Making a difference in the world, one student at a time.
See what our alumni have been doing...

Appalachian alumni notes

Update your information at alumni.appstate.edu
Did you know?
The Appalachian Fund is:
Vital: Your gift meets immediate needs on campus.
Diverse: It currently supports 71 different areas on campus.
Effective: A gift of any size makes a difference for our students.

“It is such a great experience to interact with alumni and parents of new students and hear their stories. They love Appalachian as much as I do.”

KAYLA SMITH
Class of 2012, Recreation Management major
Student Caller, The Appalachian Fund
Appalachian’s campaign theme, “Making a difference in the world… one student at a time,” was created with input from the university’s faculty, staff, alumni and friends who were asked why they choose to work, teach, go to school and graduate from Appalachian, and why they support the university by making gifts, volunteering or attending events on campus. A clear theme emerged from these discussions. Our students have amazing stories to tell. They make real and powerful differences in the world, and they inspire others to invest in their dreams, and help them make the world a better place.

Cover conceived and designed by Troy Tuttle.

During Homecoming Weekend 2011, Appalachian publicly launched the Campaign for Appalachian, a $200 million comprehensive campaign to preserve and enhance the Appalachian Experience. These funds will strengthen the academic, arts and athletic experiences through scholarships, programs and facilities. The Homecoming festivities were attended by more than 30,000 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends.
Why the Campaign for Appalachian matters

It has been exciting to launch the new comprehensive “Campaign for Appalachian: Making a difference in the world… one student at a time.” This tagline reflects precisely what Appalachian State University has done for more than a century and will continue to do.

None of us has gotten where we are in life without the help of others. Years ago as a first-generation college student, I never imagined I would hold a position such as this – chancellor of this outstanding university. Yet I do because people along the way touched my life. Appalachian is part of that process. We make a difference for young people so they can in turn make a difference for someone else.

The $200 million campaign focuses on academics, arts and athletics – which encompass everything that makes this university extraordinary. If we are truly going to prepare young people who can make a difference in today’s world, we need to ensure they have an understanding of global challenges, including an evolving and uncertain economy. Our graduates must be creative, innovative and possess strong communication skills. They should feel deeply confident as emerging leaders to say, “For the next chapter of my life, Appalachian has me ready.”

We can do this. So much of it already happens here every day.

When we faced the daunting task of cutting $22.8 million from our already lean operating budget, our faculty and staff rose to the occasion and once again excelled at what Appalachian does best: caring about our students. They were determined to preserve and protect “the Appalachian Experience” for their students at all costs. We have made significant sacrifices, as you’ll read on page 30, but we can also take great pride in our accomplishments such as the amazing work of our Solar Homestead team, a new College of Education building, award-winning research by students working alongside their professors, championship athletics and other examples found in this issue of Appalachian Today.

Please join us in this endeavor to preserve and enhance the Appalachian Experience. It is important to understand the Campaign for Appalachian is not raising money to offset budget cuts. Our dreams are bigger as we recognize the university must change because the world is changing. While we have been known and respected for our high-quality programs in teacher education, our reputation must now be built on additional societal expectations including health and quality of life, sustainability, entrepreneurship, global competency and heightened scholarship. This is the Appalachian of today and tomorrow.

I am convinced the value of an Appalachian degree increases every day, based on the quality of students coming in. This year’s freshman class had an average SAT score of 1141 and an average high school grade point average of 3.94. At a recent open house, more and more students and their parents expressed interest in our Honors College and the highly competitive Chancellor’s Scholarship, which means we continue to attract academically gifted young people.

We know the quality and uniqueness of Appalachian, and recognition by outside sources such as The Princeton Review, U.S. News and World Report and Sierra magazine confirms it. A successful Campaign for Appalachian will ensure that current and future students have the same high-quality Appalachian Experience you enjoyed.

With Appalachian pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
The Appalachian Experience encompasses everything that makes this place so extraordinary: the engaging academic environment, the dynamic and integrated arts programs, championship-winning Mountaineer athletics, and our two best natural resources—the people and the mountains. This confluence of excellence flows in and through these peaks and valleys with the energy, urgency and exuberance of a whitewater run. Students, faculty, staff and friends all come to know that this is a special place and that, once part of it, we never really leave. It changes our lives and our ability to transform our world for the better. We hold it in our hearts when we are away and, with Mountaineer pride, we celebrate the difference its bright future will make in the lives of generations of students ahead. We are the Appalachian Family.
Making a difference in the world... one student at a time

If not now, when?
By Elisabeth Wall

Brad and Carole Wilson believe in payback. They’ve been supporting Appalachian State University to the best of their ability since just after graduating in the mid-1970s. And, as co-chairs of the Appalachian State University Foundation’s biggest undertaking ever — the launch of a capital campaign to attract $200 million in the midst of what is acknowledged to be the worst economy since the Great Depression — they believe the Appalachian Family will step up and do the same.

“Why now?” we had to ask.

“If not now, when?” Brad Wilson, who is the president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, volleyed. He believes the timing for this campaign is spot on for three reasons:

“This is the right time in the life of Appalachian to provide the resources necessary to advance our university,” he said. “It is time for all the alumni, friends, family, students, faculty and staff to do all they can to make sure we have the financial resources we need to continue to provide the quality education we all experienced. True, the economy is not as good as it could be,” he allowed. “No one can forecast when it will get better. Waiting on an external environment we cannot control is not prudent.”

“Secondly, we believe the Appalachian Family is well positioned to respond to this call to action and to be as generous as they possibly can be.” And Wilson says he is encouraged, as the campaign is off to a very good start.

His third point spoke to state budget cuts. Appalachian was asked to provide a 16 percent cut to its budget, resulting in a total reduction of just under $23 million.

“So,” Wilson pointed out, “providing private resources to help sustain quality education is critical at this time.”

Are the Wilsons optimistic? “Sadly, Appalachian alumni do not have the best history of giving,” Carole Wilson, a member of the Appalachian Alumni Council, confessed. “But, then, we’ve never really asked.”

Every gift is a good gift

While indicators suggest the big gifts are forthcoming, a major strategy for this campaign is to ask every person to give what they can. “It’s time for the entire Appalachian Family to step up,” Carole Wilson said. “We need every alum, friend, staff member, student to give something. Whatever it is that they can and are comfortable giving — one dollar or $10 million. It does not matter. Every gift is a good gift.”

Asked how this campaign will impact the university and the region, Wilson said that in order to operate in what he terms a knowledge-based, global economy there is an ever-increasing need for private, unrestricted funding for the traditional programs like the arts, as well as the development of new and regionally important programs like the College of Health Sciences.

“The pace of change is incredibly rapid today,” he said. “Appalachian is an important institution in our region and in our state, and it is growing in importance in our country.

“In this knowledge-based global economy, the employment paradigm has changed.

“Knowledge is what is valuable, as well as skill. But the American economy, originally built on brawn, has changed to an economy built on brains.”

The Wilsons have every intention of leading a successful campaign so that the brains of Western North Carolina have the brawn of solid funding for multi-disciplined training over the next decade and beyond.

Brad ’75 and Carole Wilson ’75
Campaign for Appalachian co-chairs
Appalachian’s pioneering vision to change lives and change the world is bolder than ever. True to our Mountaineer spirit, we view the 21st century challenges facing our state, nation and world as a call to action. To meet this call, Appalachian graduates will leave our campus transformed and prepared to be critical and creative thinkers, leaders, responsible global citizens, and people who make real and powerful differences in their communities and beyond. Your support of Appalachian through the three priority areas of Academics, Arts and Athletics is critical to ensuring that the next generation of Mountaineers is prepared at the highest level and that the university is poised to expand its role as a leader and innovator in higher education — one that prepares our students to become passionate and successful alumni. Within these three priorities five strategic initiatives have great potential to positively impact the Appalachian Experience: scholarship, world focus, sustainability, entrepreneurship and health and quality of life.
“My research and internship through Appalachian are preparing me to make a difference in access to health care for underserved populations in North Carolina.”

Delvon Blue
Class of 2012
Psychology and health care management double major
campaign.appstate.edu/Delvon-Blue
Beasley succeeds in broadcast industry, credits Appalachian academics

By Kate Cahow ’08

Broadcast entrepreneur George Beasley ’58 credits his academic experience at Appalachian for the business acumen that helped him achieve success as both a broadcaster and educator. He shows his gratitude through generous giving, and by trying to inspire others to do the same.

“I’ve always thought that if every alum would just get into the habit of giving a small amount every year,” he said, “it would have an immeasurable effect, especially in the midst of state cutbacks.”

Beasley leads by example: In addition to his and his wife Ann’s many contributions to the university, Beasley has served on Appalachian’s Foundation Board of Directors since 1996, and with the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2008. A generous gift from Beasley to the Appalachian State University Foundation allowed the Department of Communication to break ground on a radio and television complex, anticipated to open in the fall of 2012.

Beasley came to Appalachian on the G.I. Bill in 1955, but not to study broadcasting. He was on the fast track to an education that would allow him to support his growing family. He earned a bachelor’s in business education in 1958, and a master’s in educational administration in 1960.

“I can never repay the university for the experiences that helped me accomplish my goals.”

True to both goals, he taught and coached girl’s basketball at Low Gap School in Surry County, N.C., and was assistant principal at Dan River High in Ringgold, Va., all before putting his business education to work at a 500-watt radio station in Benson.

“You could let out a big whoop and it would go out as far as that radio signal,” laughs Beasley, whose family included five children by the time they arrived in Benson.

Looking toward a future of braces, proms and college tuition, he worked to make the station a success, while simultaneously serving as principal at Meadow High School.

His efforts paid off, as five years later he sold the station for $125,000 and purchased a larger one in Goldsboro. He committed to broadcasting on a full-time basis in 1969.

An early start in radio

Beasley’s love of radio took root in the early ’50s when he spent nights tinkering at his Uncle Hennis Epperson’s station WSYD in Mount Airy, N.C.

“He let me do station breaks and read an occasional live advertisement. We probably had about 10 listeners,” jokes Beasley, a natural-born storyteller whose good humor is contagious.

“Back then there were two turntables, a microphone and an old Wollensak reel-to-reel in the control room. Now everything is automated. It’s basically a new world,” said Beasley, who knows this from a lifetime’s experience in the industry.

Since getting the FCC license for his first radio station in Benson, N.C., in 1961, Beasley has grown his love of radio into 45 stations in 11 markets concentrated in the Southeast, including holdings in Miami, Philadelphia and Las Vegas. He is founder, chairman and CEO of Beasley Broadcast Group Inc., in Naples, Fla. This December, BBGI celebrates its 50th year.
“Once I received a scholarship I felt a complete new motivation. I wasn’t sure I wanted to pursue a professional career in dance, but now I can’t see myself doing anything else.”

