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    Check out the latest news from classmates.

On the cover
   Author Stephen Dubner ’84. Find out more on
   page 16.

There is only one Armanti Edwards. The former quarterback led his Mountaineers to two
   national championships, bested the Michigan Wolverines, and rewrote the record books
   in his pursuit of gridiron excellence, while still managing to graduate from Appalachian in
   fewer than four years. Edwards now looks to continue his legacy in an NFL uniform.
We need your support now more than ever

Is it spring yet? I ask not only because we’ve endured the snowiest winter Boone has experienced in years, but because of the ongoing fiscal situation that has so greatly challenged higher education during the past year and a half. The Appalachian spirit, as you know, drives us onward regardless—we can wear a smile in the harshest winds and we keep excelling with limited resources.

However, the ongoing fiscal issues are very serious. Currently, funding from the state covers only 37 percent of Appalachian State University’s operating costs, and there is no indication from state leaders this will improve. Our state leaders certainly support higher education, but they simply cannot give us something they do not have. The remaining funds must come from private sources. Your support is needed now more than ever to maintain the quality education for which Appalachian is known, and to continue attracting award-winning faculty and quality students.

Despite these tough times, Appalachian moved up in its ranking in the 2009-10 Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s rating of the top 100 best values in public colleges and universities in the nation—from 29th to 22nd place. I am especially proud of this accomplishment and the dedication from our faculty and staff who made it possible.

You may ask, “Why should I support higher education?”

Consider its value, which can be defined in numerous ways. Prospective students clearly value an Appalachian education, as our Office of Admissions receives four times as many applications for admission as there are spaces in the Fall 2010 freshman class. A recent survey of 6,860 alumni, donors, key influencers, as well as students, prospective students and faculty and staff, revealed that 98 percent of alumni and 91 percent of students would encourage their friends or family to attend Appalachian. This response is an amazing show of support for our university. The same survey revealed many positive attitudes about Appalachian, one of the strongest responses being to the statement “Appalachian is a valuable public resource.”

For the community, “valuable public resource” can be seen in our academic programs that address societal needs, such as our new four-year, pre-licensure nursing program that begins this summer. It joins an RN-to-BSN completion program. Both programs that address societal needs, such as our new four-year, pre-licensure nursing program that begins this summer. It joins an RN-to-BSN completion program. Both are part of Appalachian’s new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions, which will position Appalachian as the premier university for outstanding academic preparation of health and allied professionals in Western North Carolina.

The value of connecting faculty expertise with real-world applications is evidenced by Dr. David Nieman’s recent work with NASCAR pit crew members, assessing their physical fitness and recommending how they can improve their speed and agility. Dr. Gary Walker exemplifies quality mentorship by having received the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools’ 2010 Award for Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Graduate Students. Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass in the Hayes School of Music demonstrates the value of innovative teaching with her Tablet PC in the classroom project, which has brought the university significant financial contributions from Microsoft.

In closing, I want to add that the continuation of quality education at Appalachian in recent years would not have been possible without UNC System President Erskine Bowles, who announced in February that he will step down at the end of 2010. His leadership has helped the 16 constituent institutions operate better and more efficiently, and has protected North Carolina’s reputation as having one of the best public university systems in the nation. His leadership will be missed, yet I look forward to what future opportunities a new leader will bring.

As you reflect on your Appalachian experience, its influence on your life and career, please know I am grateful for your ongoing support of this great university.

With Appalachian pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
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<th>Event</th>
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<td><strong>Through June 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Syntax: (\sin, -, \text{taks})</strong>&lt;br&gt;Turchin Center for the Visual Arts&lt;br&gt;(Merrill Shatzman, Zapotec #1, Silkscreen, 12&quot; x 13&quot;, 2007)&lt;br&gt;www.tcva.org</td>
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<td><strong>7th Annual Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition</strong>&lt;br&gt;Turchin Center for the Visual Arts&lt;br&gt;www.tcva.org&lt;br&gt;828-262-3017</td>
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<td><strong>April 17</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Spring Open House</strong>&lt;br&gt;For prospective students and families, 9 a.m. – noon, Holmes Center&lt;br&gt;www.openhouse.appstate.edu&lt;br&gt;828-262-2120</td>
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<td><strong>April 21 – 25</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>“Metamorphoses”</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 p.m., Valborg Theatre with 2 p.m. matinee, April 25&lt;br&gt;www.theatre.appstate.edu&lt;br&gt;828-262-3063</td>
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<td><strong>May 8 – 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Commencement Ceremonies</strong>&lt;br&gt;Holmes Convocation Center</td>
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<td><strong>April 15</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Author Rita Ciresi</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hughlene Bostian Frank Visiting Writers Series&lt;br&gt;7:30 p.m., Pleammons Student Union, Table Rock Room&lt;br&gt;www.thearts.appstate.edu</td>
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For a complete listing of events on campus, visit www.today.appstate.edu
International Notes

Appalachian received a three-year, $300,000 grant to assist Mexico’s Fundación Universidad de Las Américas Puebla (FUDLAP) develop its educational programs related to renewable energy. The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development/Mexico through Higher Education for Development’s TIES Program.

Appalachian ranks second among the top 40 master-degree granting institutions for the number of students participating in a short-term study abroad program in 2007-08, according to the latest Institute of International Education’s Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. That year, 558 Appalachian students studied in countries such as Costa Rica, France, Germany, China, South Africa, Ireland, Greece, New Zealand, Vietnam, Jamaica and Mexico.

Student’s project attracts fans in cycle industry

Hugh Owings went above and beyond the requirements for a class project when he designed and built his Speed XS Press, a XS650 chopper. Owings and his bike were featured in the January 2010 edition of Cycle Source magazine.

Hugh Owings’ passion for working with his hands, especially on all things internally combustible with two or more wheels, has won him rave reviews in the cycle industry.

A self-proclaimed gear head, Owings is a senior industrial design major. His recent class project, an XS650 chopper he designed and built from the ground up, was featured in the January 2010 issue of Cycle Source magazine. It also received coverage on industry Web sites and blogs, and got attention from fellow gear heads around the world.

“While I was building the bike I posted a thread on the Web site Pirate4x4.com. I thought I might get a few hits locally, but then I started getting e-mails from places like Australia and the Netherlands,” Owings said. “People love what I’ve got because I did things they’ve never seen.”

Cycle Source owner and editor Chris Callen wrote of Owings’ diligence and innovation, “This cat’s a real trip, man. Not only did he teach himself nearly every aspect of fabrication, machining and welding to do this project, he even makes most of the tools he uses.”

Kern Maass, program coordinator for Appalachian’s industrial design program, describes Owings as “an Appalachian success story whose success is an outcome of hard work and dedication.”

“The fact that multiple publications have highlighted Hugh’s amazing XS650 chopper is a testament to that,” he said.

Owings has enjoyed the attention, but takes it all in with a bit of wit and humble pride.

“It doesn’t matter to me if I work with motorcycles, cars or furniture, as long as I’m challenged and having fun,” he said. “I’ve always known I wouldn’t end up sitting behind a desk with clean fingernails.”

Student union goes solar

A new solar thermal water heating system installed on the roof of Plemmons Student Union is expected to save Appalachian $10,000 to $12,000 a year in energy costs.

The system is the latest project on campus funded by students’ $5 per semester Renewable Energy Initiative fee. Manufactured and installed by SunQest Inc. of Newton, the system will heat water used in the building, reducing dependency on the university’s steam system.

AFI celebrates 30 years of sustaining families

In 2010, Appalachian Family Innovations celebrates 30 years of service to children and families of Western North Carolina.

A part of Appalachian’s Institute for Health and Human Services, AFI is an umbrella of child welfare and family service programming.

“From its inception AFI’s mission has been to preserve and strengthen families in an area of the state and nation that sometimes struggles to provide quality services,” said Carl Lanier ’83 ’91, AFI’s director since 2008.

According to Lanier, AFI accomplishes its mission through a variety of family services, a training division, and expertise in the development and implementation of successful model programs.

“For 30 years we’ve been doing the research to develop, implement and replicate successful programming,” said Lanier, a long-time veteran of child and family services who has worked with AFI for 18 years.

“By sharing this information with associations across the country and beyond America’s borders, AFI’s impact can be far-reaching,” Lanier said.

AFI services and programs include:

- Catawba Valley Healthy Families, providing in-home education for first-time, at-risk parents.
- Home Remedies, providing in-home services to families who are at risk for having their children removed.
- Professional Parenting and Adoption Plus, serving foster and adoptive families across Western North Carolina.
- AFI’s training division, which provides training for professionals in the child welfare system, child residential programs and the court system.

Learn more at www.familyinnovations.org

Follow us at: twitter.com/appstate
Earth-friendly gowns

Last December, Appalachian grads began wearing a different kind of graduation gown – one made from wood fiber. The earth-friendly gown looks like the polyester gown worn by previous graduates, but its fibers come from renewable, managed forests. The gown and its plastic packaging will decompose in a landfill in a reasonably short period of time, according to the manufacturers, yet last as long as any other garment when stored under normal conditions.

Appalachian praised again by Kiplinger’s, U.S. News and World Report

Appalachian climbed from 29th to 22nd place in Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s 2009-10 rankings of the top 100 values in public colleges and universities in the nation.

“Despite widespread state government budget cuts and shrinking endowments, this year’s top 100 public schools continue to deliver strong academics at reasonable prices,” said Janet Bodnar, editor of Kiplinger’s.

Appalachian’s in-state costs were listed by the magazine at just over $11,500.

In U.S. News & World Report’s 2010 America’s Best Colleges Guide, Appalachian tied for the No. 8 spot with Mercer University in the “Best Universities-Master’s in the South” category. Appalachian rose to third place in the magazine’s rankings for the top public master-degree granting universities in the South, and was once again included in the magazine’s “Academic Programs to Look For” listing and in the “First-Year Experience” and “Learning Communities” categories.

“During these challenging economic times for all of us in higher education, these recognitions clearly demonstrate that the faculty and staff at Appalachian are committed to quality in our academic programs,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock.

Administrative news

Dr. Joseph Gonzalez became the new coordinator of the First Year Seminar Program in January, replacing Dr. Lynn Moss Sanders who returned to teaching in the Department of English. Gonzalez was a visiting assistant professor in University College, and had served as director of the Living Learning Center and a faculty member in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies from 2003-07.

Jean Roberts has been named executive director of the Learning Assistance Program (LAP), replacing Joy Clawson who retired in December after 30 years of service to the university. Roberts has worked at Appalachian for 25 years, many of those in the Academic Advising Center, and most recently in LAP’s Academic Services for Student-Athletes unit.

In January, Dr. Fred Whitt assumed his duties as founding dean of the new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions. He comes from Georgia Southern University where he was dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. (See story on page 11).

Dr. Jeff Ramsdell has been appointed director of the Appalachian Energy Center. He is a professor in the Department of Technology.

Dr. Bob Ellison has been named director of Mary S. Shook Student Health Service. He has been a staff physician at the university since 2007.

Want more news?
www.today.appstate.edu
**WIND MACHINE:** The student-led Renewable Energy Initiative has installed the largest wind turbine in North Carolina adjacent to the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center. Paid for primarily with student funds and in partnership with the campus utility, New River Light & Power, this community-scale, 100-kilowatt turbine feeds enough electricity directly to the grid to power 15 homes. At 153 feet tall, it harkens back to Boone’s past, when in the 1970s, the then-largest wind turbine in the world sat atop Howard’s Knob overlooking the town. Aside from producing clean energy, the turbine serves as an educational monument for the community, as Appalachian continues to perform vital research on the efficacy of wind-energy production in the mountains of western North Carolina.

*Photo by Marie Freeman, University Photographer*
ASU Foundation appoints new members to its board

Thomas E. “Ted” Chandler Jr. ’82 of Burlington, Livian L. Jones ’87 of Wilmington and Jeffrey A. Shepard of Hilton Head, S.C., have been elected to four-year terms on the Appalachian State University Foundation Inc.’s board of directors.

Other new appointees are David C. Whilden of Asheville, who represents Appalachian’s Parents Association, and Jeannine Underdown Collins ’79 ’81 of Boone, chair of Appalachian’s board of trustees.

Chandler is president and CEO of Chandler Concrete Company. Jones is vice president of John S. Clark Company, LLC. Shepard is the former president and CEO of Footstar. Whilden is senior trust officer of Boys Arnold & Company. Collins is president of Underdown and Associates Inc.

The board of directors helps ensure that contributions made to the university create the best learning environment for students.

