year. As a finalist, Krueger met with U.S. senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr. She was also selected to represent high school counselors in a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill outlining the role of the school counselor in improving student achievement.

Megan Walter, a fellow school counselor at Green Hope High School, describes Krueger as “one of the most innovative and compassionate school counselors I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside.”

A parent at Green Hope High School said of her, “My sons count on Gretchen to help with school issues and the social pressures of being a teenager. She’s made a huge difference in their high school experience.”

Knowing she has helped shape the direction of students’ lives is Krueger’s favorite part of the job.

“It’s extremely rewarding to see a student take the first step towards solving his or her issue—whether that means turning in a homework assignment for the first time all semester, attending school, asking someone out on a date, or filling out a college application,” she said. “Many times when a student takes this type of step, it ends up being the key to changing his or her life forever.”

Excerpts from an article by Julia V. Taylor reprinted with permission from ASCA School Counselor magazine.

A FAMILY TRADITION: The school counseling career of Carolyn Glascoe Woodall ’65 inspired her daughter Gretchen to follow in her footsteps.

Toyota, and the principles of executive management and leadership.

Brandon Farabee announces the birth of Tucker Lane, July 25, 2007. Michael Kiser and Allison (Lindquist) Kiser announce the birth of Tessa Mackenzie, Feb. 11. Heather (Simpson) Meahaffey and Adam Meahaffey ’03 announce the birth of Benjamin Adam, March 10, 2007. Rachel (Bowling) Schroeder and Christian Schroeder announce the birth of Brandon Wilhelm, Jan. 4, 2007. Michelle Bitterman received a juris doctor from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in May. Patrick Jones and Lesley Borys of Kannapolis were married March 29. Sara Searcy and Paul Thompson of Marion were married June 7. Sara Shertzer and Daniel Lawson of Lawsoville were married May 31. LaJuanda Pritchard and Jason Bond of Asheville were married Sept. 22, 2007.

Erin and Jeff Frisby Jr. announce the birth of David Vincent, March 26. Blakeley Griffin and Brandon Worley of Raleigh were married June 14. Brooke Pope and Jamey Messick ’04 of Charlotte were married June 7. Erin and Mark Thornton ’04 of Monroe were married Dec. 8, 2007. Ryan Satterfield and Brandy Grossman of Charlotte were married June 21.

Lindsay (Whitmire) Wilson announces the birth of twins, Benjamin Parker and Joseph Whitmire, April 9. Brian Gardner is a broker/realtor at Summit Development in Granite Falls. He covers the Hickory, Morganton, and Catawba Valley territories. Deanna Coates received a juris doctor with a certificate in sports law from Florida Coastal School of Law, Dec. 15, 2007. Andrew Morris received a master of sport and entertainment management degree from the University of South Carolina, Dec. 17, 2007. Seth and Amanda Griffin of Conover were married Dec. 15, 2007. Melissa Martin and David Whitfield ’05 of Mount Airy were married May 26, 2007.

Jason Hester received a master of business administration from the University of Mississippi, May 10. Kristal Mills, a doctoral student in communication sciences and disorders at East Carolina University, received one of two national 2008 Student Investigator Awards from the American Academy of Audiology. Meredith Garner and Justin Newman were married May 8. Sheena White and James Jeste were married June 21. Joshua Johnson and Stacey (Kroppf) Johnson ’03 of Apex were married Dec. 8, 2007. Jason Lingle and Kathryn (Goff) Lingle ’06 of Boone, were married Sept. 29, 2007.

Michael Rigby and Lauren (Trull) Rigby ’08 of Blowing Rock were married June 7. Megan McMahon and Matthew Drake of Gastonia were married Sept. 1, 2007. Emily and David Eirod ’07 of Newland were married July 7, 2007. David is an assistant director of financial aid at Appalachian.

Henry Rose is a survey statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau, Suitland, Md. Joshua Kleinsteurer is program director of Ten Thousand Villages.

Meghan Harris and Garrett Mixon of Zionville were married Dec. 15, 2007.
Real estate entrepreneur strives to protect mountain region

Jeffrey Scott ‘98 ’02 MA is a man with a mission: to protect and conserve the diminishing landscapes and threatened waterways of the Blue Ridge Mountains for generations to come.

“With development skyrocketing in the mountains of North Carolina, we knew we needed to create innovative and systematic approaches to land and water conservation,” said Scott, founder of Frontline Conservation Real Estate, a non-traditional real estate company based in Boone that places land in the hands of conservation-minded buyers and investors. Frontline’s five-member staff employs Casey Pond ‘97, who earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education, and student Caroline Poteat, who is pursuing a double master’s degree in sustainable development and geography and planning.

Originally from Spartanburg, S.C., Scott came to Boone in 1989 to attend Appalachian, where he got bit by the conservation bug while getting involved with an effort to preserve Howard’s Knob. He earned a bachelor’s degree in recreation management and a master’s in geography and planning. Since graduation, he has chaired the state’s Land Trust Council, co-founded the Watauga Land Trust (now the High Country Conservancy), and spent more than six years as executive director of the National Committee for the New River. During his tenure with the NCNR, he helped protect 3,000 acres of land in the New River’s watershed, and raised more than $14 million to protect and restore the river.

Determined to expedite protection of the region’s environmentally sensitive land and natural resources, Scott founded Frontline in 2006. Since then, Frontline has completed 10 conservation transactions in North Carolina, resulting in the protection of more than 1,200 acres, including additions to state and national parks such as Elk Knob State Park, Chimney Rock State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.
Jean Raney Deaton ‘53, ’58 and Robert Deaton ‘57, ’58 celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this September. They met in the cafeteria of Appalachian State University.
What do blueberry farmers and blue ribbon math teachers have in common? Plenty!

Blueberry farmers Maxine and Johnny Edwards know from experience that a bountiful harvest takes fertile ground, hard work, attention to detail, and lots of care.

With 40 years of teaching experience in math, Maxine knows that great math teachers don’t just happen. It takes cultivation, and educational leadership to “grow” a great teacher. She also knows that Appalachian “grows” the very best teachers in North Carolina.

To help address North Carolina’s shortage of math teachers, the couple has included Appalachian State University Foundation in their wills. Their valuable gift of real estate will endow the Johnny and Maxine Edwards Endowed Professorship in Mathematics to attract and retain outstanding professors who will focus on teacher training. Their goal is for more students to pursue teaching careers with a specialization in higher level mathematics and physics.

You, too, can make a legacy gift to Appalachian through your will or estate plan. Contact Tricia Wilson in the Office of Gift Planning at (828) 262-4023 or visit www.give.appstate.edu.