Hope Wolfe
Class of 2012
Dance studies major
campaign.appstate.edu/Hope-Wolfe
Successful business leaders ensure a bright future for the arts at Appalachian

By Linda Coutant ’01 MA

If you enjoy seeing major acts such as Patti LuPone, Judy Collins, Joan Baez and k.d. lang perform at Appalachian State University each summer, you can thank Bonnie and Jamie Schaefer. Their immense passion for music and their extensive personal and professional contacts within the music industry have helped expand An Appalachian Summer Festival’s popular music series and further enhanced the quality of the festival, which has been named one of the “Top Twenty Events in the Southeast” by the Southeast Tourism Society.

“We love our community, we love the arts and we love the university,” said Bonnie Schaefer, who serves on the festival’s advisory board. She and her partner, Jamie, own Westglow Resort and Spa in Blowing Rock, which has been a lead sponsor of An Appalachian Summer Festival since 2007.

Their latest commitment to the arts will benefit Appalachian and the local community year-round – $4.1 million to refurbish Farthing Auditorium to address issues of safety, accessibility, and enhancement of the performance experience. It is one of the largest single gifts ever made to the university. With improvements to be complete by July 2013, the 1,734-seat venue will be named The Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts.

Farthing Auditorium, the university’s primary performance location, was built in 1976. As the level of on-campus entertainment rises, the facility needs to be on par, according to the Schaefers.

“We hear the frustration people have with the facility, from the artists to the staff to the audience,” Jamie Schaefer said. Bonnie Schaefer’s main focus is the sound system. “If the quality isn’t there, it takes so much away from the performance. It’s a great center to begin with, it just needs some upgrades,” she said.

In addition to their direct commitment to the arts, the Schaefers have been generous in sharing their business to attract entertainers. They frequently offer a free stay at Westglow, which Travel and Leisure Magazine named the “No. 2 Destination Spa in the World” and was recently inducted into the Relais & Châteaux worldwide collection of elite properties.

“We’re able to say, ‘Please come, perform, be fair with us in pricing and we’ll also include a stay at Westglow.’ It’s bargaining power,” Jamie Schaefer said.

Why do they support the arts? They each have had lifelong appreciation for quality music and theater performances, especially Bonnie Schaefer whose father was a leader with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. They believe the arts benefit all of society, and they’ve seen how the arts keep the High Country community involved with the university.

“Muriel Rosen (a founder of an Appalachian Summer Festival) told us, ‘Don’t forget you’re doing this as a gift for the students and the people in the community.’ That was her focus and I keep that in my mind,” said Jamie Schaefer.

Rosen, who passed away in 2009, and her peers “are very dear to us and we want to make them proud. We feel very honored to be the next generation to continue their legacy,” she added.

The experience of a packed, cheering house thrills the Schaefer, and their vision for An Appalachian Summer Festival is an entertainment line-up that rivals the renowned Tanglewood Music Festival in New England. “It gives us great personal pleasure to support this program,” Jamie Schaefer said. “If it brings everyone as much pleasure as it does us, it’s a win-win.”

“It’s such great fun,” Bonnie Schaefer said.

thearts.appstate.edu
“Appalachian has allowed me to pursue my dream to play basketball while also helping me meet my goal of academic excellence.”

Anna Freeman
Class of 2012
Elementary education major

campaign.appstate.edu/Anna-Freeman
Anderson values Appalachian traditions and champions change

By Leila Jackson ’00

A 1962 and ’66 graduate of the College of Education, Pat Anderson is a longtime friend to Appalachian State University. Anderson’s mother also attended Appalachian, as did many relatives and friends, forging a sense of tradition and pride that ties her to the school. “It means so much to have those connections, that sense of community,” said Anderson. “It always brings us back.”

As much as she values tradition and the “Appalachian Way,” Anderson has helped steer the university into a new era of growth through her contributions to the College of Education and the Department of Athletics. “You’re so proud of your school, but even more so when it advances and is able to give even more students opportunities,” she said. One example she gives is of the continuous building projects and modernization of the campus. “I love bringing people to football games who haven’t been on the mountain in a while. They can’t believe how much Appalachian has grown. I love it! It’s such fun to see their reactions.”

More important to Anderson than the physical growth and evolution of the school, particularly in light of current budgetary challenges, is its unchanging commitment to quality education in Boone and in the region. “I feel that education is critical right now, to our school and our nation,” she said. “The College of Education brings educational opportunities through extension throughout the region. These programs enable people who would not be able to get a degree to do so, and greatly improve their lives.”

In addition to funding the Alexander Scholars program, Anderson is also a member of the Reich College of Education Advancement Board, and values the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students directly. She regularly hosts fund-raising events like the Reich College of Education-sponsored golf tournament and shares her enthusiasm about the school wherever she goes. “One of the great things about Appalachian is its size and accessibility,” she says. “At other, larger schools, it’s not like here. At Appalachian you can really be a part of it, really see how you personally make a difference.”

Anderson is an avid fan of Mountaineer athletics — she tailgates and made the trip to the “Big House” to watch Appalachian defeat Michigan. She sees athletics as yet another way to get people involved with the mission of Appalachian. “I do get excited for sports, always. Athletics brings people back, it gets alumni engaged and excited about the school, no matter where they donate,” she said.

But, she added, the effect the university has on the region in Arts, Athletics and Academics should not be understated. “Appalachian brings outside culture to Western North Carolina. Any given week you can experience so many different things through Appalachian’s arts and cultural programs.”

Anderson believes the university’s balanced focus on these areas reaches a much wider audience than former and current students, and impacts the community at large. “We have so many donors in the area who are not even alumni, just folks who see the wonderful things Appalachian does and want to be a part of it.”

Anderson resides in Alexander County with her husband, Howard W. Anderson, and can often be found cheering on her beloved Mountaineers at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

Pat Anderson ’62 ’66 poses for a photo outside Kidd Brewer Stadium with friend and Yosef Club Director Gerald Adams.
To sustain an environment of inclusive excellence, the university must provide need-based and merit-based scholarships, fellowships, and funding for undergraduate and graduate research, and co-curricular learning opportunities. Initiatives such as the Honors College, ACCESS scholarships, athletic scholarships, and endowed distinguished professorships help attract the best and brightest to our university and change lives forever.

**Supporting Student Excellence**
For love of Dr. Fleming

To honor Dr. Willie Fleming ’80 ’94 for his efforts on behalf of African-American students at Appalachian, a group of alumni have established the Dr. Willie Fleming Endowed Scholarship fund in his name. Their goal is to provide 10 to 15 scholarships of $1,500 to $3,000 annually.

“Whether he was providing a meal for a student or just being there for counsel, Dr. Fleming practiced what he preached — and he preached the Golden Rule,” said Gary Henderson ’92 ’94, an attorney in the Mecklenburg County Attorney’s Office, and chair of the scholarship committee.

During his tenure on campus, Fleming was a beloved instructor, counselor, spiritual guide and friend to the African-American community. He helped establish the Appalachian chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and other African-American fraternities and sororities, and founded the Appalachian Gospel Choir.

“I cannot imagine my life without the experience of graduating from Appalachian,” said Fleming, who is currently an associate professor in the School of Psychology and Counseling at Gardner-Webb University, and pastor at Perfecting Christian Faith Fellowship in Mount Holly.

“Giving back through scholarships such as this is the best way to ensure that future generations of African-American students have access to this fine university,” Fleming said.

Steve and Judy James Scholarship benefits first-generation college students

Ashley Crowder is a first-generation college student who is excited about her plans to be a special education teacher. The financial boost she’s receiving as a recipient of the Judy and Steve James Scholarship for Education is enabling her to achieve that goal.

“I’m from a rural community where you have to work hard for what you get. Nothing worthwhile is going to come easy,” said the Spruce Pine native. “I feel blessed to have gotten this scholarship, and to know it will support me for the remainder of my time at Appalachian.”

Steve and Judy James of Greensboro are avid supporters of education. Their $20,000 scholarship, modeled after the N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholarship, supports Appalachian students pursuing a teaching career.

Crowder, the first recipient of the scholarship and now a sophomore, developed her passion for working with special education children when she was in high school.

“I worked as an assistant in the autistic classroom at Newland Elementary School. Until then, I didn’t understand how someone could be so passionate about a career,” she said.

“When I’m with these kids, I have the patience of a saint and can deal with whatever comes up.

“I’m thankful to Steve and Judy for helping to make my Appalachian education happen,” she said.

Distinguished Professor brings business acumen to the arts

Whether their sights are set on Broadway or the Barter Theatre, students in pursuit of a career in the performing arts will benefit from Keith T. Martin’s industry experience.

Martin joins the Department of Theatre and Dance as the John M. Blackburn Distinguished Professor of Theatre. His national reputation in the performing arts includes more than 35 years of experience in arts management, professional theatre and dance production and expertise in musical theatre and arts education.

“If you think of the Department of Theatre and Dance as show business, I’m the business,” said the Hickory native, who received a BFA and MFA from UNCG Greensboro. “I have the knowledge and expertise from living on the other side of the table as a producer and administrator to teach students about unions and collective bargaining, to help them find agents and managers, to guide them through the do’s and don’ts of audition management.”

The John M. Blackburn Distinguished Professorship in Theatre and Dance is named in honor of John M. Blackburn, former chairman of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees, and current member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. It is funded by private gifts and state funding, along with a grant from the C.D. Spangler Foundation to attract and retain exceptional faculty in the UNC system.
“World collaboration is essential to solving global issues, and Appalachian makes great efforts to facilitate opportunities for learning about global topics, and experiencing other cultures.”

Ashley McNeely
Class of 2012
Accounting major
campaign.appstate.edu/Ashley-McNeely

World Focus

As our students become the next generation of leaders, it is critical that they view their lives and work through a global perspective. Support for programs which combine on-campus and world travel opportunities such as study abroad and faculty-led trips, exchanges, scholarships, visiting scholars, arts and cultural events, and international education can make transformational experiences available to all students.

Fostering Global Citizens
Every year, more than 1,000 Appalachian students travel to places both familiar and exotic through partnership agreements established with academic institutions in 28 countries. These partnerships provide students access to educational opportunities in all corners of the world.

“Since I arrived at Appalachian five years ago, my intention has been to have a foot on every continent, and we have accomplished that,” said Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor of the Office of International Education and Development (OIED).

Partnerships currently exist with 65 countries, including Australia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, China, England, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Spain and Taiwan. They include opportunities for students to study topics as diverse as sustainable tourism and mountain geography and tropical ecology in Costa Rica, international insurance and accounting in England, and business and cultural practices in Spain and Italy. Recent efforts to diversify education abroad options in non-traditional locations have resulted in programs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Egypt, South Africa, Vietnam and Thailand.

One of the earliest agreements established in the early ’80s was with Northeastern University in China. It was also the first bilateral agreement between institutions of higher education in China and the U.S. not initiated by either government. Administered and overseen by the OIED, study abroad programming is in keeping with the university’s mission to develop student awareness and appreciation and respect for cultural differences, both domestically and internationally.