Social work master's program receives accreditation

The Department of Social Work’s master of social work (MSW) degree program has received full accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education, the field’s national accrediting agency.

The accreditation process began four years ago. The program enrolled its first students in January 2007.

Appalachian’s MSW offers concentrations in either individuals and families, or communities and organizations. It was designed based on the region’s needs in hospitals, mental health settings, criminal justice systems, non-profit agencies and schools. Graduates are also prepared to work as licensed clinical social workers, supervisors or administrators in all of these settings.

There is a growing need for MSW graduates in expanding fields such as health and gerontology, as well as in leadership positions, according to department faculty. An estimated 90 percent of directors of social services are expected to retire in the next 15 years.

Students win national media arts awards

Four Appalachian students and an alumnus won awards at the 2010 Broadcasting Education Association Festival of Media Arts, including “Audio Best of Festival.” This is the fourth consecutive year Appalachian has won BEA national awards.

The festival sponsored eight student competitions this year, receiving 690 submissions. Appalachian’s winning pieces were class projects in instructor Steve Smith’s audio production II course.

They are:

**Audio Best of Festival**
- Dan Starbuck, documentary “The Namesake of Boone, North Carolina”

**Educational Audio (Documentary)**
- 1st place, Dan Starbuck, “The Namesake of Boone, North Carolina”
- 2nd place, Jon Wood, “Zebulan Baird Vance: North Carolina’s War Governor”

**Audio PSA / Commercial Category**
- 1st place, Ryan Laster, “A Goo Gone Day”
- 2nd place, Danny Kaufmann ’05, “Goldilocks and the Three Coffeehouses”
- Honorable Mention, Connor Magill, “Pirates of the A&W”

**Sports Audio Program Category**
- 2nd place, Dan Starbuck, “Appalachian State University National Mountain Bike Champions”

The number of fans who follow Appalachian and its Alumni Association on Facebook, as of March 1.

27,167

Going Up

The steel frame of Appalachian’s new college of education building gives shape to new opportunities. Scheduled to open in 2011, the five-story facility will greatly enhance the Reich College of Education’s ability to prepare future teachers—with greater on-site collaboration with area public schools, high-tech classrooms, improved space for faculty and student interaction and more. The facility is located across from Belk Library and Information Commons at the corner of College and Howard streets.
In Memoriam: Muriel Rosen

On Dec. 12, 2009, the Appalachian Family lost a dear friend. Muriel Rosen, affectionately called “Auntie Mame” by Chancellor Peacock, passed away following a brief illness.

Mrs. Rosen, along with Arnold, her husband of 58 years, were leaders in the arts communities in south Florida as well as in North Carolina’s High Country. With visionary and boundless support, the couple collaborated with university administrators in the early 1980s to develop the concept for An Appalachian Summer Festival, the university’s highly regarded, regional arts festival. The festival, in large part due to their generosity, celebrated its 25th anniversary season in 2009.

Mrs. Rosen’s love of the arts led her to foster countless young musicians into professional careers. Many performed at An Appalachian Summer Festival, and many others were Appalachian students who would become professional musicians and music educators. Along with Arnold, she helped establish the Hayes School of Music’s Appal PIE scholarship program, one of the music school’s key recruiting tools. Her generosity has provided full scholarships to 10 music students since the program’s establishment in 1997.

“When she entered the room she brought a presence and smile that was just contagious,” Peacock said. “Her commitment to quality arts at affordable prices and her promotion of young artists is without parallel. She will be missed, but she left a legacy that will forever remain on this campus.”

Mrs. Rosen served as a member of the advisory boards for both An Appalachian Summer Festival (since its inception) and the Hayes School of Music (since the mid-1990s). In 2009, the university presented her with an honorary doctorate, which she accepted at the fall convocation ceremony to a standing ovation from an audience of 7,000.

The arts were her passion, and she believed in establishing programs that perpetuated a lasting engagement with the arts. “Music and the arts are handed down from generation to generation,” she was often quoted. “Without them, there would be no civilization.”

Senator pro tem receives honorary degree

N.C. Senator Marc Basnight, one of the state’s staunchest advocates for higher education, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Appalachian’s December commencement. The degree recognizes Basnight’s lifetime of public service and contributions to the state.

During his tenure in the senate, the 16-campus University of North Carolina system has remained the nation’s premier public university system while the state’s community college system is the nation’s best in job training. Basnight was instrumental in the passage of a $3.1 billion bond package in 2000 to help universities and community colleges with their most critical facility needs.

20 student researchers head to national event

Twenty undergraduate students from Appalachian have had their work accepted for presentation at the 24th National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Missoula, Mont., April 15-17.

The annual gathering draws up to 2,600 scholars and their faculty mentors from across the United States.

“This is a record for the most abstracts that we have ever had accepted since the inception of Appalachian’s Office of Student Research,” said Dr. Alan Utter, OSR director. “Typically, only about 60 percent of all student abstracts submitted to the NCUR conference are accepted. In our case, we had 100 percent accepted.”

The student researchers represent the following disciplines: architecture/interior design, atmospheric sciences, biology, chemistry, interdisciplinary studies, music, physics and psychology.
Connection with National Park Service expanded

Appalachian is one of 18 U.S. nonprofit organizations selected to participate in the National Park Service’s Service and Conservation Corps Program. The five-year agreement lets the university contract with any of the 391 National Park Service sites to provide rehabilitation, restoration and enhancement work.

“We have a model program in place – the Blue Ridge Parkway Corps – that we believe can be replicated nationwide to introduce college students to the stewardship of National Park Service sites in a way that is both cost-effective and of high quality,” said Dr. Neva Specht, the university’s Blue Ridge Parkway liaison and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For the past year, the Blue Ridge Parkway Corps’s student volunteers have monitored the Rough Ridge hiking area to educate the public about trails, the environment and sensitive plants to preserve and protect the area for all to enjoy.

Provost search update

With Provost Stan Aeschleman stepping down to return to teaching, Appalachian is looking for a leader to fill the position of provost and executive vice chancellor. In December 2009, Appalachian advertised the position nationally and plans to interview finalists on campus this month. The new provost is expected to begin work in July. Heading the 19-member search committee is Dr. Randy Edwards, dean of the Walker College of Business. The committee includes representation from the university’s students, faculty and staff, university library and board of trustees.

Keep up to date with the provost search at www.provostsearch.appstate.edu.

April conference to celebrate Parkway’s 75 years

To celebrate the Blue Ridge Parkway’s 75th anniversary, Appalachian is co-sponsoring a conference April 22-24 in Plemmons Student Union. The public is invited.

Landscape historian Ethan Carr will be the keynote speaker. Themed “Imagining the Blue Ridge Parkway for the 21st Century: History, Scenery and Community,” the conference also features a film festival and discussions on topics ranging from park management, landscape architecture and parkway history, to music, diversity and storytelling. A 1930s-style camping site will be set up on Sanford Mall.

Other event sponsors are the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc.

Learn more at blueridgeparkway75.org/events/view/128.

Pressed for Success

Senior Laura Steekey and junior Jonathan Hand stand with a Heidelberg Printmaster QM 46 two-color press, the latest addition to Appalachian’s Thomas W. Reese Graphics Arts and Imaging Technology Program in the Department of Technology. The press had been loaned to the university as part of an awards package won by then-student Rebecca Long ’05 ’07 who placed first in a national SkillsUSA graphics communication competition. Private funding through the Appalachian State University Foundation Inc. made it possible to buy the press from the manufacturer. “It’s ideal for students to experience the newest technology in the form of this state-of-the-art, small-format press,” said Dr. John Craft, professor and coordinator of the GAIT program.

Keep up to date:
www.today.appstate.edu
Four-year nursing program approved

The UNC System Board of Governors has approved a new four-year, pre-licensure nursing degree at Appalachian.

The Department of Nursing will offer the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree program beginning this summer. Development of the degree began in 2008 and culminated with its approval by the N.C. Board of Nursing and the UNC Board of Governors at its January meeting.

Up to 40 students are expected to be accepted into the initial class.

“The United States is facing a major shortage of nurses while at the same time qualified nursing students are being turned away from baccalaureate programs due to long waiting lists,” said Dr. Wanda Stutts, chair of the Department of Nursing, which is housed in Appalachian’s new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions.

“The addition of a baccalaureate nursing program in northwestern North Carolina will provide additional registered nurses to meet the health care needs of residents in Appalachian’s service area as well as other parts of the country.”

The four-year program joins Appalachian’s RN-to-BSN program, which began in 2006. The RN-to-BSN program has been offered to students at four off-campus sites and has graduated approximately 65 students. The existing RN-to-BSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

First dean joins College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions

Dr. Frederick (Fred) K. Whitt 75 ’76 doesn’t mind that his office is currently tucked away in a bottom corner of D.D. Dougherty Hall, or that in one to two years he’ll move to Edwin Duncan Hall, and will probably move again soon after.

The founding dean of Appalachian’s new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions is excited about the opportunity to return to his alma mater and help launch the development of a new college that will improve health care and enhance the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. “This is a high priority for the university and the planning and support for the new college prior to my arrival has been strategic and forward thinking. I am appreciative and excited about this opportunity and I have no doubt this will be a successful venture,” said Whitt in a recent interview.

Through a blend of specialties, the college will strategically integrate disciplines in the health sciences to enhance the health and well being of the region and position Appalachian as the premier university for the outstanding academic preparation of health and allied professionals in western North Carolina.

Whitt says his experience as a student at Appalachian helped prepare him for his more than 30-year career in higher education.

“I had incredible experiences at Appalachian as a student and athlete, and developed a deep respect and appreciation for the culture and people of the region. Many outstanding mentors provided me with special learning and leadership opportunities both on and off campus.”

Whitt, a native of Mount Holly, majored in health and exercise science while at Appalachian. He attended the university on academic and on athletic scholarships as a member of the baseball team. Whitt and his teammates won the Southern Conference championship in 1973, the first year the university was a member of the conference, and he captained the team his senior year.

The opportunity to combine his passion for teaching and coaching led him to his first position in higher education at Middle Georgia College. Whitt has also held academic posts at UT Knoxville, where he earned his doctorate degree and was on the faculty, Coker College, and Kennesaw State University. He returns to Appalachian from Georgia Southern University where he was dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, which he helped reorganize from the School of Health and Professional Studies. While there, he also developed the first School of Public Health in the University System of Georgia, and propelled the graduate nursing program to a ranking of 11th nationally in U.S. News and World Report.

“I have enjoyed and learned a great deal at each university appointment,” said Whitt.

“Appalachian is a very special place and has developed a very positive reputation. My degrees are more valuable today than when I graduated,” Whitt explained when talking about his reasons for returning to Appalachian.

He plans to focus on five strategic themes in launching the new college. His first priority is building quality programs and quality people, what he calls QP². “It’s really important that we hire and retain top faculty, develop outstanding programs that are nationally accredited and recognized and recruit and educate exceptional students,” he said.

“Bringing together academic units that are currently working in four different colleges on campus will not be easy. It will be a tremendous amount of work. This is the first new college and major reorganization of academic units in over 35 years. There are so many small details that have to be worked out. It is important we develop and embrace a common set of guiding principles and to establish our college identity. We will also have lots of fun,” he said. “We have some outstanding faculty and programs, and all wanted to be a part of the new college.”

Whitt said that Appalachian’s reputation among its peers, the university’s commitment to and strategic planning for the new college and its role in the UNC Tomorrow strategic plan were selling points that convinced him to pursue his new job.

Then there’s the opportunity to return home, so to speak.

“I would not have gone anywhere else in the country to be a dean,” Whitt said. “The chance to be a founding dean is rare. To have that opportunity at one’s alma mater at a place I love and respect, that is a challenge I enthusiastically embrace.”
Kudos to Yosef

- Twenty-eight Appalachian student-athletes were named to the Southern Conference fall academic honor roll. Football led the way with eight members, while volleyball placed six student-athletes on the team. Women’s cross country and men’s soccer placed four on the team, with men’s cross country and women’s soccer each having three on the squad. Football player Rod Chisholm was one of just 10 student-athletes in the Southern Conference to boast a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

- Former Mountaineer football players Richie Williams, Mike Metcalf, Brandon Turner, Kevin Richardson and Pierre Banks have been trying their hand at a different sport: NASCAR. Four of the five have trained and worked as pit crew members through the “Driving for Diversity” program, which trains women and minorities for positions in motorsports. Metcalf has been with the Red Bull Racing team on the Sprint Cup series since 2008.

- Thirty-one student-athletes are among the 77 Appalachian students recognized in the 2010 edition of “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.”