According to Lutabingwa, Spain is the most popular destination for students who study abroad for a semester or a year, whereas Britain, Costa Rica and Spain are more popular with students who take part in short-term faculty-led programs. Students who want to travel to countries the university does not have partnerships with can access programming through Appalachian’s membership in ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs), a network for international education consisting of 265 universities in the United States and 35 other countries.

www.international.appstate.edu

Study in Brazil brings student closer to goal

Diana Aguilar wants to say “thank you” in eight different languages! The junior, who is originally from Cali, Columbia, mastered Portuguese last summer over a two-month stay in Sao Paulo, Brazil, courtesy of a Go Abroad International Scholarship, which was established in 2009 by the Broshill Family Foundation. English, her native Spanish, and her newly acquired Portuguese, puts Aguilar only five languages from her multilingual goal.

Aguilar is the second recipient of the now fully funded Go Abroad scholarship. She applied serendipitously, “I was walking with a friend and asked where he was going. He told me he was applying for this scholarship. So I applied, too,” she said. After her experience in Brazil, Aguilar says she cannot thank the Broshill Family Foundation enough.

According to Sheila Triplett-Brady, executive director of the foundation, “Higher education and youth development are two of the main areas of interest to the foundation. The Go Abroad Scholarship provides students the opportunity for both through international, multicultural experiences.”

Aguilar, who plans to be a pediatric surgeon, said her Go Abroad experience helped her “grow up and better understand another culture. People tend to judge other cultures,” she said. “But if they understand and can communicate, it is easy to get along. I want to understand people everywhere.”

Growing knowledge of the planet’s environmental, equity, and economic issues helps nurture students who make the world a better place to live. Important areas to fund are research in smaller scale technology and renewable resources, peace and justice studies, endowed professorships, the establishment of a curriculum around the economics of sustainability, a “green curriculum” for the entire campus, sustainability initiatives, and campus programs.

LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD
Gift affords hands-on experience in sustainable farming

Mary Pope wants to raise goats on a sustainable farm someday. She transferred to Appalachian because of opportunities to learn how through the university’s new teaching and research farm in Ashe County.

“I grew up in Boone and came back because of the sustainable development program and its reputation,” said Pope, who had been attending the University of North Carolina - Asheville.

Thanks to a 2010 gift of 369 acres from the estate of a childless couple, Appalachian moved its teaching and research farm this summer from a 10-acre site in Valle Crucis. It began holding class labs on the new property this fall. The larger farm significantly expands students’ opportunities to learn sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, forest and watershed management, and livestock production.

The university acquired two tracks of land near Fleetwood as the new trustee of the Blackburn-Vannoy Foundation, which was established in the wills of Beulah and Reeves Vannoy along with a conservation easement with the Blue Ridge Conservancy to protect their land from development. Appalachian succeeded First Citizens Bank as trustee in an agreement that allows the university to use the land for educational purposes.

Like the Valle Crucis property, the new farm will be an important part of community outreach by helping local farmers determine best practices and teaching students more sustainable, organic ways to manage land for a variety of purposes.

The Ashe County property hasn’t been operated as a farm for about four years. “It’s a really great opportunity because it’s new and we get to see a farm from its beginning,” said senior Jennifer Warren, a sustainable development major. “There’s so much to do. We also get to have cows and turkeys now, which we didn’t have at the old farm.”

“This is so much better than being in class reading a book,” said Ellen Mason, a junior psychology major who is taking a livestock production course as an elective because she wants to learn how to raise chickens. “We get to come out to the farm and actually do stuff.”

Wind turbine, photovoltaic systems generate savings

Appalachian’s commitment to sustainability is saving money and reducing carbon emissions.

Between June 2009 and August 2011, the wind turbine behind the Broyles Inn and Conference Center and the photovoltaic (PV) array systems at Raley Hall produced 215,751 kilowatt hours of electricity, saved the university $18,052 in electricity costs and offset 174 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

A PV array at the Biodiesel Collaborative off State Farm Road, where students sustainably turn used vegetable oil into diesel fuel, meets 100 percent of the building’s electricity needs and produces more than 2,000 kilowatt hours annually.

In addition, the PV array systems on Kerr Scott Hall and the E3 House, located next to John Thomas Hall, are net metered systems, meaning that any electricity they produce that exceeds the need of their buildings can be offered to the electrical grid for sale.

Global eco-experience puts regional planner on career track

While a sustainable development major at Appalachian, Daniel Brookshire ’09 received the Goodnight Family Scholarship for Sustainable Agriculture to help fund his education. That scholarship “propelled my interest in sustainability and made me realize I could have a professional and post-undergraduate career in the field,” he said.

Brookshire’s degree choice has led to interesting opportunities: living in an eco-village in India, conducting energy audits for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians through the Environmental Defense Fund, working with AmeriCorps in energy efficiency outreach at Princeton University and serving on a weatherization crew in the Raleigh area of North Carolina.

The former Honors College student is now working on a master’s degree in city and regional planning at UNC-Chapel Hill. He plans to finish in May 2012. “I think planning is one of the best ways to promote sustainable development at the city and regional levels,” said Brookshire, who was also a Chancellor’s Scholar while at Appalachian.

“Ideally, when I graduate from UNC, I’d like to work for a regional planning agency for energy planning and green economic development.” His specialization is land use/environmental planning, with a key interest in strategic energy and energy systems planning.

Making A Difference...
“How lucky I am to have professors take so much interest in helping me succeed.”
Devin Lattin  
Class of 2012  
Marketing and general management double-major  
campaign.appstate.edu/Devin-Lattin

Entrepreneurship

No matter their area of study, students need to combine their critical, analytical, and creative thinking to address the professional challenges of the 21st century. Funding to engage students through working with entrepreneurs, promote education through research and service-learning collaborations, expand access to career opportunities, support scholarships, and create endowed professorships is key to nurturing students with a creative edge who can be thought leaders and have a positive impact through their work.

CULTIVATING THE CREATIVE SPIRIT
Making a Difference...

Campus radio program achieves national syndication

Using part of a $50,000 loan offered to participants in Appalachian’s Kellar Radio Talent Institute, Bryce Johnson ’09 bought air time in the Charlotte market to turn the popular SPORTS YAPP radio show he started at campus radio station 90.5 FM WASU into a professional program.

Music students run real-world label

Split Rail Records, Appalachian’s student-run record label, opened its doors for business in 2006. At the time it was the only student-run label in North Carolina, though other schools, including Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, soon followed the model. A required course for students in the music industry studies program in the Hayes School of Music, Split Rail involves participants in every aspect of managing a label, including deciding which artists to sign, the recording and distribution of music and selling original releases.

Associate Professor Kim Wangler, director of music industry studies, explains the importance of students working at Split Rail: “One of the most valuable experiences they have is seeing the difference between reading the textbook and the reality of running a label. The real-world experiences can be quite different and challenging.” But those challenges pay off for the program’s alumni. The first president of the label, Ashley Graham ’07, interned at MTV in New York City and was the only undergraduate student in the legal department, based on her experiences writing contracts at Split Rail Records.

Now in its sixth year, Split Rail Records continues to grow and develop, releasing a recording from the band Dreaming in Color this fall, with a release from singer-songwriter Alexis Worthington following in the spring. Additionally, the label presents an ongoing “Artist Showcases” series, spotlighting students and local musicians throughout the year.

Yesterday, Transportation Insight’s Chief Strategy Officer Chris Baltz hopes the new center will enhance Appalachian’s reputation as a premier institution for entrepreneurship. “We are honored to participate in the development of these future entrepreneurs,” says Baltz. “Their creativity and ingenuity will ultimately enable them to contribute to high-growth businesses and create value for the American economy. That’s a real and measurable impact for emerging leaders in the entrepreneurial world of innovation and sustainability.”

Headquartered in Hickory, N.C., Transportation Insight is a leading national third-party logistics provider and is one of the fastest-growing privately held companies in the United States.

$1 million gift will support students’ entrepreneurial dreams

Who wants to be an entrepreneur? A more diverse group than you might think.

Nearly half of Appalachian State University students taking entrepreneurship courses offered through the Department of Management or attending co-curricular activities presented by an entrepreneurship center in the Walker College of Business are non-business majors.

And, the college’s outreach to students interested in entrepreneurship will soon expand, thanks to the new Transportation Insight Center for Entrepreneurship.

The new center was made possible by a private $1 million gift. It will be located at the Howard Street entrance to Raley Hall in a 1,700-square-foot space that will include four offices, a student lounge, a meeting space and incubator office space to support students trying to start their own businesses.

The gift will help support and expand opportunities available for students through the center, including student travel, keynote speakers and one-on-one access to experts through the incubator. It also will enable the entrepreneurship program to grow during a time of state budget cuts.

“Entrepreneurship has definitely been spread across campus with our students,” said Heather Dixon-Fowler, director of the center and an assistant professor in the Department of Management. “More students are thinking about their futures and realizing they are going to need to create their own opportunities rather than rely on a job being there for them when they graduate.”

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www.today.appstate.edu
“When I received the letter that said I was accepted into Appalachian's nursing program, I was very excited. Being part of the long awaited nursing program was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.”

Jared Fitzgerald
Class of 2012
Nursing major

campaign.appstate.edu/Jared-Fitzgerald

Health & Quality of Life

Appalachian has always looked toward identifying the needs of those around us, and preparing students who can meet those needs. A strengthened focus on the health sciences joins many other areas to meet the challenge of making stronger and healthier communities. Help is needed to support the new College of Health Sciences, premier research and student support in selected fields, arts and cultural programming, and athletics.

ENHANCING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES
ACT fuels community service, student participation

Students today come to Appalachian with a strong passion for making a difference in their community, as evidenced by the 48 percent increase in the past two years of the number of hours students spend serving the community. The ACT office (Appalachian and the Community Together) helps fuel that passion with opportunities for community service and service-learning.

For the three years between Fall 2008 and Fall 2011:
• 370,592 student hours have been spent serving the community
• $7.9 million of volunteer value has been provided to local economies
• $122,000 in direct funds have been raised for local community agencies
• $57,000 in educational awards have been provided to Appalachian students for their participation in the NC-Acts/AmeriCorps Program
• 75 meals per day (nearly 20,000 meals per year) have been given to the community via ASU/ACT/Hunger & Health Coalition’s Food Recovery Program

Appalachian’s Communication Disorders Clinic changes lives

When Caleb Strickland enrolled two years ago in the Preschool Language Classroom at Appalachian State University’s Communication Disorders Clinic, he seldom spoke. Today, according to his mother, the 4-year-old’s speech has blossomed.

“We are blown away by his progress and are exceptionally grateful,” Melissa Strickland said.

Before her son was enrolled in the preschool program, she worried he would face a life of challenges. Now, she says, he is a different child. “It’s hard for me to say . . . what the clinic has done and how different Caleb is. I shudder to think what we would have done if we had not been able to be part of this program.”

Caleb’s family, one of 16 currently served by the Preschool Language Classroom, works with speech language pathologists from the clinic and graduate students working toward a degree in communication sciences and disorders.

The clinic, which operates as part of the College of Health and Sciences, provides prevention, assessment, and treatment services in the areas of speech, language, swallowing and hearing disorders. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale. Private support from the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation and Delta Zeta Sorority fundraisers also helps defray costs.