Jerry Moore named Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year

In January, head football coach Jerry Moore was announced the winner of the 2009 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year, an award recognizing coaches who best display the qualities of sportsmanship, integrity, responsibility and excellence, both on and off the field. Liberty Mutual will donate $50,000 to charities of Moore’s choosing, and $20,000 to the Appalachian Alumni Association Scholarship fund.

The winner is selected through fan voting (20 percent) and ballots from selection committees made up of national media (25 percent) and College Football Hall of Famers (55 percent). Moore excelled in the fan voting portion, picking up more than twice as many votes as the next finalist.

In 2009, Moore led the Mountaineers to a fifth-straight Southern Conference title and NCAA Division I Football Championship appearance, where they advanced to the national semifinals. Appalachian finished with an 11-3 record and No. 3 final national ranking.

Moore was named the SoCon Coach of the Year for a record seventh time and the American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year for the fourth time in five years and sixth time overall.

Coach Moore’s Selected Charities

- KIDS ACROSS AMERICA
  Based in Branson, Mo., Kids Across America operates a number of summer camps with a mission of building Christian leaders by encouraging, equipping and empowering urban youth and their mentors through sports.

- SAMARITAN’S PURSE
  Based in Boone, N.C., Samaritan’s Purse has provided aid to the world’s poor, sick and suffering for more than 35 years.

- APPALACHIAN’S WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- APPALACHIAN’S YOSEF CLUB

Jerry Moore has helmed the program for 21 seasons, and his 189-76 record makes him the winningest coach in Southern Conference history.

Sam Ramirez:
Discipline and balance, on and off the court

Junior basketball standout Sam Ramirez averages scoring in double figures, has led the Mountaineers to victory several times this season and is on pace to score more than 1,000 points in her collegiate career.

But when the final buzzer sounds, the Fayetteville native trades her sneakers for combat boots as a member of Appalachian’s ROTC program and the National Guard.

A criminal justice major, Ramirez comes from a family with a strong tradition of military service that includes her father and brothers. Following in their footsteps, she plans to enter active duty upon graduation from Appalachian and join the military police.

Second on the team in scoring, Ramirez was named the Southern Conference Player of the Week for Feb. 2, 2010.
Little boys’ dreams become a reality
By Anna Parrish

Since the ages of 6 and 7, Zach Quate ’09 and Isaac Harrow ’09 have pursued their dreams of playing major league baseball. Each season, they get closer to that reality.

But these college roommates keep life beyond baseball in perspective, too. They were drafted by the minor leagues in their senior baseball season, yet both returned to Appalachian to finish their degrees. They graduated in December.

Harrow, a construction management major from Hickory, was drafted by the New York Yankees. Keeping his Appalachian uniform number 11, he was re-positioned and trained as a second baseman after playing third baseman for many seasons. He played in the Gulf Coast Yankees league in the summer of 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

Quate, a business marketing major from Wake Forest, was drafted by the Tampa Bay Rays and spent his season of continuous practice and competition in New York. He also kept his number 19 and position of “closer” – a relief pitcher who comes in at the end of the game, usually under times of pressure.

Neither regrets temporarily leaving the pros to return to school for one more semester. Harrow said he sacrificed a lot for baseball, so why not sacrifice for school when he’s so close to being done.

“I would have come back even if it were for one more year because you never know how baseball turns out,” said Harrow, who along with Quate was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association Rawlings all-Atlantic Region second team in spring 2009. “I wanted to be around the Appalachian team one more semester.”

Quate would have had the opportunity to train and pitch for many upper level coaches last summer and perhaps increase his chances of getting to the major leagues. But after speaking to his parents and hearing advice from his manager and “higher ups” in the Tampa Bay Rays organization, he decided to finish his academic career. Both found the fall 2009 semester a respite. They used their free time to prepare and get excited for 2010 spring training.

“Baseball won’t last forever, so I’m glad I came back,” said Quate. Even though he was drafted by a flourishing and talented team, he added, “it’s still just baseball; it’s still just a game.” He said he may apply his business degree someday to helping his father’s construction company.

After baseball, Harrow plans a career in either architecture or construction. “If I go into one of the first two choices, my major at Appalachian has prepared me,” said Harrow.

Basketball Notes

• Donald Sims set the school’s single-season scoring record in 2010, and was named the Southern Conference Media Player of the Year. He was first-team all Southern Conference tournament, and led the nation in free throw percentage (.953) and 3-point field goals. He was also named CollegeInsider.com’s Southern Conference MVP.

• Kellan Brand was named a first-team all-Southern Conference Tournament after a performance against College of Charleston in which he scored 37 points and set a new school record for points scored in a Southern Conference tournament game.

• The Mountaineer men’s team made the fourth post-season appearance in school history by earning a bid to the CollegeInsider.com tournament.

• Ryann Abraham, Kellan Brand, AJ Highsmith and Tyler Webb are the first players to play for two postseason tournament teams in their careers in Appalachian’s Division I history.

• The women’s basketball team made their first postseason appearance in 11 years, capturing a 1-seed in the East region of the Women’s Basketball Invitational. This marks the seventh time the Mountaineer women have been involved in postseason play.

Follow the black & gold:
www.goasu.com
Appalachian State University has an enrollment of almost 15,000 undergraduate students.

Of those, 500 are student-athletes.

Of those, 110 play football.

Of those, only a few will graduate in fewer than four years.

Of those, how many can carve their names over all others in the record books of Appalachian, the Southern Conference and the NCAA?

Just one.
Now that his days as a Mountaineer are over, you can find Armanti Edwards training and hoping to make the roster of a professional team. There is giddy excitement in Appalachian fans’ voices as they fantasize about Edwards quarterbacking the Carolina Panthers, just so they can have the chance to see him play again. Four years ago, no one had heard his name, and now it’s one that no fan of Appalachian will ever forget.

“Armanti’s value to our program on the field is obvious,” said head football coach Jerry Moore. “But I think he made his true mark on our program and the university with everything he did off the field – his leadership, graduating in three and a half years and the time that he took to give back to the community. As good of a player as Armanti was for us, he is an even better person.”

The first of the Mountaineers’ national championships was in 2005. That year also saw the graduation of superstar quarterback Richie Williams, leaving coaches and fans nervously eyeing the sideline to see who would step up and lead. Enter unassuming Edwards, a soft-spoken, polite freshman from Greenwood, S.C.

On the surface he seemed an unlikely heir; he was shy and undersized, never speaking more than a few words to media or fans. But his speed and accuracy in the pocket was much like that of Williams’, and the team easily fell into step behind him. In 2006, at just 19 years old, Edwards led the Mountaineers to their second-straight national championship, amassing 3,404 yards of total offense and racking up 30 touchdowns.

He made it look easy, effortless. Snap, look, pass, touchdown. Snap, look, run, touchdown.

The year 2007 saw another championship for the Mountaineers with Edwards at the helm – the elusive three-in-a-row that cements a sports dynasty. Edwards gained nationwide attention even more for leading his Mountaineers to victory over the storied Michigan Wolverines, a win that has been dubbed the “biggest upset in college sports.” He handled the media blitz in his usual polite, slightly guarded way, speaking always about the team effort and downplaying his own accomplishments.

Given Edwards’ confidence on the field, his precision and dogged determination, it was hard sometimes to remember that he was only 20 years old, juggling the rigors of football and sudden superstar status with the mundane but pressing business of class and homework. For a first-generation college student, the pressure to perform on and off the field was ever present.

If all goes as planned at the NFL draft, Armanti Edwards will likely never use his degree in graphic arts and imaging technology. He will probably never spend hours adjusting plates or pre-flight files, but thanks to his education in Appalachian’s Department of Technology, he knows how. Edwards worked through four years of coursework and lab studies for his degree in just three and a half, graduating in December 2009. He crossed the stage to finish his academic career just hours after his college football career had ended in a Montana blizzard, to applause so thunderous the ceremony had to be temporarily halted.

“It was great getting to play football in a great atmosphere and be a part of two national championships, but I also got my degree,” says Edwards. “My dream is to play a few more years of football. If that doesn’t work out, I can use my degree from Appalachian to get a job. I’m thankful for that.”

The list of accomplishments Edwards amassed in his four seasons at Appalachian is staggering. He is the only two-time winner of the Walter Payton Award; he is the only player in NCAA Division I history with 10,000 passing yards and 4,000 rushing yards in a career; and he is only the second person in FCS history with 14,573 yards of total offense in a career. He is the first, four-time All-American in Appalachian’s history, and he holds 64 school records.

To the legion of Appalachian fans, though, Edwards’ contribution to the legacy of Mountaineer football is about much more than records jotted down in books, more than even the rings and trophies that adorn the gleaming new athletics facility at Kidd Brewer Stadium. To the fans, it’s about Edwards’ dedication and heart, his refusal to give up or to let his team quit fighting when the chips were down.

A battered sign leading out of the locker rooms reads, “Today I give my ALL for Appalachian State,” and Edwards surely did.

“The value of the exposure that he helped bring to Appalachian is impossible to measure. And he did it all while displaying an unbelievable amount of leadership, maturity and humility.”

– Charlie Cobb, director of Appalachian athletics

Head Coach Jerry Moore presents Armanti Edwards with a souvenir football at Senior Day prior to kickoff of the Western Carolina game Nov. 21. Pictured with Edwards are his mother, Deborah Anderson, and daughter, Langley.
Readers learn they are in for quite a ride when the authors of “SuperFreakonomics,” Stephen D. Levitt and Appalachian alumnus Stephen J. Dubner ’84, confess in the first sentence to lying in their original blockbuster “Freakonomics.” Twice. What did they lie about? Read “SuperFreakonomics” and find out.

Dubner, the writer and journalist, and Levitt, the academic economist, began working together after Dubner wrote a New York Times Magazine article about Levitt. When publishers began offering monetary incentives to encourage them to write a book together, the duo had to seriously consider the opportunity – and the cash.

“Freakonomics” was a worldwide sensation, selling more than four million copies. It was translated into 35 languages. Dealing with the “stuff and riddles of every day life,” the book immediately became a fixture of current pop culture and was selected in 2006 for Appalachian’s Summer Reading Program. The program selects a book each year for incoming freshmen to read as part of their orientation and the author appears as the convocation speaker. So, Dubner serendipitously returned to the campus he had left years before and reconnected with his alma mater.

The “Freak”quel – get it? – was published in 2009 and also is a breakaway hit. The original had promised to explore “the hidden side of everything” and since it didn’t quite, the authors determined a need for a second book. “SuperFreakonomics” pondered a variety of sonorous questions including: Why are doctors so bad at washing their hands? What’s the best way to catch a terrorist? What do hurricanes, heart attacks and highway deaths have in common? And, can eating kangaroo save the planet?

Dubner’s appealing writing style coupled with Levitt’s quirky inquiries make for a compelling read. Dubner himself is as engaging and disarming in person as his writing, and his response to Appalachian Today’s questions gives readers a glimpse into the world of this highly successful Appalachian graduate.

How the heck do you guys come up with this stuff?

Well, there are a few simple criteria: a given topic must be interesting (to us, at least; and hopefully to readers as well); there has to be data; and there needs to be something new to say.

What prompted the second book?

When we finished writing “Freakonomics,” we actually just kept working together. We’d formed a good partnership by that time. So when the first book was successful, and we were offered an opportunity to do a second one, of course we accepted. Also, I’m a writer: what else am I supposed to do? continued on next page
The “Freak” quel

Some of the subjects you write about would not generally be regarded as “politically correct,” such as global warming, prostitution and human altruism. How do you respond to that criticism—or discomfort—from your readers?

Mostly we don’t respond; that’s not our job. Responding to responses generally creates an echo chamber. We work as hard as we can to have something worthwhile to say about whatever topic we’re writing about. If that aggravates people, or even angers them, that’s their prerogative. Occasionally, when someone will say that we’re “wrong” about something—the favored tactic of shoot-from-the-hip blogo-bloviation, even (especially) from people with high IQ’s—we explain our position more fully.

After researching and writing “Freakonomics” and “SuperFreakonomics,” are you more optimistic or pessimistic about the world and its future?

More optimistic. That is an ongoing mission: to persuade people that so much of their pessimism is misplaced. Of course there are many things to improve upon, even in a country like the U.S. and especially in poorer countries, but the tendency toward complaint and dystopia sometimes obscures the tremendous gains that have been made in civilization.

You have been making national media appearances promoting the book. Tell us about those experiences—which ones stand out?