During 2010 the Clinic, served 5,998 clients for a total of 8,071 hours of service.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina gift boosts College of Health Sciences

A $2 million gift from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) to the College of Health Sciences and the university will enhance the college’s mission to train health care and mental health professionals who will serve the people of North Carolina.

Dr. Fred Whitt, founding dean of the college, says the transformational gift will be used to leverage matching state and private foundation funding and ultimately will yield $4.2 million for the university.

Whitt said $400,000 of the gift would be used to secure matching and private funds to establish a $1 million endowed distinguished professorship in the college.

Another $400,000 will be used to secure matching funds to establish The Aeschleman Mental Health Endowed Professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Psychology. The professorship is named for Dr. Stan Aeschleman, former provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and former Department of Psychology chairman.

In recognition of the BCBSNC gift, Appalachian’s Institute for Health and Human Services in the College of Health Sciences will be named the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Institute for Health and Human Services. The College of Health Sciences will also initiate a lecture series and endowed professorship, which will both also be named for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.
Board of Trustees chair gives to provide a true education

By Jane Nicholson ’95 MA

G.A. Sywassink is not a North Carolina native or an Appalachian State University graduate, but he has an affection for the university that rivals that of any alumnus, student, faculty or staff member.

The chairman of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees, Sywassink has been a close friend of the university for more than 25 years. His loyalty began with his introduction to the campus through the Walker College of Business and its Business Advisory Council, of which he is a former chairman and member.

“I think that because I didn’t actually go to school here, my allegiance is with the whole university and not just one segment of it,” Sywassink said. “I think that is very important, because the university experience is made up of a lot of pieces. You learn about life, you learn out of books, you learn out of experiences, you learn from lectures. All these different pieces fit together to provide a true education.”

The strong positive relationships between the faculty, administration and students that he witnessed during his early interactions with Appalachian continue to fuel Sywassink’s advocacy and support.

Sywassink’s philanthropic activities have touched almost all areas of campus life. He was one of the original investors in the Harlan E. Boyles Distinguished CEO Lecture Series and he established awards of excellence given to faculty in the Walker College of Business. He also has supported scholarships for students and student-athletes, a distinguished professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Psychology, and the Marching Mountaineers travel fund. He contributed to the construction of the Appalachian House, the official residence of the university’s chancellor.

His contributions helped provide the first on-campus softball stadium, which is named for the Sywassink/Lloyd women in his family.

“I have been very, very fortunate in my life and I need to pay that back,” said Sywassink, who is chairman and retired CEO of Standard Holding Corporation.

He explained his multifaceted focus on giving.

“We have teachers in every county in the state and music students everywhere. It’s just a fantastic legacy that has come out of this university and we’ve got to make sure that we continue that,” he said. “And the way to do that is to make sure that we have a comprehensive university that teaches young people how to live the rest of their life. In order to ensure that, you have to help support all the different areas of the university.”

Sywassink is part of a team of volunteers working with Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock and others to encourage members of the university family, corporations and others to support the Campaign for Appalachian.

He said the university’s critical need for private support is a result of decades of reduced state funding.

“We need to build the Appalachian State University Foundation Endowment to allow us to continue to offer a good future to our future students,” he said. “As sad as it may be, that’s the truth. Recent years have shown that we will have less and less reliance on state funds, and it doesn’t appear that will change in the near future.”

Sywassink became an honorary alumnus of Appalachian in 1994. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2007 and was elected chairman of the board earlier this year. He resides in Charlotte and Hilton Head, S.C.
Foundation Board chairmen stress the importance of the Campaign for Appalachian

By Elisabeth Wall

Wayne Duncan ‘65, new chairman - Appalachian State University Foundation Board of Directors

At 7:30 a.m. A clear, crisp autumn day. It’s Wayne Duncan’s 70th birthday and he has stories to tell: jogging with Bobby Cremins, being recruited to play ball by George Beasley, going up against Billy Cunningham in an all-star’s game, raising $60 million for Appalachian’s Athletics Facilities Enhancement Campaign... even an anecdote about how he influenced the search committee to hire Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock as dean of the business college.

But the story he keeps coming back to is how much Appalachian has done for him.

Duncan, an Appalachian Athletics Hall of Fame forward, was indeed recruited by George Beasley ’58 and Gerald Adams ’54. He came from Danville, Va., in 1961 to play four years of basketball in the old Broom-Kirk Gymnasium. And he’s been committed to the university ever since.

“I guess I got seriously involved in the early ’70s when I moved to Wilkes County to start a bank,” he reminisces. “I got to know Bobby Cremins (Appalachian’s basketball coach at the time) and (Athletics Director) Jim Jones. I got involved then and ended up over the years as president of the Yosef Club and Former Athletes Club; on the business college board...”, he trails off, mentally totting up years of volunteering. Duncan also served on the university’s Board of Trustees for eight years, including a one-year term as chairman of the board; on the regional screening committee for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship program, which he was instrumental in launching, and as chair of Appalachian’s last capital campaign.

Despite his myriad efforts on the university’s behalf, he maintains: “Appalachian has done far more for me than I can ever do for them. They gave me an education and a scholarship. They taught me how to think.”

Anticipating state budget cuts and burgeoning student populations, Duncan, Chancellor Peacock, the foundation board and staff have spent the last few years developing strategies for an ambitious campaign. One, Duncan says, “we are ready for. The foundation staff works hard and is focused. We have the right people in place.”

Former Chairman Dan Williams ’68

Outgoing Appalachian State University Foundation Chairman Dan Williams’ ’68 first gift to Appalachian State University — a small one as he recalls — was through the Yosef Club in the late ’60s.

“I had been captain of the baseball team so naturally I supported athletics. It was just a feeling of wanting to give back something to a university that gave so much to me. I have great memories of this place.”

His hope is that others will share that feeling and make the ambitious $200 million comprehensive campaign a success.

“The time is certainly right,” he said in a September interview. “It’s about tipping points — academically, from an admissions perspective, and also from an athletics perspective. The foundation is also at a tipping point in terms of its influence and growth” (Assets are up almost 85 percent from 20 years ago – and now total nearly $100 million.) “and in the way we can contribute and impact this university. We have a huge opportunity and we’re going to take advantage of it.”
Geocaching gets teens to exercise, professors find

The popularity of geocaching may be a way to encourage youth to get more exercise, according to two professors from the College of Health Sciences.

Dr. Rebecca Battista and Dr. Stephanie West, both in the college’s Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science, recruited 56 high school students to participate in geocaching activities and then rate their experience.

Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt that uses GPS units or GPS-enabled smartphones to locate a hidden “treasure” or container. Battista and others created four geocache sites that took about 60 minutes to locate. The students all reported that combining technology with physical activity was more fun than just walking.

Battista and West were so encouraged by the students’ acceptance of geocaching as a way to get exercise that they have talked with recreation programs and health and fitness facilities about renting GPS devices to families and others for a nominal fee.

Federal guidelines recommend 60 minutes of physical activity five days a week. “Finding activities that children and teenagers enjoy as a way to get them to be more active is important,” Battista said, adding that communities “need to be more creative in how we attempt to deliver fitness programs.”

www.hles.appstate.edu

Marcus Lawrence, right, is studying the effects of a plant substance from Central Asia in mitigating muscle loss that occurs with aging. He is pictured with one of his mentors, Dr. Kevin A. Zietsloot, from the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science.

www.ncsu.edu/kannapolis/faq.html

Education professors help teachers teach religious diversity

Future teachers learn many techniques for teaching subject matter ranging from science to literature to world history. One area frequently missing is how to respond to the religious diversity found in most classrooms today.

Dr. Connie Green and Dr. Sandra Brenneman Oldendorf, both professors in Appalachian’s Reich College of Education, have published “Religious Diversity and Children’s Literature Strategies and Resources” to help fill that gap.

The book addresses the importance of learning about religious and spiritual traditions and includes chapters on Native American spirituality, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity as well as freethinkers.

“Every public and private school teacher needs to know about world religions, because our world is so diverse that children from all different religions are attending our schools now,” Green said. “And I think it’s something a lot of teachers and principals are afraid of because we don’t understand the different religions. This was something that I had not learned in my teacher preparation program and that we weren’t teaching in any organized way in our teacher education program at Appalachian. It’s incredibly important for teachers to learn about.”

The professors received a Foundation Fellows grant from the Appalachian State University Foundation to visit different faith communities in the region and talk with religious leaders as they gathered information for their book.

www.ncsu.edu/kannapolis/faq.html

Graduate student earns Kannapolis Scholar Fellowship

Marcus Lawrence discovered the allure of research while he was an undergradu
tate student at California State University Monterey Bay. Now a graduate student in Appalachian’s College of Health Sciences, his continued focus on exercise science research has resulted in a Kannapolis Scholar Fellowship.

The 15-month fellowship will support his continued work in Appalachian’s Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science, as well as research at the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis for two summers. The fellowship includes a $27,300 stipend, a $5,800 tuition allowance for the 2011-12 academic year and housing support at the NCRC campus while he is in Kannapolis.

Lawrence will conduct a study on the effects of a plant substance from Central Asia in mitigating muscle loss that occurs with aging.

“After I completed my first research study I was hooked, and ever since then I have wanted to pursue a Ph.D. in exercise science,” Lawrence said. “The training I will receive and the research collaboration I’ll be part of as a result of this fellowship will propel me to a top-tier Ph.D. program.”

Kannapolis Scholar fellowships are funded by an award to N.C. State University from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. This is the second year a graduate student from Appalachian has received the fellowship, which is typically awarded to Ph.D. students from one of the UNC system’s research campuses.
Graduate student Jason Harkey uses GPS equipment to conduct a campus tree survey for his master’s thesis that will also benefit the university’s Physical Plant.

Biology student conducts tree inventory for campus safety and carbon study

Graduate student Jason Harkey of Lincoln County is using special GPS equipment purchased by Appalachian’s New River Light and Power utility company to document every tree on the university’s 411-acre campus. His research will benefit safety, academics, energy usage on campus and the utility’s customer service.

“I love everything about biology and nature,” said Harkey, who expects to complete the tree inventory in summer 2012. “This experience has allowed me to apply my undergraduate degree in biology combined with my love for nature to make the campus more environmentally beneficial. My job involves walking around outside collecting data on trees – it can’t get any better.”

The Appalachian campus, which is considered an urban forest, may have nearly 3,000 trees. In addition to noting the trees’ overall health and checking for potential hazards such as dead branches, Harkey is gathering tree measurements as part of a study of carbon sequestration – the amount of carbon a tree can store for a long period of time. Appalachian is one of a few universities studying this process, which is important to the global amounts of carbon, including rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Tree size, shape, and location data also can be used to determine energy saving benefits – including how much shade a tree offers in the summer and how much insulation from cold winds it can offer buildings during the winter.

By determining which tree species absorb the most carbon, Harkey’s data can be used by Appalachian’s Physical Plant in planning which species to plant on campus.

“Our primary concern is the safety of the campus community,” said Jim Bryan, superintendent of landscape services. “The data Jason gives us will tell us what we have and will help us design a master tree planning program.”