“Charlie Rose” is a lot of fun because, unlike most TV, you don’t have to speak in four-second clips. Some of the live events were a blast—especially in the United Kingdom, where, for reasons that escape me, we are greeted with more enthusiasm than books such as ours should warrant. I particularly love radio—I was a broadcast journalism major at ASU and spent many happy hours there on the radio—and this love has recently spurred me to launch a “Freakonomics” podcast.

What has the success of your first book enabled you to do that you might not have anticipated?

There were a lot of reporting opportunities, and travel opportunities, and thinking opportunities. In some ways it has been life changing. I feel extraordinarily fortunate.

The chancellor has been encouraging you to wear black and gold when you make appearances. How do you feel about that?

I am a big fan of Chancellor Peacock; his enthusiasm is intoxicating. And yes, I do wear that black-and-gold tie on TV. (Don’t tell him but it also doubles as a Pittsburgh Steelers tribute: my son and I are big fans.)

As you have reconnected with Appalachian, what has surprised you the most? Impressed you the most?

When I visited recently, I saw there were three new buildings that were each bigger than any earlier building on campus. Tremendous growth—which, obviously, is driven in large part by tremendous demand. So that’s a happy story.

What do you tell people about Appalachian and your memories of being here?

I wound up there quite by accident. I was from rural, upstate New York. I was the last of eight kids, and my mother was looking to relocate to a warmer climate (my dad had died years earlier), and she had friends in Asheville. So we visited the area, and I loved the serenity of Appalachian. Then, when I was offered an honors scholarship, I felt like it was meant to be. Appalachian provided me a great transition to the real world: it was rural, as I was used to, but there was a far bigger pool of people to learn from than I was used to, and it was really a formative experience.

I understand you have been working with the Gregory brothers, who also are featured in this issue. Tell us about that.

I met Michael (Gregory) at an Appalachian function in New York and, as a fan of Auto-Tune the News, I was very happy about that. We are working on an illustrated edition of “SuperFreakonomics,” and there was a humorous component I needed that I thought the brothers might be able to do. They did a fantastic job; the proof will be evident when that edition comes out in the fall. (See a story about the Gregory Brothers on page 37 of Appalachian Today.)

How did your blog get started and how do you feel about the new social media?

The blog began, as many things seem to in my life, by accident. We never intended it to be even a semi-permanent platform. But now it’s great fun, and it provides interaction with our audience that writers of previous generations could have only dreamt about.

What do you do for fun?

I spend just about all my spare time with my wife and kids, who are 9 and 8. We are very close and, since we all have busy lives, we love to just hang out, the Gang of Four, doing whatever’s on the docket for that day. We also like to travel together, and we’ve been lucky enough to bring the kids to the U.K. a few times and are hoping for Israel this summer.

When will “Freakonomics” No. 3 come out?

Good question. Check back with me in a year or two. We aren’t the fastest people in the world.
Tom Reese in Memoriam

A man of diverse interests who loved Appalachian

On Thanksgiving Day 2009, the university lost a great friend and supporter when Thomas W. Reese died just six months after receiving an honorary doctorate degree in fine and applied arts. Faculty, students and administrators who knew Reese during the many years he was involved with Appalachian recall a man with diverse interests and great generosity.

“I knew Tom for many years, but it only took a few minutes with him to know how much he loved this university and how proud he was to be a part of it,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. “He’d tell you how much joy Appalachian brought him.”

Reese contributed to excellence at Appalachian in many ways. A member of the Appalachian State University Foundation Board of Directors since in 1993, he chaired the board from 2005-07. The graphic arts and imaging technology program (GAIT), for which he established a scholarship and distinguished professorship, was named in his honor in 1994. In 1995, the Appalachian Alumni Association named Reese an honorary alumnus, and in 2000 he received the Outstanding Service Award for his exceptional service to the university. In 2001, he made a $2.5 million estate gift to Appalachian.

“I feel very blessed to have known and worked with Tom Reese,” said Dr. Glenda Treadaway, dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. “His contributions are truly amazing and his love for Appalachian has never waned.”

Reese was chairman of the board of Hickory Printing Company, which was started by his parents in 1917. He was a nationally recognized conservationist and early innovator in green practices applied to the printing industry. In 1996, he received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest award given to a North Carolinian.

But it was his influence on students and his great belief in the potential of young people that will be best remembered. Senior Todd Melott, a recipient of the Tom Reese Graphic Arts Scholarship, remembers Reese as a devoted supporter of students.

“Mr. Reese was a very humble man and was excited to listen to an up-and-coming student in his field of interest,” Melott said. “The first thing he asked me was if Appalachian had the best equipment for our learning needs. It was astonishing to me that a man in charge of running a company was so worried about the needs of students he had never met before. The more I look around Katherine Harper Hall, the more I realize that the GAIT program would not be where it is today if not for Mr. Tom Reese.”
The Value of Internships

By Anna Parrish

Internships are an important part of the Appalachian experience, giving students practical knowledge required in their field. Several students in the Department of Geology conducted research as part of their summer 2009 internships, and they shared their experiences during a fall seminar series on campus. Among the presenters were seniors Will Sautter, Nick Chamberlain and Rachel Storniolo.
Saving Alaska’s fishing waters

Will Sautter spent his summer aboard one of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) research vessels assisting the government in ocean conservation.

The internship provided Sautter with “a really big sense of purpose.” He not only updated nautical maps for the U.S. Department of Commerce, but he also helped serve the fisheries of Alaska.

Sautter is an environmental geology major at Appalachian.

As an assistant survey technician for NOAA, Sautter collected and processed data to map the Alaskan sea floor, which helped scientists look for suitable fish habitats and estimate sustainable fishing limits. “It’s very important to understand where the good fisheries are,” said Sautter, “so that we can allow the populations to rechage.”

Sautter spent the first part of his internship in Alaska’s Shumagin Islands mapping sea floors that had not been updated since the 1930s, when mapping was conducted using a lead weight attached to a string. Sautter used advanced sonar systems to create 3-D maps. The information he collected and processed was sent to the Department of Commerce to update nautical charts used by fishermen, cruise lines, the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard.

The second half of his internship took him to Dutch Harbor, home of the television show “Deadliest Catch,” where people from around the world come to the nation’s most productive fishing grounds. There he surveyed essential fishing habitats of the Bering Sea.

“The ocean is still kind of the ‘Wild West’ in that most fishing goes unregulated,” Sautter said. “Many species of fish, like cod and salmon, will be killed off because there is not enough enforcement of sustainable fishing practices. . . . Fisheries research, like habitat classification, is crucial to our understanding of what is really going on beneath the surface of the ocean and to see how healthy our oceans really are.”

Connecting history and landscape

The site of the Battle of Antietam, considered the bloodiest one-day skirmish of the Civil War and in American history, rests on a bed of limestone. When slightly acidic groundwater dissolves the soft stone, cavities develop below the surface creating springs, sinkholes and caves.

In his internship at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md., Nick Chamberlain recorded water chemistry data to ensure that ground water quality standards and the health of the park’s delicate ecosystem were being upheld. He also helped improve education for visitors.

“Because it was a very agricultural region, there were many different types of fertilizers used. We used data collection to keep tabs on localized regions,” said Chamberlain. “It helps give an idea of what agriculture processes put into the groundwater system.”

The data collected by Chamberlain and others will help the National Park Service implement water management projects within the park to preserve the sensitive landscape.

“Urbanization – and its sprawl – imposes on the rural regions, has environmental impacts and can have devastating impacts on resources that are really beautiful and unique,” said Chamberlain. “The National Park Service does a great job preserving the landscape of the battle, and people should appreciate and realize the responsibility they have and what they can do to maintain the environment.”

Chamberlain also produced a brochure for park visitors that explained the geological processes that shaped the battlefield’s sloping terrain and how that landscape contributed to the high casualty rate – 23,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing after 12 hours of combat. Because of the battlefield’s slopes, Chamberlain said, the opposing armies did not see each other until they were at point-blank range.

Chamberlain is a geology major and geological information systems (GIS) minor. He landed the internship through his membership in the Geological Society of America’s GeoCorps America program.

“I never would have been awarded this internship without my educational background and GIS minor – the GIS program at Appalachian is a really prestigious program,” Chamberlain said.

Geophysics in the Desert Southwest

Rachel Storniolo was one of just 16 undergraduate students selected for a competitive program in Santa Fe, N.M., called Summer of Applied Geophysical Experience (SAGE). It was hosted by the Los Alamos National Laboratory branch of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics within the University of California.

For four weeks, Storniolo conducted extensive field work and worked alongside prominent geophysicists and students from around the world.

“The internship provided me a chance to get out in the professional world,” said Storniolo, a geology major who is pursuing a minor in math and physics.

The interns learned geophysical field methods they would use in future research within the geosciences, such as seismic reflection and refraction, gravity, magnetic and electromagnetic surveys. As part of her internship, Storniolo collected data for a research project on faults and groundwater resources by using magnetotellurics, a technique that can provide useful models that reflect that resistivity of different layers within the earth’s surface. Examining the location of faults and assessing groundwater availability provides the community and local scientists with a better understanding of the underlying geology and water resources.

Based on her performance, she was invited to participate in follow-up research for SAGE in San Diego in January.

Storniolo has been involved with other research projects, too. She worked with faculty member Bill Anderson and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Asheville during the summer of 2007 to research the relationship between high-productivity wells and the surrounding geology and topography. She gave a presentation of their work at the Geological Society of America meeting in Houston. Currently Storniolo is pursuing independent research on Boone Creek, looking at the thermal response of the stream during storm events and how man-made structures alter the thermal profile, and consequently, aquatic life.

As an analytical thinker, Storniolo said she loves the math and physics of geology because the discipline is “not so cut and dry.”

The “awesome” faculty in the Department of Geology, Storniolo said, “really motivated me to be the best student I could be, as well as provided the best opportunities. The professors really push us and really do care.”

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Sedentary and overweight much of her life, 33-year-old Jennifer Kerhoulas hadn’t been able to run since she was in elementary school.

Then a year ago, the preschool teacher was inspired to participate in a “Biggest Mover” contest sponsored by her local health department and Appalachian State University’s Be Active-Appalachian Partnership, through a state grant to address childhood obesity prevention.

Kerhoulas was given a free pass to a wellness center where she joined an aerobics class, and she received training in better nutrition and physical activity for herself and the children she teaches. Now, she eats better and can run more than a mile on a regular basis. Her family, as well as the children at her preschool, consume more fruits and vegetables and are more physically active throughout the day.

“I’m 45 pounds lighter, and we’re healthier at home and at work. I feel great,” Kerhoulas said.

The goal of the university’s Be Active-Appalachian Partnership when it began five years ago was to promote physical activity and lifetime fitness to Western North Carolinians. Success stories like Kerhoulas’s show its efforts are working — so well, in fact, that officials at its parent organization Be Active North Carolina headquartered near Raleigh see the partnership as a model for how to effectively get physical activity improvement programs to those who need them most. They plan to replicate its operations with other universities or health care systems across the state.

“The Be Active-Appalachian Partnership will become our flagship program and take precedence over our other activities,” said Gary Gardner, president and CEO of Be Active North Carolina, which in 2007 was named the top physical activity organization in the United States by the National Association for Health & Fitness.

Last year, Be Active North Carolina hired a consultant to evaluate the success of its numerous state-wide programs targeting children and adults. The consultant found the most “exemplary” and “impactful” activities were those in Western North Carolina organized through the Be Active-Appalachian Partnership, Gardner said.

The strength of teamwork

A key to the partnership’s success, Gardner said, is the staff’s ability to collaborate with 65 existing organizations in the 28 counties it serves. “They’ve been able to pull people together and generate something bigger,” he said.

The “Biggest Mover” contest that changed Kerhoulas’s life, for example,
was part of a community-wide effort led by the Appalachian District Health Department in collaboration with 21 community partners, including Watauga County’s childcare centers, public schools and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System.

“Community change is a slow, consistent process,” said Jennifer Greene, health promotion coordinator for the health department, “but I’ve seen a big difference in the success of projects related to physical activity because of the Be Active-Appalachian Partnership’s ability to offer assistance, support and additional resources.”

Many of the partnership’s activities focus on worksite wellness, which create what Greene calls a “ripple effect” on families and communities as individual employees become more physically fit and in turn make different choices related to health, from what foods they buy to how frequently they use municipal parks and sidewalks. “It’s about working smarter, not harder,” Greene said.

That “capacity building” approach is what Be Active North Carolina plans to replicate in five to six key areas across the state during the next five years. “It’s hard to deliver programs effectively from one office near Raleigh, given the diversity of North Carolina and its cultural nuances from down east to in the mountains. The partnership with Appalachian is a delivery model,” Gardner said.

**Getting people moving**

Such praise excites Be Active-Appalachian Partnership’s staff Susan Tumbleston, program director, and Carol Jean Cook, coordinator of programs. Tumbleston admits it took the partnership almost two years to really make progress.

“Now we get calls from across the region asking for our help,” she said. Activities of the partnership include:

- designing worksite wellness programs for employers such as walking groups and fitness contests
- training public schools teachers how to add brief moments of physical activity, called “energizers,” into the school day to keep children active and alert
- leading seniors in balance- and strength-increasing activities
- lending equipment such as body mass index analyzers, scales and blood pressure cuffs to community partners
- sponsoring research by Appalachian faculty on health-related topics.

This year, the partnership is starting a new initiative with state parks that will promote greater physical activity through outdoor recreation. It’s also planning a follow-up to its 2006 research study assessing the amount of physical activity Western North Carolinians get on a regular basis. The first study concluded that a high percentage of residents don’t get enough.

“My goal is to change people’s attitudes about the value of physical activity. It’s the only super medicine we have,” Tumbleston said, pointing to the benefits of physical activity, including reduced cancer rates, improved sleep and emotional states, increased bone health, lowered cholesterol and strengthened immune system.

Kerhoulas has found another benefit in her household.

“My family’s not in front of the TV so much,” she said. “Now we’re outside playing and having ‘family time’ instead of everyone in their own little world. We’re closer.”
By Kate Cahow

For 30 years, Pegge DeLaney Laine ’77 worked in the North Carolina public schools, counseling children who struggled to deal with the consequences of family and life situations beyond their control.

“I began using art extensively with my students in the 1990s after taking classes in the expressive arts summer workshops,” Laine said. Laine has a master’s degree in professional school counseling from Appalachian, and is pursuing a certificate in expressive arts therapy.

“It’s been a gift to me to witness the transformative power of art as I work with people coping with both emotional and physical challenges. What they experience allows them to live life more fully, and to tackle the challenges of life with renewed vigor,” she said.

Since retiring in 2007, Laine has pursued a career as an expressive arts consultant. Through the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, she has facilitated community programming and professional development at places such as Grandfather Home for Children, local elementary schools, assisted care facilities and the Counseling for Faculty and Staff program at Appalachian.

Laine is passionate about the work she does, and the program at Appalachian that inspired and trained her to do it.

“Too many of us listen to that inner voice that shouts ‘I’m not an artist,’ rather than viewing art as a way of living,” she said. “Through the expressive arts therapy program, I rediscovered that within myself, and I am passionate about providing opportunities for others to engage their imagination and creative spirit through art.”

Genesis of the movement

Offered as a concentration within the master’s degree program in community counseling, expressive arts therapy is unique not only as an academic discipline, but as an impetus for people of all ages in all walks of life to use art in the pursuit of personal growth and healing.

Historically, expressive arts began as a field of study in the mid-1970s at Leslie College Graduate School (now Leslie University) in Cambridge, Mass. Today, just a handful of universities both in the United States and abroad offer expressive arts programming. Appalachian’s program is the only one offered at a state university.

The genesis of the movement at Appalachian began in the mid-1980s with Dr. Sally Atkins, coordinator of the expressive arts therapy program and a professor in the Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling (HPC). Her experience as a practicing psychologist, coupled with her artistry as a dancer and poet, led her to explore ways of incorporating the arts into her practice and her work as an educator.

“I have always recognized the therapeutic value of each medium – whether storytelling, dance, music, drama, the visual arts or poetry – for asking questions and finding answers about who we are,” Atkins said. “I wanted to explore how these and other art modalities could be incorporated into the classroom.”

Atkins started reaching out to her colleagues in different arts programs at Appalachian, talking with them about opportunities for sharing their art with each other and with their students. The original group included Atkins, Marianne Adams (dance), Dr. Cathy McKinney (music), Dr. Harold McKinney (music), Dr. Liz Rose (music), Dr. Jay Wentworth (interdisciplinary...
studies) and Dr. Joan Woodworth (psychology).

“The seven of us began co-teaching classes together, learning about each other’s respective disciplines, collaborating professionally, and presenting together at conferences,” Atkins said.

In 1997, the group received a three-year grant from the university’s Hubbard Center for Faculty Development to establish a formal interdisciplinary collective, now known as the Appalachian Expressive Arts Collective. In addition to supporting its ongoing collaborations on campus, the grant provided funding to develop what would become the expressive arts therapy program, and the group’s first publishing effort. Since then, the collective has expanded to include new members and has published two more books.

“As someone who loves the arts, I became very excited when information about Sally and the others’ efforts showed up on my desk,” said Dr. Kate Brinko, interim director of the Hubbard Center. Her efforts to provide funding were critical in nurturing the collective’s first steps.

“I was trained to believe that in academia you work and publish alone,” she said. “So the interdisciplinary collaboration I was witnessing between these faculty members was groundbreaking and inspiring to me.”

She even chose to enroll in the expressive arts therapy certificate program, which she completed in 2004. That same year she and her husband founded Express Yourself, a community arts program at the Turchin Center for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Brinko is the program director.

Art as therapy

Atkins believes that the arts hold a special capacity for helping people address and move through mental health issues from a therapeutic perspective.

“Though I was trained in talk therapy, I’ve learned the incredible value of the arts for helping people express their emotions, explore essential questions and build relationships in group situations,” she said. “I love working in this way. I love teaching it and seeing what students do with it.”

As future therapists and mental health care professionals, expressive arts students first explore their own mental health processes through the visual arts, creative writing, dream work, music, dance and more. This enables them to not only extend the work to clients in a variety of settings, but to relate to them as well.

“The expressive arts are capable of breaking down cultural barriers, helping people to better understand others as well as themselves,” said Ben Asma, a second-year expressive arts student. Through the service component of the program, he and other students gain real-world experience with a variety of client populations.

“At Express Yourself, I worked with individuals who have intellectual disabilities,” he said. “The techniques I used helped me to gain a better understanding of the inner world of these clients, while providing them with a comfortable way to express themselves.”

“My personal experiences with art as a therapeutic process have made me want to continue exploring and practicing on my own,” he said.

Riding the cutting edge

Dr. Harold McKinney, a professor in the Hayes School of Music and one of the original members of the Appalachian Expressive Arts Collective, believes in the capacity of the arts to heal and strengthen the human spirit. He describes the expressive arts program—and the community it has nurtured—as on the cutting edge of enabling this to happen.

“Those of us engaged in the expressive arts here are discovering that art is not about product; it is about process,” he said. “Music is a gift. Art is a gift. Obsessive striving for a perfect product can dry up that gift.”

When McKinney came to Appalachian as a young professor in 1978, his focus was on becoming “the best trombonist ever,” he said. He has since changed his tune.

“Through exploration and collaboration with others, we learn that music is not just about building technique and craft, or being the best,” he said. “It is the experience of making art in community that feeds you, whether you’re a therapist, a student, a dancer or even a trombonist.”
The “first family” of Delaware State consists of Appalachian graduates Harry Williams ’86 and Robin Williams ’92 and their sons Austin, 14, and Gavin, 9. The couple also worked at Appalachian: Harry was an administrator while Robin was a faculty member in the Department of Technology.

When you were an Appalachian student, did you ever picture yourself as a university president?

(Laughs) No, my aspiration at that time as a communication/broadcasting major was to be a sports photographer. I liked to hang out with coaches and athletes.

As an African-American, how does it feel to be president of a historically black institution?

It feels really good. It’s a dream come true. ... At one time, we had more than 300 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in our country. Now we’re down to about 105. In order for us to survive, we’re going to have to change the way we do business.

Delaware is not a typical HBCU in the sense that we’re an all-black institution. We’re founded as a historically black college and the spirit of an HBCU – that nurturing, caring environment – is here. But we are one of the most diverse HBCUs in America. Our faculty is 50-50 in terms of African-American faculty members and white faculty members. Our student body is 80 percent African-American. We have a growing international population and we have relationships in 36 different countries. ... We’re at a point where we’re changing the paradigm of an HBCU, which is exciting.

Much of your career has been in admissions within UNC System universities, including Appalachian. You also held top academic posts at UNC General Administration before joining Delaware State as provost. What attracted you to higher ed administration?

When I was working on my master’s degree at Appalachian in educational media, my professor Jeff Fletcher said, “You should go work in admissions because you’re good at getting people to come to this school. There’s a career there for you.” (laughs) ... So when a position opened up in admissions, I applied for it. They wanted someone with a passion for students, a passion for education and a passion for Appalachian – and I qualified. When you work in admissions you learn how a university operates, and that’s what got me interested in higher education. And I realized if I was going to stay in higher education, I needed to get that terminal degree. With the support of Dr. Harvey Durham, Dr. Rick Howe and other great mentors at Appalachian, I did that. It was Dr. Jim Jackson who told me I’d be a college president one day... They were very encouraging, very supportive.

What drives your passion for university life?

We’re in the business of changing lives. Students make a decision to come to college to improve their livelihood, and we do that here. You’re surrounded by positive people, individuals who want to do something great, and that energizes you. When you watch students grow, it’s so motivating.

At both Appalachian and Delaware State, you’ve worked to increase the percentage of minorities on campus. What do you see as the value of diversity?

There is value to it. To have students from different races, different backgrounds, different ethnic groups and religious groups is essential for developing well-rounded students.

With 3,700 students, Delaware State is smaller than Appalachian but it sounds similar in terms of having a close-knit feel.

That’s what I strive for on a day-to-day basis. When I walk around campus, I engage the students. They’re not used to having the president come into the cafeteria and eat lunch or dinner with them. The student-athletes had study hall in the library yesterday and I went over to check on them three times. They were stunned. Word quickly got around that “The president was here!” ... Everything I know and everything I’ve accomplished started right there in Boone, as far as how an organization should run, how it should behave, how people are treated. Appalachian is a model in my mind, and I’m using that model here.
Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

– from Robert Frost's “Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Photo essay by Marie Freeman
The Science of Snowflakes
As the Blue Ridge Mountains filled with snow this winter, an Appalachian State University professor sat tucked away in an unheated shed peering at individual flakes under a microscope. He knew their structure held a key for meteorologists to improve the region’s snowfall forecasts. “Snow microscopy observations, along with other data our research team has collected, have improved scientific understanding of cloud microphysical processes that influence new snowfall density,” said Dr. Baker Perry, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning.

Snowflakes consist of ice crystals that form through the freezing of water or water vapors, so their shapes represent the temperature and moisture of the clouds from which they fall. These images are of dendrites, snowflakes typical of low-density storms that come from the Northwest. Heavy, dense snowfalls typical of storms that form out of the Gulf of Mexico have more rod-shaped snowflakes.
Civil War diary sheds light on occupations’ impact

By Jane Nicholson

Like many young people who grow up in the South, Dr. Judkin Browning developed an early interest in the Civil War from relatives who talked about the event.

“I had family members who consistently referred to it as ‘The War,’ and everyone knew which war it was,” the Georgia native said.


Rumley was the clerk of court in Carteret County Superior Court during the Civil War, a position he held until his death in 1881. As the original diary no longer exists, Browning’s book is transcribed and edited from copies reprinted in a coastal North Carolina newspaper in 1910, and fragments of the diary stored in the State Archives. Browning’s annotations provide historical context about Rumley’s thoughts about Union occupation, secession, slave ownership and other topics in the diary.

Union soldiers attacked New Bern in 1862 and occupied Rumley’s hometown in nearby Beaufort for the following three years.

Many residents, including Rumley, took an oath of allegiance to the Union in order to retain their property and live in New Bern or Beaufort, while secretly opposing Union activities. Rumley’s anger and rage at the upsetting of the social order in Beaufort is a theme throughout the diary.

Rumley wrote of the Union Army’s confiscation and plundering of homes in Beaufort, and the tensions that developed between white residents and newly emancipated slaves. He also wrote of the arrest of Carteret County resident Emeline Piggott who smuggled bundles of clothing, toiletries, letters and other items under her hoop skirt across Union lines to Confederate troops.

Studying past military occupations is useful for historians as well as for military and political leaders, Browning said.

“Some studies have shown that a mixture of brute force and building programs during occupations were successful,” Browning said. He points to post-World War II Japan as an example of a successful military occupation and rebuilding program.

“However, regardless of the best intentions of an occupying force,” Browning said, “local residents often resist outside interference into their social, political and cultural traditions. Locals may accept occupation initially, but the relationship frequently turns sour. It’s rare that a society accepts the occupiers’ mandates and embraces the changes that are being thrust upon them.”
Sleep deprivation really does cloud your thinking

By Linda Coutant

Getting too little sleep can negatively affect high-level decision-making skills, according to a study conducted at Appalachian State University.