The biology department has access to a model developed by the U.S. Forest Service that will take the data Harkey collects and calculate the amount of carbon that those trees sequester each year. It also has an economic component that can assign a value to the trees in the urban landscape.

Harkey began the project this summer at the request of the university’s Physical Plant in partnership with the Department of Biology, where Harkey is working on his master’s degree.

The project “is a great example of what we can do when everyone works together as a team – from New River Light and Power being able to purchase the instrument, to the biology professors’ guidance and Jason’s hard work doing the tree inventory,” Bryan said.

New River Light and Power will use the tree inventory to assess potential threats to its electrical infrastructure in its efforts to provide the best customer service. Once Harkey’s study is complete, the utility company will use the GPS equipment to inventory all its poles and electrical lines, including age of equipment and types of cable and hardware.

Harkey will write his thesis based on the inventory’s data, which faculty say may be useful for biostatistics and other courses taught in the Department of Biology. It could also help the university take steps toward recognition as a Tree Campus USA as designated by the Arbor Day Foundation for its tree diversity and management.

Harkey earned his bachelor’s degree in ecology and environmental studies with a concentration in secondary education from Appalachian in 2008.

biology.appstate.edu
In short

- **Dr. Barry Kurtz**, the Lowe’s Distinguished Professor of Computer Science at Appalachian, and **Dr. Jay Fenwick**, also from the Department of Computer Science, have received a $250,000 National Science Foundation grant to explore the application of electronic tablets such as iPads to computer science education and how to enhance student engagement.

- **Dr. Tina McCorkindale**, assistant professor of communication, has received a grant from the Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Relations to fund research surrounding ethics in social media. She will focus on a number of different national corporations’ policies for social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The list of corporations ranges from Fortune 50 companies to nonprofits to private hospitals.

- **Dr. Kathryn Kirkpatrick**, professor of English and sustainable development, has released her latest book of poems, “Unaccountable Weather,” published by Press 53 in September. The collection details the agonizing struggle against cancer while reaffirming life. Critics describe the award-winning poet’s latest work as “astonishing, unforgettable” and “moving studies in empathy.”

- Climate scientist **Dr. Gregg Marland**, formerly with Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Environmental Sciences Division, has joined Appalachian’s Research Institute for Environment, Energy and Economics as a research professor. Marland was a lead author of several major reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC, along with former Vice President Al Gore, received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for their efforts.

- A $91,373 Fulbright-Hays grant allowed current and future public school teachers from across North Carolina to travel to Senegal, Africa, in July to improve French language education in North Carolina. The project was led by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences. Upon returning, the trip participants are developing outreach projects to present at state or regional conferences and projects to share with students and other teachers at their schools.

- Mathematics professor **Dr. Jeff Hirst** has received a $66,999 grant from the John Templeton Foundation to conduct research on the foundations of mathematics. Hirst will attempt to determine the smallest set of axioms needed to prove Hindman’s Theorem. Hindman’s Theorem reveals the existence of structure in data that might otherwise seem chaotic, and is a theorem that has intrigued mathematicians since it was first proved in 1972.

- The Catawba County-Appalachian State University Biodiesel Research, Development and Production Facility officially opened in August. The small-scale biodiesel refinery complex includes crush abilities and a biodiesel production capacity of 100,000 gallons per year. Research will include growing crops to test which feedstocks grow best in the local climate and produce the best oil for biodiesel; dynamometer emissions and energy value testing and algae development.

appstate.edu/research
Solar-powered trash compactors are part of campus scene

Four solar-powered trash compactors are the latest addition to campus by the student-led Renewable Energy Initiative (REI).

The Big Belly-brand trash container automatically compresses its contents when a certain weight is reached, using a small PV system that converts sunlight to energy that is used to compact the trash. A 12-volt DC system stores the energy to operate the unit on cloudy days. The unit also contains a recycling container for plastic and aluminum beverage containers to encourage more recycling on campus and decrease the amount of trash taken to the landfill.

The compactors were purchased with funds generated through a $5 a semester REI fee paid by students, which also has supported the photovoltaic (PV) panels in front of Raley Hall, solar thermal system on Plemons Student Union and the wind turbine above the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center.

“REI’s mission is to reduce Appalachian’s carbon footprint by replacing the university’s existing energy sources with cleaner forms of renewable energy,” said Caitlin Stepp, REI vice chair and a senior sustainable development and political science major. “The compactors are one way to reduce carbon emissions by reducing the frequency in which trash collection vehicles are used around the center of campus.”

Other new green initiatives:

- In an effort to increase recycling rates and improve collection efficiency across campus, Appalachian implemented a pilot program this fall to remove trashcans from the classrooms and instead place adequate recycling and trash collection containers throughout building hallways. The cost of trash bags will be reduced, and classroom users will be given more responsibility for the waste they produce. It has been shown that this type of program will actually reduce litter left behind in classrooms.

- Building Services has shifted to a new line of 100 percent environmentally preferable products for housekeeping. These products are biodegradable with low or no VOCs (volatile organic compounds), low toxicity and no phosphates.

- Appalachian has partnered with Zimride to offer an online resource for members of the campus community to post the need for or offer a ride, or find a carpooling partner. This alternative transportation initiative will help decrease Appalachian’s carbon footprint, save participants gas money, and help alleviate on-campus parking issues. Appalachian also has contracted with U-Haul to provide three fuel-efficient vehicles that can be rented out for short or extended periods of time, beginning spring semester, in a program called U Car Share.

www.ucarshare.com
www.zimride.com

Senior Caitlin Stepp with REI stands next to one of four solar-powered trash compactors.

Latest rankings for Appalachian

For those watching their budgets (and who isn’t?): Consumers Digest ranked Appalachian fourth among its “Top Five Values in Public Colleges and Universities.” Other public institutions in the top five are Truman State University, University of Minnesota-Morris, SUNY at Geneseo and California Polytechnic State University.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Appalachian No. 3 among the top public universities in the South in its 2012 America’s Best Colleges Guide. It also ranks the university 12th among regional universities in the South in the “Great Schools, Great Prices” category.

Sierra magazine ranked Appalachian 12th in its list of the nation’s “Coolest Schools” for its efforts to help solve climate issues and operate sustainably. Sierra is a publication of the Sierra Club.

Forbes magazine listed Appalachian 25th in its “100 Best College Buys” publication.
Administrative Changes

Appalachian's Reich College of Education has three administrative changes: Dr. David Wiley is the new associate dean for teacher education. The co-author of several books on science education, he comes from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory where he was a dean. Dr. Robin Groce is the new assistant dean of field experiences. A former school teacher, Groce had taught at Mississippi State University, the University of Texas at Tyler and Texas A&M University before coming to Appalachian in 2004. Dr. Robert Sanders, an expert in 3D immersion learning and instructional design, is the new chair of the Department of Leadership and Educational Studies. Sanders joined Appalachian in 2003 after holding adjunct professor positions at Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati.

Roy Strassberg has been named interim chair and visiting professor in College of Fine and Applied Arts’ Department of Art. He has spent 37 years in academia, beginning as an artist and teacher before moving into administration. Strassberg has held faculty positions at UNC Charlotte, Minnesota State University Mankato and Memphis State University.

Don Peach has been named the Hayes School of Music’s interim assistant director of bands for the 2011-12 academic year. He is directing the Marching Mountaineers, the Symphonic Band, and is teaching courses in marching band techniques, instrumental methods and materials and concert band literature. Peach taught 21 years at Lincolnton High School.

Dr. Michael M. Briley is the new chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He came to Appalachian from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he was professor and chairman of the university’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. His research has been published in Astronomical Journal, Astrophysical Journal and Nature.

Dr. Diane P. Mines is the new chair of the Department of Anthropology. She joined Appalachian’s faculty in 1999. Before coming to Appalachian, Mines taught at Washington University in St. Louis and at the University of Chicago. She has conducted research in cultural anthropology in South India.

Dr. Kathleen Schroeder is the new chair of the Department of Geography and Planning, where she has taught since 1995 and coordinated the graduate program since 2002. Before coming to Appalachian, Schroeder was an instructor at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include global economic restructuring and issues of gender and development.

Campus Construction

A major construction project at Plemmons Student Union is underway, with a 10-story residence hall expected to be completed in summer 2012 and a four-story addition to the student union to be completed in fall 2012.

The addition to Plemmons Student Union will house offices within the Division of Student Development. The new residence hall is expected to house 335 students in suite-style rooms. The building will exemplify the university’s commitment to sustainability by achieving at least LEED® Silver certification through implementation of low-flow water fixtures, solar panels, energy efficient lighting and use of windows to reduce the need for lighting during the day. Each floor will also have a glass-enclosed lounge looking out towards Plemmons Student Union.

Mountaineer Hall opened this fall as the newest residence hall. It replaced the aged Mountaineer Apartments on Bodenheimer Drive, which housed graduate and non-traditional students. Mountaineer Hall houses 459 undergraduate students and also includes energy efficient features. Together, Mountaineer Hall and the residence hall under construction add 792 students to the on-campus housing community and bring total on-campus housing to nearly 6,000 students or 40 percent of all undergraduates.
Since opening the doors to its state-of-the-art building this August, the Reich College of Education has been getting rave reviews on its new home.

“We now have a great space to not just learn in, but to relax and enjoy ourselves in. There are lounges with comfy furniture scattered throughout the building. We didn’t have that kind of space in Duncan,” said Megan Shelton, a senior in the middle grades education program and a North Carolina Teaching Fellow.

Less than three years after groundbreaking ceremonies in December 2008, the 124,547-square-foot building on King Street officially opened in late August.

“The technology here is a definite improvement over what we had in Duncan,” said Shelton. “With Smart Boards and other Smart technology in the classrooms, we’ll get the opportunity to use the kind of equipment that will be in our future classrooms before we leave Appalachian.”

Joyce Reese, executive assistant to the dean, describes the building as “a much better work environment than Duncan. The layout is open with large, beautiful windows, so it’s lighter and brighter. It’s a pleasure to come to work,” she said.

According to Reich College of Education Dean Charles R. Duke, more than 2,600 students are connected with the Reich College of Education, whether through one of the many programs within the college, or through teacher-education programs across campus.

“For the students, our faculty and staff, this building stands as an affirmation that the university and the state of North Carolina recognize the importance of what we’re doing,” said Duke. “It is indicative of the commitment begun at this institution more than 100 years ago.”

Appalachian’s 100-plus-year history is rooted in teacher education. In 1899, brothers Blanford B. and Dauphin D. Dougherty joined with a group of Watauga County citizens to establish an institution for the training of teachers in the High Country region. The result was Watauga Academy, housed in a wood-frame structure that cost $1,000.

“And, just look at us now,” said Duke at the August ribbon-cutting ceremony. “I remember looking at this site and thinking about what would it look like once we got here. Now we know, and we have so much to be proud of.”

Departments and centers housed in the college’s new home include the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling, the Department of Leadership and Educational Studies, the Department of Reading Education and Special Education and the Mathematics and Science Education Center. The college is also home to the university’s only doctoral program, the Ed.D. in educational leadership.