When given a number-guessing task to gauge their levels of anticipation, research participants with fewer than six hours of sleep did not perform as well as those with more sleep, the study revealed.

This information may prove useful in jobs that depend on anticipation skills, such as trading stocks, coordinating transportation routes or collaborating with other people. The information is relevant because it is estimated that about one-fourth of American adults don’t get adequate sleep each night.

“The optimal levels of anticipation were found in people who had six and a half to seven hours of sleep per night,” said Dr. David Dickinson, a behavioral economist in Appalachian’s Walker College of Business. He conducted the study with Dr. Todd McElroy in the Department of Psychology. Their study was funded by the university’s Research Development Award.

Research participants were mostly college students who kept a daily sleep journal and wore a sleep watch to objectively measure their daily sleep for seven days prior to the experiment. Half of the subjects were “morning-types” and half “evening-types” according to their circadian rhythms, and the study randomly assigned them to be administered the decision task either in the morning or evening.

Getting too much sleep, such as eight to nine hours, produced similar adverse behavioral effects as getting too little sleep, the researchers found.

The study also revealed that people who self-identify as morning people typically had poorer decision-making skills between 8-9 p.m., while those who self-identify as evening people had poorer decision-making skills between 8-9 a.m.

“Our society has gone 24/7. Perhaps being aware of one’s optimal time of day will let people take appropriate measures to schedule their decision-making,” said Dickinson. The information may also prompt schools and workplaces to consider flexible scheduling to maximize people’s decision-making ability.

“As an employer, if you have someone who is less able to anticipate, that’s costing you money,” he said.

The Appalachian study was part of Dickinson’s sleep and decision research program, which has also included a controlled laboratory study at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, in which research participants were completely denied sleep for 35 hours and then asked to interact socially. The study revealed that people who are sleep deprived tend to be less trustworthy of one another.

Dickinson said the comparison of the U.K.’s controlled extreme sleep deprivation study protocol with Appalachian’s ordinary-life setting protocol brought interesting conclusions. “The Appalachian study indicated that even mild levels of sleep loss and off times for decision making still resulted in significant behavioral effects. Clearly there is a role for this complementary research with both natural environments and highly controlled lab settings,” he said.

The National Science Foundation is funding a third component of Dickinson’s research program, in which he is collaborating with colleagues at the University of California-San Diego and the U.S. Air Force Academy. This aspect of their research compares behavioral outcomes from the voluntary sleep choice protocol at Appalachian and the academy with controlled sleep deprivation subjects at UC-San Diego who are administered the same decision tasks while their brains are scanned to generate correlated neural data.

The study is not complete, but preliminary results show that participants become desensitized to risk and place less weight on relevant information in their decision making when sleep deprived. Brain activity appears reduced in task-relevant regions of the brain following total sleep deprivation, Dickinson said.
By David Menconi

Jason Graves ’96 found his calling early, when he saw “E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial” as a kid. But the movie had less impact than the music.

“That was the first movie where I thought the music was really something, and it’s stuck with me,” Graves says. “When I became a composition major in college, I went back to ‘E.T.’ and also got into ‘Hook’ — another phenomenal John Williams score, even if it’s not much of a movie. Then I read about USC’s film-scoring program and thought, ‘Maybe I want to do that.’”

Graves does do that, but primarily for computer games. Graves has scored more than 80 games ranging from “Star Trek” to “Arthur and the Invisibles.” And he reached a peak with his score to 2008’s “Dead Space,” which won nine different awards last year, including two from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (the U.K. version of the Oscars). It’s been so successful, in fact, that Graves is hearing from lots of people who want music just like it.

“It’s ironic because ‘Dead Space’ was more textural than melodic, and I like the big thematic, cinematic sweeping themes a lot more,” he says. “But I’m still happy being pigeonholed as ‘the dark orchestral guy’ because I’m glad to be working. And I can do other stuff, too. I just did a super-hero game that was very thematic and heroic, and a World War II submarine game that’s very operatic and Wagnerian. That’s the beauty of games, so many different styles.”

After graduating from Appalachian, Graves earned a graduate certificate from the University of Southern California and went to work for a television soundtrack composer in Los Angeles. That kept him busy with the likes of “World’s Scariest Police Chases” and Burger King spots, but the work was unsatisfying. The instructions he received often amounted to, “We want but can’t afford this, so copy it.”

By then, North Carolina had emerged as a center for television and independent film production. Thinking he could break into movies himself, Graves moved to Raleigh in 1998 and took every music job he could. He played drums in a rock band and cut music for training videos, TV shows and commercials.

Computer games entered the picture in 2002, when Graves was hired to do orchestral music for a game version of “The Hobbit.” He quickly earned a reputation as a crackerjack composer of symphonic music for games. He scores eight to 12 games a year, plus the occasional piece of TV incidental music (“American Idol” is a regular customer).

By now, Graves gets large-enough budgets to work with live symphonies. Overseeing live orchestral recording sessions is one of his favorite parts of the job.

“If I can keep doing live orchestral stuff a couple of times a year, I’ll be totally happy,” he says. “I’m at my happiest when I’ve written something cool that didn’t exist at the start of the day. I always feel like, ‘Today’s the day I’m gonna write my best piece ever.’ Until tomorrow.”
‘The Climb’ up the charts

By Jane Nicholson

Jon Mabe ‘93 jokes that he is a 16-year overnight success. He co-wrote the hit single “The Climb,” recorded by Miley Cyrus in 2009. Mabe said the song, which has sold more than two million copies in the United States, has changed his life.

Mabe majored in music and sound electronics, now music industry studies, and minored in voice and vocal performance. He received an opera scholarship after music faculty member Joseph Amaya heard him singing in the hall.

Mabe moved to Nashville after graduating from Appalachian.

“Performance was my dream,” Mabe said. “I came to Nashville in 1993 and went to work at EMI music publishing as an intern.” After six weeks, he was hired full time to work in EMI’s tape room cataloging news songs written by the company’s songwriters. After a couple of years, he was promoted to creative director, a position he held for seven years - until he could no longer ignore his desire to write and promote his own songs.

He worked for producer and writer Keith Stegall, crafting songs for Ronnie Milsap, Chuck Wicks, Lila McCann and Little Big Town. Mabe now works with Stage Three Music as an independent songwriter.

Mabe’s singer-songwriting partner Jessi Alexander came up with the melody for “The Climb” while driving to Mabe’s home to work on some projects. Their struggles in the music industry inspired the song’s theme about overcoming life’s obstacles - a theme that resonates with audiences. The songwriters and Cyrus have received thousands of e-mails from fans who say the song is about their life.

The song has been a success in Australia, New Zealand, Britain and Ireland and was featured during the recent Winter Olympics.

“Writing this song has been life changing,” Mabe said. “These are the things you dream about doing as an artist/songwriter. It has opened doors for me to go to Los Angeles, New York and Europe and write with performers I never would have been able to write with before. They don’t write with people who don’t have hits.”

Mabe recently worked with a 28-year-old Atlantic Records artist on six songs for possible recording. And, he has had an inquiry from Britain’s pop singer Adele about a songwriting collaboration.

Mabe says being a songwriter and working in the recording industry is a hard life. “It will break your will more than once,” he said. “But if it’s something you can’t live without, then pursue your dream. I’m living proof that you can be successful.”

A Grammy nod for jazz

By Jane Nicholson

Athletes, artists and musicians all know what it’s like to be in the zone, to experience the moment when things click in perfect rhythm or harmony.

Matt Vance ’91 and musicians in the big band Chuck Owen and the Jazz Surge had that feeling when they recorded the track “Slings and Arrows” on the jazz CD “The Comet’s Tale: Performing the Compositions of Michael Brecker.”

The single was nominated for a Grammy in this year’s “Best Instrumental Arrangement” category. While the single did not win, being part of a recording nominated for the award was an honor for Vance.

Vance is woodwind product manager for the Buffet Crampon musical instrument company. The France-based company is known for its caliber of wind instruments played by professional musicians.

“Slings and Arrows” was recorded at a studio in Tampa, Fla. “The arrangement was really good and the band was playing at a high level,” said Vance, who plays baritone saxophone, bass clarinet and contra alto clarinet with the Jazz Surge. “We all sensed it was something that was going to be really special.”

Brecker was to have performed with the band, but he passed away a few months before the recording was made.

Performing is a key part of Vance’s professional and personal life. “It’s important in my profession that I’m able to play at a high level and be able to relate those experiences to musicians and students,” he said.

Vance is a regular member of the Jazz Surge, which he joined in 1997. He is one of five sax players, and one of three Appalachian graduates in the band. Jack Wilkins ’82, who plays tenor sax, graduated from Appalachian and taught in the School of Music in the 1980s. He is director of jazz studies at the University of Florida. Jay Coble ’81 has an undergraduate degree from Appalachian and is an associate professor of trumpet at the University of South Florida.

“Slings and Arrows” was one of five instrumental arrangements nominated for a Grammy.

“Even though we didn’t win, we were thrilled with the fact the song was nominated,” Vance said. “We were competing with big bands based in New York and Los Angeles. For a Florida-based band to be even considered was quite an accomplishment.”
Portions of alumni notes received from July 5, 2009 to Jan. 14, 2010.