Building Features
- Solar hot water heating, a vegetated “green” roof and other enhanced energy and water efficiency items.
- A gathering hall named in honor of former educators Bryce and Izoria Gordon that seats up to 300 for receptions, conferences, workshops and catered events and can be configured into three smaller classroom areas.
- 121 faculty offices, 17 classrooms, 12 conference/seminar rooms, administrative suites, a design lab, computer teaching lab, student computer labs, media production lab, a counseling training clinic and a reading clinic with tutoring and diagnostic rooms.
Budget cuts reduce services and employment

Appalachian’s $22.8 million share of state budget cuts has translated to 176 lost positions on campus, the closing of Brovhill Inn and Conference Center and a 25 percent reduction in the operating hours of Belk Library and Information Commons.

And that’s just this year.

More cuts may come as a result of the continued weakness and uncertainty of the economy, according to Dr. Susan McCracken, Appalachian’s director of external affairs.

The university implemented these and other changes in late summer after the N.C. General Assembly finalized the state’s two-year budget. With enrollment growth funding and proceeds from campus-based tuition increase offsetting Appalachian’s cuts somewhat, the university’s net reduction came to $16.7 million – a loss of 11.7 percent of state funding from 2010-11 levels.

Of the 176 state-funded positions lost, 95 were vacant, including 51 faculty positions; 63 were currently filled and moved to non-state funded sources; and 18 people whose salaries were funded by the state were let go.

The university’s leaders all worked together, McCracken said, to achieve the best outcome given the budget situation.

“The reality is, we will not get the funding for those 176 positions back,” she said.

“Without management flexibility and strategic collaboration among the vice chancellors, we could not have kept the 63 positions that lost state funding. The provost and the deans worked really hard to ensure the number of available class seats was adequate to meet current student demand. However, going forward, these cuts will drastically impact our ability to enhance new and high-demand programs – like nursing, environmental science and communication – because they affect our ability to keep pace with student demand.”

McCracken added, “Another real challenge is our ability to keep our talented faculty and attract new faculty, not only by offering competitive salaries but by supporting them in the classroom and with their research.”

To determine how to preserve
Meet the Provost

By Jane Nicholson ’95 MA

Dr. Lori S. Gonzalez began her duties as Appalachian’s provost and executive vice chancellor Sept. 12. Here are some of her thoughts about Appalachian and its opportunities and challenges.

Q: Why did you decide to leave your home state and an institution you had served for 20 years to come to Appalachian?

Gonzalez: I was aware of Appalachian’s strong academic reputation, and its location in North Carolina is very similar to the area in Kentucky where I grew up. My husband forwarded the job notice from the Chronicle of Higher Education because he knew of my interest in the institution. Although I had not given much thought to leaving Kentucky, I submitted my application for the position.

Q: What are your impressions of Appalachian?

Gonzalez: I always thought that Appalachian was an excellent institution. However, when I began the research for my campus presentations, I was astounded by the wonderful things occurring on campus as well as the quality of the academic programs. It exceeded my expectations. I saw a campus that was growing and getting better through careful planning and collaborative activities. Appalachian’s graduation and retention rates are high and enrollment is growing. Appalachian is a place where excellence lives. I found a campus where the people have a love of place, a commitment to it and a pride in the university. I wanted to be a part of that community.

Q: There isn’t a college or university in the nation that hasn’t been impacted by the recession and continued downturn in the economy. What steps will you take to preserve the quality of the Appalachian Experience for our students?

Gonzalez: The faculty and administration have to protect the academic core against budget reductions. Difficult budget times require us to look at everything we do and decide if everything that we do is necessary. An institution can still grow in tough financial times, but it is critical that you take stock of where you are, and think carefully about what’s important, what the institution needs to do and whether anything can be done differently.

Q: What do you see as the value today of a liberal education, which is the basis of an Appalachian degree?

Gonzalez: While my background is in health sciences, I recognize the value of the broad range of academic programs. Nationally, the health professions, particularly allied professions, represent the top-growing careers for the next decade. However, we never want to stray from the idea that someone educated in the liberal arts can offer so much to our society. We need broad thinkers in the political system, in government and in education. Additionally, my son is pursuing his education in the arts, so I come to campus with a great appreciation of fine arts and music and recognize how they contribute to the richness of society.

Q: Many alumni and faculty are eager to see the university move to the next level academically. What are your thoughts about this?

Gonzalez: There has been considerable discussion on campus as to what Appalachian would need to become a research-doctoral university. We need to see which programs already have strong faculty poised to support a doctoral or professional degree program. Part of the Appalachian spirit is its excellence, so if we are going to do this we want to do it in a really strong and appropriate way. I will be working with the dean of the graduate school to determine what infrastructure we would need to have in place to make that move. I think that the university is poised to do that, but we want to do it in a thoughtful way so that our quality isn’t harmed.

Q: Your son is enrolled at the University of Michigan. How does being the parent of a college freshman inform your work as provost?

Gonzalez: Because I have a son attending college away from home, I see our students at Appalachian differently. I think about their experiences being away from home and I think of their loved ones at home wondering how they are doing. I believe that my experience as the parent of a college freshman will help me understand the college experience for our Mountaineers and I actually think this job will probably help me be a more understanding parent with my son.

Appalachian’s quality academic experience within the parameters of a drastically reduced budget, Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock and his staff examined the university’s strategic plan along with budget-reducing principles established by the N.C. General Assembly.

Operating and travels funds were reduced in each academic department. Some positions in administrative offices were combined and some operations on campus were combined or eliminated. Among the most visible changes on campus have been:

• A 25 percent reduction in the operating hours of Belk Library and Information Commons, no longer providing the 24-hour access Mondays through Thursdays requested by students.

• Elimination of all state funding for the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center. The hotel portion of the facility will be converted to student housing, and management of the meeting space will be handled by the Office of Student Programs.

The university is also identifying additional sources of non-state funds to offset the impact of cuts in state-funded areas. These include an administrative fee to be charged to auxiliary services, such as athletics, Food Services and the University Bookstore. While the fee proceeds will provide relief to state-funded areas, including academics, they will negatively impact the services provided by the auxiliaries. The Appalachian State University Foundation Inc. is also providing some resources to fund necessary positions, while the university has embarked on a $200 million fundraising campaign to preserve and enhance the Appalachian experience by strengthening scholarships, programs and facilities.

Leadership from the Appalachian Alumni Council, Board of Trustees and the university’s Board of Visitors contacted and met with legislators in Raleigh on multiple occasions during winter and spring 2011 to help make the case for continued support of higher education in North Carolina, McCracken said.

Want to help make the case for Appalachian in the future? Contact Susan McCracken at mccrackensd@appstate.edu or 828-262-3066.
Mountaineers in the NFL

Appalachian continues to be well-represented in the National Football League, with six former Mountaineers currently on professional rosters. Safety Corey Lynch ’03 – ’07 continues to be a force for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while Jason Hunter ’01 – ’05 plays defensive end for the Denver Broncos. D.J. Smith ’07 – ’10 suits up as linebacker for the Green Bay Packers, and closer to home fan favorite Armanti Edwards ’06 – ’09 continues to improve at his wide receiver and punt return duties for the Carolina Panthers. Offensive lineman Daniel Kilgore ’07 – ’10 plays for the San Francisco 49ers, and safety Mark Legree ’07 – ’10 recently signed a contract with the Arizona Cardinals to join their practice squad.

Basketball Schedule

Head coach Darcie Vincent’s squad continues to build on their success from last season, roaring out of the gate in 2011-12 with a 6-1 record. The traveling Mountaineer women have only played twice in the Holmes Center so far this season, and their only loss has come at the hands of ACC stronghold and perennial NCAA Tournament participant Virginia. Leading the charge for the team is junior forward Anna Freeman, an elementary education major from Thomasville, N.C. Averaging over 15 points per game, Freeman has been named the Southern Conference’s Player of the Week twice so far in the young season.

The women’s team begins its 2012 slate of conference contests on Jan. 7 at Elon.

The men’s team is also looking forward to conference play after a challenging non-conference schedule that include Minnesota, Tennessee Tech, and head coach Jason Capel’s alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The squad is led by senior guard Omar Carter, a sociology major from Charlotte. Carter is averaging over 13 points per game and also leads the Mountaineers in steals.

The 2012 conference schedule begins Jan. 5 at Samford.

Mountaineers pursue move to FBS

On Sept. 23, Appalachian’s Board of Trustees voted to accept a feasibility study committee’s recommendation to pursue a move to the Football Bowl Subdivision. The Mountaineers are Division I in all other sports and currently play in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly called I-AA). They have been a member of the Southern Conference since 1972.

The move is not imminent. While Appalachian is open to pursuing this, the university must be invited into one of the FBS-eligible conferences.

Hall of Fame Inductions

The Former Athletes Association welcomed five former Mountaineer greats to the Appalachian State University Athletics Hall of Fame for 2011. The class includes:

**Football stars**
- Larry Harbin ’61 – ’64
- Dwayne Pelham ’86 – ’90
- Richie Williams ’02 – ’05

**Track-and-field standout**
- Robert Johnson ’94 – ’96

**Basketballer**
- Allan Price ’66 – ’69

**Special service award**
- Tommy Sofield ’76

www.goasu.com
2000s

ALLISON LANGFORD ’10 and MATTHEW SMITH ’09 of Charlotte were married Sept. 25, 2010.

STEVEN CALLOWAY ’09 and Cassie Banner of Charlotte were married May 28, 2011.

JONATHAN GREER ’09 and ERICA (SPICER) GREER ’09 of Maiden were married June 4, 2011.

JOHN MAYHEW ’07 and BrennLee West of Murfreesboro, Tenn., were married Oct. 23, 2010.

ADAM CLINE ’07 received a master’s degree in physical education from the University of South Florida on May 6, 2011. He is employed as a physical education teacher and athletic director at Hickory Ridge Middle School.

JEREME STOUT ’07 has been promoted to portfolio analyst at Nationwide Insurance in Duluth, Ga.

KRISTAL (STEWART) WILSON ’07 ’09 and Rayland Wilson announce the birth of Kaylin Rae, Jan. 19, 2011.

JESSICA BAUSERMAN ’06 and STEPHEN MARTIN ’05 of Charlotte were married April 2, 2011.

PRESTON CLARKE ’06 and HANNAH (STARNES) CLARKE ’08 announce the birth of Landon James, Jan. 18, 2011.

STEPHANIE (INMAN) NEWCOMB ’06 and BARRY NEWCOMB ’05 announce the birth of Ava Brynn, April 6, 2011.

ERIC BRIGGS ’05 and Alexa Briggs announce the birth of Riley Hudson, June 9, 2011.

STEPHANIE (CLARK) PHILLIPS ’05 and William Phillips announce the birth of Alexander Branson, April 1, 2011.

TREAYOR SMITH ’04 has received certification as a Board Certified Chinese Herbologist.

BRIAN MERRITT ’04 recently accepted a position as director of grants, sponsored programs and alumni relations at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford.

LOUIS TOMASSETTI ’04, a detective with the Asheville Police Department, recently received his advanced law enforcement certificate.