2000s

PAUL VISENTIN ’09 AND DANIELLE (WALDROP) VISENTIN ’07 of Abingdon were married Oct. 24, 2009. ASHLEY PAYNE ’09 and William Cook of Boone were married July 11, 2009. MATTHEW LEE ’08 and Danielle Bryant were married Dec. 19, 2009. ALLISON SAWICK ’08 received a master’s in student affairs practices from the University of Virginia, May 17, 2009. JEROME STOUT ’07 and Ashlee Stout announce the birth of Emma Grace, June 25, 2009. MILES GORDON ’07 AND LAUREN DAVIS ’08 of Greensboro were married Oct. 16, 2009. KRYS TAL STEWART ’07 and Rayland Wilson of Banner Elk were married Oct. 17, 2009. CARRIE MILLS ’06 is an associate director of development for the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, University of Florida. DAVID BAXTER ’06 received a juris doctor in law from North Carolina Central University, May 2009. He recently passed the North Carolina Bar Exam. JONATHAN KAPPLER ’05 and Candace Dolbier were married July 4, 2009. MISTY GUNTER ’06 AND RONNIE GUNTER ’04 announce the birth of Rylee K., April 14, 2009. JONATHAN KAPPLER ’05 is a research director at the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation in Raleigh. SARAH ROBINSON ’05 received a juris doctor in law from Elon University School of Law, May 24, 2009. After passing the North Carolina Bar Exam she began practicing law with Wishart, Norris, Henninger & Pittman P.A. in Charlotte. MEGAN (DAVIS) WELLS ’05 AND BRENT WELLS ’06 announce the birth of Caleb, July 31, 2009. CHARLES REEP ’05 and Hayley Reep announce the birth of Savannah Patricia, Sept. 28, 2009. APRIL KAPPLER ’05 is manager of All Things Good with Larry’s Beans, Raleigh. STACEY RUSSELL ’04 and Keith Griffin were married Nov. 1, 2009. MARK J. SMITH ’04 is an operations specialist at the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy, Albuquerque. CARRIE WATERS ’04 and Eric Church were married in September 2009. JENNIFER (LONGPRE) MILLER ’04 AND DAVID MILLER ’05 announce the birth Matthew Luke, May 9, 2009. ERIN (SCHMITT) YACUR ’04 and Chris Yacur announce the birth of Kayelyn Elizabeth, Sept. 18, 2009. HEATHER (LEWIS) KLINE ’04 AND ANDREW KLINE ’04 announce the birth of Hudson Turner, Oct. 1, 2009. ALISA (MESSICK) MARSH ’03 and Joseph Marsch announce the birth of Lidia Carlyse, March 16, 2009. ANTHONY TEAGUE ’03 has been promoted to major/assistant chief of police at North Wilkesboro Police Department. RACHEL (GUENTHER) CLIFTON ’03 is a regional sales representative at Salix Pharmaceuticals, Morrisville. KEVIN JONES ’03 announces the birth of Emmie Charlotte, Aug. 14, 2009. JONATHAN TRIPPLET ’03 and Tara Yohn were married May 1, 2009. ELEANOR (NICHOLS) STARNER ’02 AND STEPHEN STARNER ’03 announce the birth of Sara Grace, Jan. 15, 2009. SHANNON (WATSON) FERGUSON ’02 AND BRADLEY FERGUSON ’03 announce the birth of Isabelle Ruth, June 15, 2009. MARK SMITH ’02 announces the birth of a son, May 29, 2009. ALLISON (CHEESMAN) WARD ’01 AND MICHAEL WARD ’99 announce the birth of Watts Bryson, July 28, 2009. ALLISON (SHOCKLEY) CRI PPEN ’01 and Richard Crippen announce the birth of Jack Taylor, April 2, 2009. RODNEY KING ’01 AND COURTNEY KING ’04 announce the birth of Nora Catherine, Feb. 16, 2009. JENNIFER (OYSTER) MCGOFF ’01 and Shawn McGoff announce the birth of Conner Patrick, Oct. 8, 2009. BELINDA PRAWDZIK VELLINGA ’00 and Adam Vellinga of Denver, Colo., were married Aug. 8, 2008. KRISTIN (HOLLINGSWORTH) NEAL ’00 AND STEVEn NEAL ’02 announce the birth of Ainsley Kate, July 9, 2009. TODD SIDES ’00 and Jessica Sides announce the birth of Bergen Caswell, Aug. 28, 2009. LAURA (WICKER) BALLARD ’00 AND JASON BALLARD ’00 announce the birth of Tessa Evangelie, April 14, 2009. DAVID OSBORNE ’00 and Jacqueline Osborne announce the birth of a daughter, Aug. 31, 2009. KERRY (BUTLER) CARTER ’00 and Josh Carter announce the birth of Emery Claire, March 29, 2009. ALLISON RIDDICK ’00 and Andrew Thomas of Kernersville were married Sept. 7, 2009. MOLLY (STALLINGS) CARPENTER ’99 and Scott Carpenter announce the birth of Abigail Paige, June 1, 2009. FRED RICK GARDIN ’99 received a doctorate in physical education and athletic training from the University of South Carolina, August 2009. He is now an assistant professor at Montclair State University, N.J. OLIVIA (PLEASANTS) WHITESIDE ’99 AND JOEY WHITESIDE ’00 announce the birth of Oakley Joseph, July 31, 2009. ERIN (POAGE) DENNIS ’99 ’01 is the artistic coordinator with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. BETH (HODGES) OWENBY ’99 received a master of business administration from Montreat College, May 2009. KIMBERLY (DAYBERRY) LAWSON ’99 received a master’s in school administration from Appalachian, August 2009. TRACI (CHASTINE) CHURN ’99 and Charles Churn announce the birth of Baker Watts, June 6, 2009. NOEL (BARKLEY) HAMRICK ’99 and Carleton Hamrick announce the birth of Shafter Carleton IV, Jan. 5, 2009. JENNIFER (ATWATER) CRAIG ’99 and Steven Craig of Raleigh were married Aug. 29, 2009. JEFFREY STRICKLAND ’98 has been appointed head of field operations/sales for the Chrysler Group, LLC. JASON CALLICUTT ’98 is vice president at Bank of America, Charlotte. STEPHANIE (ROUTH) CLARK ’98 is a marketing and sales coordinator at Hill, Cheson & Woody, an employee benefits firm in Chapel Hill. TAMMI WYNN ’98 announces the birth of Sloan Gwynne Plantan, June 4, 2009. HOLLY (WILLIAMS) GOFO RTH ’98 recently achieved national board certification in mathematics. VANESSA (URRUELA) WILLS ’97 AND BRAD WILLS ’97 announce the birth of Libby Jeanne, March 5, 2009. MATTHEW KISER ’97 and Allison Kiser announce the birth of Matthew Glenn, Feb. 20, 2009. ERIN (HIDELL) HARDISON ’97 AND BOB HARDISON ’94 announce the birth of Brock Callahan, May 14, 2009. KEITH BOWMAN ’97 and Beth Keefauer announce the birth of Boone Keefauer, July 29, 2009. ERIC HART ’97 was recently promoted to associate athletic director at Delaware State University. SAMANTHA CAMPBELL ’97 received a master’s in school administration from Appalachian, December 2009. SHERYL KELLEY ’97 and Mark Kelley announce the birth of a daughter, Jan. 23, 2009.
Setzer champions 96K alumni

By Kate Cahow

When Patrick Setzer ’90 ’98 visited Appalachian as a high school senior in 1985, he encountered a campus-wide attitude that convinced him this was the place to pursue his academic and career goals. That day began a long and fruitful partnership between the two.

Nearly 25 years later, and several moves up the Appalachian ladder to executive director of alumni affairs, Setzer is a highly committed ambassador for the university and all constituents black and gold. In this position, he is the lead representative for 96,000 alumni.

“I remember the day I came here for fall open house, visiting different places on campus, talking with people about the communication program. I felt that strong sense of the Appalachian Family you always hear people talking about,” said Setzer, a native of Claremont, N.C.

“When I met Dr. Charles Porterfield, chair of the communication department at the time, I thought, ‘This could be the key to my future.’ I knew I wanted to be taught by this man at this university. His attitude and welcoming spirit sealed the deal for me.”

“During the 14 years I worked with the ambassadors, I had the opportunity to interact with some outstanding students,” he said. “My hope is that I was able to help the program build a solid foundation, and to instill in the students a sense of pride and passion for their university.”

In addition to the many ways Setzer has served the Appalachian community as a dedicated employee, he also maintains a strong sense of loyalty and connection as an Appalachian alumnus. Whether working with admissions as a liaison with alumni affairs, volunteering at special events or as a member of the High Country Alumni Chapter, he takes being an Appalachian alumnus to heart.

“I do see myself as a champion for the Appalachian Family. Our faculty, staff and students are doing great things, and I want to find ways to share those stories with our alumni and other constituents,” he said.

“I owe this place a great deal of gratitude for providing me with the opportunity to be a part of something so special.”

Our faculty, staff and students are doing great things, and I want to find ways to share those stories with our alumni and other constituents.”

– Patrick Setzer, executive director of alumni affairs

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in communications in 1990, Setzer began working in admissions as a university representative. He traveled around the Southeast to college fairs, high schools and community colleges where he shared his enthusiasm for his alma mater with prospective students.

During the next 17 years he served admissions in several leadership positions, and completed a master’s degree in higher education administration in 1998. He moved to university communications in 2007, where he spent the next three years as director of marketing communications.

Under his guidance, the department collaborated on the award-winning project First Connections, a web portal and 104-page guidebook for freshmen and transfer students. The guidebook received a Grand Award for Student Recruitment Publications in 2008, and a Silver Award in 2009, both from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Setzer recalls one of his most rewarding professional and personal experiences while at Appalachian was serving as advisor to the Appalachian Student Ambassador program from 1993-2007. During that time the program was awarded Most Outstanding Organization six times by Appalachian’s Club Council, and Setzer was named Advisor of the Year three times.

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Share your news
Have a personal or professional accomplishment you would like to share?
Submit alumni notes at www.alumni.appstate.edu/goldbook
You can also mail your information to Alumni Notes, McKinney Alumni Center, ASU Box 32015, Boone, NC 28608.

ALUMNI NOTES

MICHAEL ELLINGTON '96 and Jessica Ellington announce the birth of Lorelei Donovan, April 9, 2009.

TOMMASANNE LAMBERT DAVIS '95 AND GREG DAVIS '93 of Asheville were married Aug. 7, 2009.

EMILY BAKER '95 and Jack Henzlik were married March 14, 2009.

LAURA (HOBBS) SHIREY '95 and Sam Shirey announce the birth of Owen B., March 10, 2009.

HUNTER WIDENER '95 is chief operating officer at Bridgewater Capital Inc., Charlotte.

THOMAS COOK '94 of Thomas Cook Designs will have designs featured in three new books from Rockport Publishers: “LogoLounge 5: 2,000 International Identities from Leading Designers,” “LogoLounge Master Series: Initials and Crests” and “LogoLounge Master Series: Animals and Mythology.”

BLAKE DYE '94 earned certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). Dye is an employment and special programs consultant with Oregon Department of Transportation.

STEVE MCGUIN '94 is a sales representative with Spectrum Laboratory Network, Raleigh.

KRISTIN (BELL) ADAMS '94 and Paul Adams announce the birth of a daughter, July 2009.

JULIE WISHON '94 announces the birth of Trick Tucker, Jan. 29, 2009.

JEFF REID '93 is director of entrepreneurship and real estate initiatives at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

JULIA (HONEYCUTT) HAMBERGER '93 and John Hamburger announce the birth of Abbie Elizabeth, Jan. 4, 2009.

DANIELLE (DAY) SABATO '93 AND JOSEPH SABATO '94 announce the birth of Katie Elizabeth, July 16, 2009.

HERMAN MORRIS '93 is a solution architect at McKesson Provider Technologies, Alpharetta, Ga.


KRISTINE (BALL) STRICKLAND '92 AND STEVEN STRICKLAND '92 announce the birth of Riley, July 22, 2009.

KEMAL ATKINS '92 was recently appointed interim vice president of student affairs at Delaware State University.

DAVID AYER '92 '95 was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

JOHN BAILEY '92 received certification as a General Real Estate Appraiser Nov. 25, 2009.

KIM (BLACKBURN) GREEN '92 AND TONY GREEN '88 recently opened an Exit Realty office in Winston-Salem.

MATTHEW VANCE '91 and Maggie Vance announce the birth of Ella Grace, Aug. 30, 2009.

JEFFERY STARNES '91 announces the adoption of Lily Grace.

ANDREA (JEFFORDS) BOSTIC '91 was named Teacher of the Year for the 2009-10 school year at Old Richmond Elementary in Tobaccoville.

BRIAN ESTRIDGE '91 is the morning talk show host at Newstalk 820 WBAI, Dallas / Fort Worth.

SUSAN FAIRCLOTH '90 has been promoted to associate professor with tenure in the educational leadership program at Pennsylvania State University.

DIANA (SIMPSON) FEAVER '90 and George Feaver announce the birth of John Thomas, April 23, 2009.

CHARLES BLANKINSHIP '90 and Laura Blankenship announce the birth of Sara Kate, April 3, 2009.

deaths

MARCUS DAVIS '95, March 23, 2009.

1980s

MATTHEW HAWKINS '89 has been promoted to DIRECTV product manager at SouthEast Telephone, Pikesville, Ky.

ROBERT LESLIE '89 is dean of corporate and continuing education at Randolph Community College, Asheboro.

BRIAN SIMS '89 is materials manager at Northrop Grumman Remotely Operated Vehicles, Clinton, Tenn.

GLENN COOK '89 is plant controller at Interflex Group Inc., Wilkesboro.

SHERRY CONRAD FRYE '88 recently achieved North Carolina and National Career Readiness Certification - Gold Level.

ADAM KINNEY '88 is currently serving with the Marine Corps as an infantry doctor in Afghanistan.

CDR RICHARD BATSON '87 was recently appointed executive officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center, Dam Neck, Va.

DOUGLAS HALLIBURTON '87 received a master’s in educational media from Appalachian, May 2009.

TODD CLINE '87 and Kelly Cline announce the birth of Joshua David, July 17, 2009.

CHRISTINE (UHLER) MILLER '87 AND BLAIN MILLER '91 were married July 31, 2009.

MICHAEL FOX '86 was appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to a seat on the N.C. Board of Transportation. He is a partner at the Greensboro law firm of Tiggle Duggins & Meschan, PA.

JAMES JONES '86 received a master of business administration from
for health: Tan inquiry-Based published a book titled "educating medicine from Wright State completing a master's in aerospace cine and aerospace medicine, after board certified in preventive medicine, from 1970 Carolina. indemnty, ltd. located in north America of the united national group, recently promoted to president of the North Carolina Verbatim Reporters Association in spring 2009.

JENNIE (SHAMPINE) HOWELL '84 is a middle school teacher of language arts at Bedford County Schools, Virginia.

COL. PAUL WHIPPO '83 of the U.S. Army assumed command of the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command, July 1, 2009. His unit will provide veterinary support to all U.S. military forces in the Pacific.

MARY (YOUNT) GODWIN '81 has been named Teacher of the Year for 2009-10 by Florence School District Three.

deaths

FRANCES REED '85, June 8, 2009.
KAREN PARSONS '83, 2009.

1970s

JEANNINE (UNDERDOWN) COLLINS '79 is currently serving as chair of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees. This is her second term as a trustee.

VALERIE UBES '79 has published a book titled “Educating for Health: An Inquiry-Based Approach to PreK-8 Pedagogy.”

R. MICHAEL ROLLINS '78 recently opened Personal Financial Planning Group Inc. in Matthews. Rollins is a certified financial planner.