JANELLE (SILVERMAN) ELROD ’04 and Grady Elrod announce the birth of Valery Cora, Aug. 9, 2011.

KATIE (VARBOROUGH) MERRITT ’04 and DALE MERRITT ’04 announce the birth of Kiah Rose, Sept. 14, 2010.

BENJAMIN WARREN ’04 announces the birth of Rylan Turner, June 17, 2011.

PATRICK BERRY ’03 recently accepted a position as generosity strategist with LifeChurch.tv in Oklahoma City, Okla.

MATTHEW JORDAN ’03 recently accepted a position as radio/microwave support tech at Duke Energy in Charlotte.

JOSHUA SMITH ’03 recently accepted a position as a customer service rep with Active Concepts in Lincolnnton.

ERIN (COOK) THOMPSON ’03 and Shawn Thompson announce the birth of Chloe, July 28, 2011.


JONATHAN TRIPLETT ’03 and Tara (Yohn) Triplett announce the birth of Ayden James, Oct. 27, 2010.

The Alumni Memorial Scholarship is supported in part by the Appalachian specialty license plate.
Avery Hall joins staff, alumni and friends for the homecoming parade.

Avery Hall ‘93 challenges students to give back

By Jane Nicholson ‘95 MA

Avery Hall ‘93 is a soft-spoken man, but his words ring loudly when he talks about family, his work and the opportunities he has received thanks to his alma mater.

“I came from a single-parent home in a housing project in Gainesville, Georgia. All of the statistics indicated I wasn’t supposed to be successful,” said Hall, who is a senior vice president with Wells Fargo in Greensboro and a member of Appalachian State University’s Board of Trustees.

Hall’s message about opportunity, doing your best and giving back to those who help you succeed is one he shares readily with coworkers, students and others at Appalachian State University.

Hall attended Appalachian on a football scholarship (see sidebar) and graduated in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in communication and public relations.

“Without a football scholarship, I don’t know if I would have gone to school,” he said.

Hall had 42 offers from universities across the United States to play collegiate football. He had committed to play at Indiana University until he visited Appalachian, his last official visit of the five campus visits allowed by the NCAA.

“I fell in love with the place,” Hall said. “I backed out of my commitment to Indiana University and came to Appalachian.”

The support he received from faculty, administrators and the coaching staff helped Hall build his self confidence. “ASU provided such good academic and student support, it truly positioned me to do well,” he said.

He was offered a job right after graduation with Wachovia, now Wells Fargo, and has risen through the ranks. “It was a good fit for me and an opportunity to change my life cycle,” he said. “I grew up in a tough environment. Instead of being known as the kid from the projects in Gainesville, here in North Carolina I was Avery, the Appalachian graduate, the former football player and the banker. It was a chance for me to start a new life.”

Hall now returns the favor through service to the university and by encouraging others, even college freshmen, to give to Appalachian.

“Appalachian invested in me and I feel compelled to give back, whether it’s serving as a volunteer on the Board of Trustees or if I can help an athlete with questions about their class; if I had to pick up trash on campus I would do it,” he said.

Hall spoke to first-year students at Freshman Convocation, held before the start of fall semester. He talked to them about being leaders at school and in their professions, and becoming donors to the university.

“Early on in my career I didn’t make a lot of money, but I still gave and I since have given consistently. I challenged them to think about giving back to ASU,” he said. “The state provides basic support to all of the schools in the UNC system, but our goals are so lofty that we are not focusing on just the basics. We are focusing on being the best that we can be in the UNC System, the Southeast and the eastern part of the country, so we are going to need more than just basic support from the state.”

Private support from alumni, friends of the university, businesses and even students, will help ensure that Appalachian meets its goals for the future, Hall said.

“I want us to continue to focus on quality and not grow just for the sake of growth,” he said. “We have a great niche, we have a great university. Preserving what makes this university special – the nurturing environment, academic and student support and community – is high on my radar.”

“Appalachian provided such good academic and student support, it truly positioned me to do well.”

JOSEPH AYCOCK '02 has accepted a position as a nationwide series official with NASCAR.

RICHARD (WADE) NAGY '02 recently accepted a position as project manager with Bill Clark Homes in Wilmington.

HEIDI (WILLIAMS) RAGAN '02 recently accepted a position as organizational development manager with Transportation Insight in Hickory.

Patrick Jones '02 and Leslie Jones announce the birth of Emma Leigh, Jan. 28, 2011.

Sara (SHERTZER) LAWSON '02 and Daniel Lawson announce the birth of Owen Richard, July 25, 2011.

Heidi (WILLIAMS) RAGAN '02 has been awarded the 2011 Altrusa Award for Excellence.

Molly Malone-Proleau '01 has received a doctor of osteopathic medicine from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 4, 2011. She is doing her residency in emergency medicine at Marietta Memorial Hospital in Marietta, Ohio.

Brooke (WESNER) BOWMAN '01 has been promoted to senior clinical analyst/information systems at FirstHealth of the Carolinas in Pinehurst.

Sherri (WESLEY) Davis '01 and Stephen Davis '00 announce the birth of Holly Elizabeth, Jan. 26, 2011.


Bryan Scott '01 and Francie Scott announce the birth of Daniel Poole '00 who has published “Bevroid is Forever,” a book about college life/collage athletics. It will serve as a prequel to another book, “An Appalachian Encounter.”

Jason Lewkowicz '00 recently accepted a position as director of cross country/track & field at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

1990s

Erin (Atkins) Janssen '99 recently accepted a position as associate in the life sciences and health industry practice group at Reed Smith LLP, Washington, D.C.


Emily (VANDUSEN) Piacentino '99 and Joe Piacentino '00 announce the birth of Ivey Elizabeth, Jan. 26, 2011.

Angela (McNeill) Walston '98, director of student success at Barton College, has been selected as one of 10 National Academic Advising Association Emerging Leaders for 2011-13.

Lyndsay Rossman '98 recently accepted a position as director of marketing & business development at Simon Property Group, St. Johns Town Center in Jacksonville, Fla.


Vance Josey '97 and Jennifer Kirchhoff of Raleigh were married July 1, 2011.

Anna (Harris) Hovanick '97 and Daniel Hovanick announce the birth of Quinn Carroll, June 4, 2011.

Stephanie Powell '96 received a master of business administration in public administration from Ashford University on Feb. 7, 2011.

David Furr '95 recently landed the lead role in “The Importance of Being Earnest,” currently running on Broadway.

Tamara (Fox) Stamey '95 has been promoted to principal at Parkway Elementary School.

James (Lyonel) Wright '95 has accepted the position of associate professor of criminal justice and sociology at Dalton State College in Dalton, Ga.


Tom Cook '94 and Wendy Hicks of Wake Forest were married Feb. 13, 2011.

Thomas Campbell '94 received a master of school administration from the University of North Carolina in May 2011.


Lori Patterson '93 has received certification as a Certified Business Continuity Professional from the Disaster Recovery Institute International.

Eric Feeney '93 and Christine Fatke of Carrollton, Texas, were married June 18, 2011.

Paul Hespelt '93 has been promoted to clinical research communication specialist III at Duke Clinical Research Institute in Durham.


Christopher Finney '92 recently accepted a position as financial advisor/assistant vice president of investments at Wells Fargo Advisors in Wilkesboro.

Steven Rogers '91 has been promoted to captain at Burke County Sheriff’s Office in Morganton.

Robert Sneed '90 exhibited his artwork in the Appalachian Alumni in the Arts exhibition at Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, February to June 2011.

Emily Crain Burleson '90 was promoted to administrative support specialist in the Department of Communication at Appalachian in February 2011.

Melanie (Scott) Matteson '90 has been promoted to operations specialist V at Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Hendersonville. She received the Hendersonville Chamber of Business and Professional Women’s Woman of the Year award on Oct. 20, 2010.

1980s

Jeffrey Merritt '89 was re-elected chairman of the Triangle Transit Authority in the Raleigh-Durham region. He also recently accepted a position as executive director at Centennial Authority; the authority oversees operations of the RBC Center in Raleigh.

Glenn Cook '89 recently accepted a position as business manager at Keen Mountain Correctional Center in Oakwood, Va.

Matthew Hawkins '89 has been promoted to media marketing manager at Southeast Telephone, Pikeville, Ky.

Gibbs Smith '89 has accepted a position as environmental consultant with Triangle Environmental Consulting in the Research Triangle Park. He recently completed National Environmental Policy Act training at Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University.

John Evans '88 received a master of arts degree in national
Geology professor honored posthumously

In his three decades at Appalachian, from 1968-1998, Dr. Frank Kenneth “Ken” McKinney exemplified the best of life as an educator by engaging in life-long education, creating new knowledge through original research and encouraging students to participate in the academic experience. A professor emeritus of geology, and a founding member of the Department of Geology, McKinney died April 9, 2011. He was 67.

In October 2011, McKinney was honored posthumously with the nation’s highest geoscience teaching award, the Neil Miner Award from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. The award was presented in honor of both him and his wife, Marjorie J. McKinney, for contributions to the stimulation of interest in the earth sciences. Marjorie McKinney, retired lab manager and technician in the Department of Geology, accepted the award on behalf of her husband.

Though geology and paleontology were McKinney’s academic passions, his efforts and interests extended into many areas of the university. He was an inspiration to his undergraduate students and encouraged them to engage in his and other faculty members’ cutting-edge research. He was a major player in establishing Appalachian’s research emphasis and an internationally renowned researcher who had friends around the world. His publishing career spanned four decades and he published more than 120 peer-reviewed publications, including five books. He was also influential in organizing the university’s Performing Arts Series, an interdisciplinary lecture series and international studies on campus.

In 1995, he received the first Donald W. Sink Outstanding Scholar of the Year award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

McKinney was responsible for extensive paleontological collections that are housed in the university’s geology museum. The university’s McKinney Geology Teaching Museum is named in honor of him and his wife.

The McKinney Paleontology Scholarship Fund has been established in the Department of Geology. Donations can be sent to the department with this designation.

faculty deaths

**DR. BENJAMIN H. HORTON JR.** died May 2, 2011. He was 96. He joined Appalachian in 1950 as an assistant professor in what was then the Department of Education. He was named chairman of the department in 1958, and in 1968 became the dean of the College of Education. In 1975, he retired as a professor emeritus of administration, supervision and higher education. Prior to coming to Appalachian, he taught in public schools in Gaston, Mecklenburg and Watauga counties.

**DR. ALLEN F. KINDT.** a professor emeritus who taught for 28 years in the Hayes School of Music, died July 18. He was 72. He was a dedicated teacher who received the Appalachian Alumni Association’s Outstanding Teaching Award in 1994. In addition to teaching at the school and providing accompaniment for faculty and student recitals, Kindt performed as a pianist throughout the United States with orchestras and as a recitalist. While at Shenyang Conservatory of Music in China as a visiting professor, he performed with the Liaoning Provincial Symphony in Shenyang. He retired in 2000.