ROBERT MAYTON '78 is serving as a mentor at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, Kabul.

STEVEN TERRY '78 AND DIANE (COOK) TERRY '78 were married Sept. 26, 2009.

KENT TEETER '78 has retired after 30 years as athletic trainer at West Henderson High School.

SAM POWERS '78, director of the Office of Economic Development for Asheville, is now responsible for direction of the Asheville Civic Center/Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

PETER DEMPSEY '86 was recently board certified in preventive medicine and aerospace medicine, after completing a master’s in aerospace medicine from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

JEFFERY REYNOLDS '86 was recently promoted to president of the United National Group, a member of United America Indemnity, Ltd. located in North Carolina.

PATTI (CULLER) ELLIOTT '85 was installed as president of the North Carolina Verbatim Reporters Association in spring 2009.

SAM POWERS '76 was honored by Hoke County when The Don D. Steed Elementary School opened in the fall of 2008. From teacher to superintendent, Steed spent his entire career in education in Hoke County.

BRENDA (ALLEN) MORRIS '76 retired after serving 30 years with Guilford County Cooperative Extension. For the past nine years, she was county extension director.

REBECCA (HERMAN) STEVENS '75 and Mike Stevens celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary June 9, 2009.

WAYNE TRIPLETT '74 '88 '91 retired from Wilkes County Schools on July 1, 2009, after more than

Gregory courts success with Auto-Tune the News

By Kate Cahow

It may not be Hollywood – or CNN for that matter – but Auto-Tune the News has provided for music industry studies graduate Michael Gregory '07 with a hot platform and plenty of fans for his comedic and musical talents.

The brainchild of Gregory, ATTN is an amalgamation of news clips, catchy tunes, political commentary and comedic writing, all compiled in the intimate space beneath his bed loft – or what he calls “the studio.”

“Auto-Tune the News is mostly about having fun pointing out the absurdities of the news, whether that absurdity is in the news media itself or in what the media is highlighting,” said Gregory, a Radford, Va., transplant now living in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Gregory utilizes the software program Auto-Tune to manipulate the voices of politicians, new anchors and political pundits so they appear to be singing. He became proficient with the program during late night sessions in the Hayes School of Music’s recording studio. For the uninstructed, think digitized vocals a la Cher in her 1998 hit “Believe.” Add superimposed mouths and wildly gesticulating arms attached to the players in the videos, a choppy editing effect, and the videos are innovative and highly entertaining.

Ben Westhoff of The Village Voice writes of the series, “Simultaneously thoughtful and hilarious skewerings of our punditry/industrial complex, the songs are catchy enough to be radio hits.”

The 10-episode series has been widely displayed on Web sites such as YouTube and Barely Political, winning it millions of viewings and on-air interviews with CBS, CNN, FOX, MSNBC and The Rachel Maddow Show.

After creating the first episode in 2008, called ATTN #1: “March Madness. Economic Woes. Pentagon Budget Cuts,” Gregory recruited brothers Andrew and Evan, and Evan’s wife Sarah to collaborate on the series. The songs featured in the videos are written and performed by the foursome.

Through Gregory’s technological proficiency with software programs like Final Cut and Logic, all four family members appear in the videos. In round-table and split-screen settings they joust with the likes of Katie Couric, Sean Hannity, Nancy Pelosi, Michelle Bachman and Newt Gingrich on everything from climate change and gay marriage, to health care reform and President Obama’s Nobel Peace Prize.

Considering the content of ATTN in these highly contentious times, one might wonder about potential backlash. Gregory claims that ATTN does not take sides when poking fun at the news and its pundits. Apparently, the pundits don’t see it quite that way.

“Both conservatives and liberals are claiming the videos for their side,” he said. “It’s weird to see them arguing over who we’re making fun of. They’re obviously interpreting what we’re doing through their own media lens. I guess that’s what we all do with the media.”

View all Auto-Tune the News episodes at: YouTube.com/show/autotunethenews
YouTube.com/schmoyoho

www.today.appstate.edu 37
Alumna helps FBI crack securities fraud

By Jane Nicholson

Special agent Diane Wehner ’00 follows the money. An accounting graduate of the Wake College of Business, Wehner is part of a team that investigates securities fraud allegations. For the past four years, she has worked in FBI offices located near Wall Street in New York City.

While she can’t talk specifics, Wehner has listened to hours of wiretaps, participated in surveillance and interviews regarding insider trading scams, Ponzi schemes, pump-and-dump stock market manipulations and other financial fraud cases. Some of those cases have been reported in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

“Every day is different,” she said of her work. “The great part of the job is that I don’t have to sit 24/7. I can come into work thinking I will do paperwork all day, and that might change and I’ll have to conduct an interview. There is never a dull moment.”

Law enforcement runs in Wehner’s family. Her father, an inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, enforced statutes dealing with the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. mail. Wehner followed in the family tradition but took a different course. “I wanted to be an FBI agent since I was a child,” said the Raleigh native.

The path to an FBI career is long and takes dedication. “You have to put in time gaining work experience to get a job with the bureau,” Wehner said.

She worked as an intern with a local accounting firm while at Appalachian and as a graduate student at Wake Forest University, which led to a full-time job as a CPA in public accounting. She worked as a CPA at both Merrill Lynch and Citigroup in New York City.

Wehner said it took about two years to complete requirements leading to admission to the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. “It’s an intense process to be hired as a special agent,” she said.

In addition to gaining relevant work experience and passing a detailed background check, Wehner was among approximately 40 classmates who participated in more than 800 hours of instruction including firearms training, case exercises, behavioral science, fundamentals of law and how to manage and run investigations. Agents must also pass a physical fitness test.

“The day you get your badge and credentials from the academy is a great day,” she said.
Every Mountaineer makes an impact

Appalachian needs your help to raise the bar – for APR

What is APR?
APR (Alumni Participation Rate) is the percentage of alumni who give back to their alma mater – no matter the size of the gift.

Why is APR important?
Alumni Participation Rates are an effective measure of alumni satisfaction with their school. Publications such as U.S. News & World Report use APR in determining rankings for colleges and universities. Prospective students and donors also consider APR, and corporations and foundations regard APR when selecting colleges and universities to support financially.

What is our APR?
Appalachian currently has an APR of 9 percent, which ranks 6th in the UNC System. UNC Chapel Hill ranks first with an APR of 19 percent. Our goal is to boost our APR to 20 percent and become No.1 in the UNC System for alumni participation.

What will it take?
A gift of any size contributed by 18,000 Appalachian alumni.

Will you help?
A gift of any size significantly impacts the lives of Appalachian students. Your aid will not only support student scholarships, but also ensure that cutting-edge technology is available to enrich each student’s Appalachian experience.

The same commitment that Every Mountaineer has demonstrated for generations should encourage Every Mountaineer to make a gift today. By increasing our APR ranking, you tell the world you value your Appalachian degree and support today’s students.

www.givenow.appstate.edu/appfund

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The Alumni Memorial Scholarship is supported in great part by the Appalachian specialty license plate.

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faculty and staff deaths (July 5, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010)


BETTYE J. DEBELL served in the records management office of Appalachian’s Reich College of Education from 1970 to 1999. She died Nov. 11, 2009 at the age of 81. While at Appalachian she received several awards, including the Governor’s Award for Excellence in 1985. She retired in 1999.

STEVE GABRIEL ’52 ’53, a member of the Appalachian Family for 24 years, died Jan. 15, 2010. He was 80. Gabriel came to Appalachian in 1965 as a financial aid director and wrestling coach. During his tenure, his teams compiled a 92-21 record and hosted the 1971 NAIA wrestling tournament. Gabriel’s team finished 16th out of 140 teams attending. He retired in 1989.

GEORGE M. HOLMES ’54, a longtime supporter of Appalachian and a North Carolina State Representative for 52 years, died Dec. 31, 2009. He was 80. Holmes’ efforts on behalf of Appalachian with the N.C. General Assembly helped secure funding for the university’s convocation center, which is named in his honor: the George M. Holmes Convocation Center. As a student Holmes played football under coach E.C. Duggins.

DR. FRED C. MILLER JR., 79, served on Appalachian’s Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1995. He died Dec. 10, 2009. A U.S. Navy veteran, Miller practiced dentistry for 43 years in Boone, West Jefferson, Atlantic Beach and Jonesville. He also served as a dentist on the U.S. Navy hospital ship Hope, and volunteered as a dentist in both Haiti and the Ukraine.

DR. WALTER POWELL OLDENDORF, a lifelong educator who joined Appalachian’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction in 2001, died Feb. 22, 2010. He was 72. Oldendorf served as director of Appalachian’s Fifth Dimension After School Program, a tutoring program for pre-service students and other public school students in the region. Previously, he was dean of education at the University of Montana-Western, where he received a Fulbright Grant to work with teachers in South Africa.

BOB POLLOCK, who was the head track and cross-country coach at Appalachian from 1974-88, died Feb. 20, 2010. He was 60. While at Appalachian, Pollock led the Mountaineers to five Southern Conference outdoor titles, four indoor championships, and one cross country title. His teams swept the Southern Conference indoor and outdoor meets in 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987. A Rochester, N.Y. native, Pollock was also head coach of Clemson’s track program for 20 years. In that time he led Clemson to 21 ACC Championships.

DR. JOHN F. WILLIAMS, a professor in the Department of Mathematics from 1966 to 1991, died Oct. 9, 2009. He was 87. He retired as professor emeritus in 1991. Williams served in the U.S. Army in World War II in Europe. He was an officer under General George S. Patton. All five of his children received their bachelor’s degrees at Appalachian.

MEN’S BASEBALL TEAM HAS COME A LONG WAY

Back when the university was called Appalachian Training School, (1903-1925), the baseball team averaged 12 members. Today it exceeds 37. Early baseball teams were forbidden to play during school hours and needed faculty permission to play outside of Boone. Today, the team plays around 54 games a season, and it finished the 2009 season 33-21. In this 1916 image, the team poses on the school’s athletic field, which is now the location of Holmes Convocation Center, built in 2000.

View current baseball news at www.goasu.com/baseball.

Photo courtesy of Appalachian’s Historical Photographs Collection.
Bryce ’49 ’50 and Izoria Gordon ’49 are leaving a legacy at Appalachian that provides for future generations to follow in their footsteps. Both distinguished educators, their legacy is composed of several types of gifts that cumulatively benefit future teachers in preparing for lives of service to others.

“When I came here as a freshman in 1946, a friend bet me that I wouldn’t last here,” Bryce remembers. “I thought I would surely lose the bet. I had never had any real hope of attending college. No one encouraged me.”

But Appalachian became the place that changed his life forever.

“I met people who believed in me,” he said. “Professors who wanted me to succeed, people from all walks of life who inspired me to make something of myself.”

His journey from sharecropper’s son to successful educator and businessman has left a sense of urgency for the Gordons to give back because they believe they received so much from Appalachian. Now they are taking advantage of some of the vehicles available to donors through planned giving at Appalachian. Through a combination of current gifts, a provision in their estate plans to ensure future support and gift annuities that are providing them income – including the Bryce and Izoria Gordon ACCESS Scholarship for Education – they will help the teachers of tomorrow.

The ACCESS Scholarship, which began in 2007, is awarded to about 40 students each year and supplements their financial aid and other forms of financial assistance to cover the entire cost of attending Appalachian – about $9,900 a year. Each student can also receive an on-campus job to help with personal expense and enables families at the federal poverty level to send their children to Appalachian and see them graduate debt free.

“This is our legacy, helping to mold the teachers of tomorrow, and truly the highest and best use I can think of for our funds,” Izoria said. “Making a gift to Appalachian in our wills was one of the easiest decisions we have ever made.”

In 2003, Bryce and Izoria were inducted into the university’s Rhododendron Society. The Rhododendron Society recognizes graduates of Appalachian State University whose service as teachers, librarians, human service professionals or administrators has reflected great credit on themselves and the university.

“I hate to think what my life would have been without Izoria or Appalachian,” Bryce says. “When I came to Appalachian, I received the gift of a lifetime. I have never regretted for a moment my decision to come here, and we feel it’s so important to give back to our Appalachian Family.”

To view a complete resource guide for estate and charitable planning, go to www.give.appstate.edu/giftplanning

A gift you will never regret
“Our time at Appalachian gave us much more than great memories. Appalachian State provided us with outstanding educational opportunities that have been a foundation for a great life together. Supporting the Appalachian Fund allows us to do our part in securing those same experiences for students today.”

– Patrick ’92 & Stephanie ’92 Billings
and future Mountaineers,
Vica and Olia