**JACK A. UNDERDOWN** died May 16, 2011. He was 82. Educated as a real estate appraiser, Underdown was asked to teach a real estate course at Appalachian in 1973. Over the next 25 years, he taught in the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. He served with the town of Elkin as mayor and town commissioner, and in 2008 he completed 35 years as the town’s chairman of the planning and zoning board.

**DAVID A. RIGSBY** died March 16, 2011. He was 88. He came to the university in 1961, and taught courses in the industrial arts program over the next 10 years.

staff deaths

Appalachian staff members are on the front lines, keeping our campus running smoothly and looking beautiful, and caring for our students. The Appalachian Family remembers these individuals fondly.

**RAYMOND H. BUMGARNER** died, May 11, 2011. He was 83. He worked at the steam plant, and retired in 1990.

**ELLARD G. CORNETT** died Aug. 15, 2011. He was 90. He worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 1990.

**TOMMY M. CORNETT** died Feb. 11, 2011. He was 75. He worked in the food service department, and retired in 1998.

**GARY L. GRAYBEAL** died Sept. 3, 2011. He was 54. He was employed with landscaping services starting July 2005.

**WANDA COOK FOX** died Aug. 16, 2011. She was 48. She was an executive assistant in University Advancement.

**EILEEN MYRTLE JONES** died August 20, 2011. She was 94. She was a retired employee who served Appalachian as a secretary.

**MELBA H. HAYES** died May 24, 2011. She was 86. She worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 1991.

**MYRTLE ELMA OAKES MILLER** died April 6, 2011. She was 90. She worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 1982.

**ROBY LEONARD TRIPPLET** died Sept. 27, 2011. He was 76. He was the manager for the University Bookstore for 20 years. He retired in 1991.

security and strategic studies from U.S. Naval War College, June 2011.

**SHERRY CONRAD FRYE ‘88** and her husband, Jack, recently had their yard recognized as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

**DARRELL WETHERFORD ‘88** recently accepted a position as assistant professor of military science with Appalachian’s Army ROTC program.

**CATHERINE ALTICE ‘87** received a master of fine arts in studio art from Johnson State College’s Vermont Studio Center, May 14, 2011. She graduated with honors.

**PATTI (JONES) TATE ‘86** has received the 2011 South Carolina Teacher of the Year award.

**KATHLEEN (LAMB) BROCKMAN ‘85** is an associate professor at the Art Institute of Charlotte.

**MICHAEL BROWN ‘85** was awarded the Oracle ACE designation by Oracle Corporation.

**MARY RIDENOUR ‘83** retired in April 2011 after 27 years of teaching. In May, she was elected to the Kannapolis Friends of the Library Board.

**GLENDA (HENSLY) STARR ‘82** was recently promoted to a leadership role with the Exceptional Children’s Department, McDowell County Public Schools.

**DAVID WEINBERG ‘81** won two awards in the 2010 Boxing Writer’s Association of America national writing contest.

**ALEX BROWN ‘80** was inducted into the Oklahoma Athletic Trainer’s Hall of Fame on May 21, 2011.

**SANDRA SHUMAKER ‘80** has retired from teaching after 31 years – 27 years in Caldwell County, and the last four in Forsyth County.

**David B. Spears ‘88**, July 9, 2011.


**Steven Hayes ‘87**, July 6, 2011.


**Candy Sylvester ‘86**, June 4, 2011.


JAMES COLE ’80, Sept., 2011.
KIMBERLY DAY ’80, Aug. 11, 2011.
BEN PEEK ’80, April 26, 2011.

1970s
JEANNINE (UNDERDOWN) COLLINS ’79 is chair of the Appalachian Real Estate Holdings Inc.
MELANIE SHOOK ’78 has retired from 31 years of teaching middle school at Whitfield County Schools in Dalton, Ga.
BARBARA (THOMAS) FANNIN ’76 and Omer Fannin, of Summerville, S.C., were married Feb. 19, 2011.
AARON K. BALL ’75, professor of engineering and technology at Western Carolina University, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system.
VICKI (PRICE) CLARK ’75 received the 2010 President’s Award from the Virginia Culinary Association chapter of the American Culinary Federation in January 2011.
JAYSON DUNCAN ’73 has been elected Ruritan National President at the Ruritan National Convention in Knoxville, Tenn.
ALDOUS EURY ’71 has been promoted to dean of the School of Education at Gardner-Webb University.

1960s
GARY SHROYER ’68 has retired from Duke Energy in Charlotte after serving 26 years as an IT professional.
JUDY (THOMAS) CULLUM ’67 retired in July, 2010 from Cleveland County Schools after 23 years of service. In April of that year, she was awarded the 2010 Lighthouse Award for outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication to students with disabilities in North Carolina.
LAURA LYNN (HERDON) BATHELL ’66 retired in June, 2010, after 27 years of teaching with Bergen County Special Services School District.

1950s
ROBERT LOVE ’53 was inducted into the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor in April 2010.

deaths
JULIUS SANDY BEAM ’59, Feb. 18, 2011.
COY FRONEBERGER ’59, March 7, 2011.
BOB GREENE ’57, July 14, 2011.
AUDREY NORTHUP ’57, March 4, 2011.
WILLIAM PAYNE ’57, June 10, 2011.
JEAN WEY ’57, May 24, 2011.
EUGENIA DAVIS MONROE ’56, March 16, 2011.
JOHN GIBSON ’56, Aug. 30, 2011.
WYONE HARRISON ’56, May 1, 2011.
KAREN TRIVETTE ’56, Feb. 12, 2011.
FRANK WIDENHOUSE ’56, July 1, 2011.
JESSIE PEASE ’55, March 17, 2011.
AMY GILES ’54, May 24, 2011.
ROBERT SHUFORD ’54, April 4, 2011.
ROSEMARY BOGER ’53, June 17, 2011.
COLENE BOLICK ’53, June 1, 2011.
DORIS GODWIN ’53, April 26, 2011.
CHARLOTTE KUTSCHER ’53, Feb. 18, 2011.
BELLE SEATS ’53, April 22, 2011.

MILY COOK ’76, March 19, 2011.
BETSY HORD ’76, July 13, 2011.
DAVID MCREA ’76, July 4, 2011.
ALFRED PARNELL ’76, July 2, 2011.
JEANNE SMITH ’76, Nov. 26, 2010.
LEWIS JACOB ’75, April 7, 2011.
HOWARD OWEN ’75, June 29, 2011.
EARL BARBER ’74, April 25, 2011.
JAMES RAINS ’74, May 25, 2011.
CLEO WARD ’74, Aug. 26, 2011.
RANDY CHURCH ’73, March 5, 2011.
KAY FRICK ’73, April 25, 2011.
JIMMY JOHNSON ’73, April 5, 2011.
JOHN KIRK ’73, April 15, 2011.
BILLY TRUL ’73, June 25, 2011.
SANDRA CARRICK ’72, June 18, 2011.
JOELLE HARVELL ’72, March 3, 2011.
RANDY W. JOHNSON ’72, Feb. 21, 2011.
JAMES LYBRAND ’72, May 30, 2011.
RUSSELL MUNDY ’72, July 20, 2011.
JAMES HOLMES ’70, July 24, 2011.
BENNY MARTIN ’70, May 10, 2011.
CARRIE Peek ’70, June 6, 2011.

HARRY INGRAM ’69, June 4, 2011.
DONALD JARRETT ’69, June 1, 2011.
JOE KIRVEN ’69, May 28, 2011.
LINDA MILLER ’69, Aug. 27, 2011.
THOMAS BROHILL ’68, Aug. 20, 2011.
ROBERT BUSHONG ’68, Sept. 6, 2011.
NANCY OAKLEY ’68, Sept. 2, 2011.
STEVEN WEST ’67, August 8, 2011.
WARREN RULE ’67, July 3, 2011.
SHARON SISSEL ’67, June 22, 2011.
ROSEMARY WHITE ’67, April 10, 2011.
LEONARD SCRONCE ’66, June 7, 2011.
GEORGE SIMMONS ’66, March 19, 2011.
DOROTHA PEELE ’65, April 17, 2011.
WADE TEAGUE ’65, May 3, 2011.
WILBERT CAMAGNA ’63, Feb. 4, 2011.
NANCY HAGER ’63, March 29, 2011.
KERRY WEST ’62, April 7, 2011.
PAT ABERNETHY ’61, March 16, 2011.
CLYDE HARRII ’61, Aug. 16, 2011.
JANICE SOUTHERN ’61, Aug. 4, 2011.
BONNIE LAWS ’60, Aug. 17, 2011.
JOYCE SAWLEY ’60, March 10, 2011.

BETSY HORD ’76, July 13, 2011.
DELLA TAYLOR ’75, May 3, 2011.
CLEO WARD ’74, Aug. 26, 2011.
RANDY CHURCH ’73, March 5, 2011.
KAY FRICK ’73, April 25, 2011.
JIMMY JOHNSON ’73, April 5, 2011.
JOHN KIRK ’73, April 15, 2011.
BILLY TRUL ’73, June 25, 2011.
SANDRA CARRICK ’72, June 18, 2011.
JOELLE HARVELL ’72, March 3, 2011.
RANDY W. JOHNSON ’72, Feb. 21, 2011.
JAMES LYBRAND ’72, May 30, 2011.
RUSSELL MUNDY ’72, July 20, 2011.
JAMES HOLMES ’70, July 24, 2011.
BENNY MARTIN ’70, May 10, 2011.
CARRIE Peek ’70, June 6, 2011.

HARRY INGRAM ’69, June 4, 2011.
DONALD JARRETT ’69, June 1, 2011.
JOE KIRVEN ’69, May 28, 2011.
LINDA MILLER ’69, Aug. 27, 2011.
THOMAS BROHILL ’68, Aug. 20, 2011.
ROBERT BUSHONG ’68, Sept. 6, 2011.
NANCY OAKLEY ’68, Sept. 2, 2011.
STEVEN WEST ’67, August 8, 2011.
WARREN RULE ’67, July 3, 2011.
SHARON SISSEL ’67, June 22, 2011.
ROSEMARY WHITE ’67, April 10, 2011.
LEONARD SCRONCE ’66, June 7, 2011.
GEORGE SIMMONS ’66, March 19, 2011.
DOROTHA PEELE ’65, April 17, 2011.
WADE TEAGUE ’65, May 3, 2011.
WILBERT CAMAGNA ’63, Feb. 4, 2011.
NANCY HAGER ’63, March 29, 2011.
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CLYDE HARRII ’61, Aug. 16, 2011.
JANICE SOUTHERN ’61, Aug. 4, 2011.
BONNIE LAWS ’60, Aug. 17, 2011.
JOYCE SAWLEY ’60, March 10, 2011.
Charlotte Sutherland Stanley, at 100 years old, is among Appalachian’s oldest living alumni. This summer, she participated in Appalachian’s Black and Gold Society Induction as a part of Alumni Reunion Weekend and re-lived her student experience with fellow Appalachian alumni.

1930s deaths

PAUL GREENE ’39, April 17, 2011.
HENRY BEST ’38, Jan. 8, 2011.
BEN NORRIS ’38, March 25, 2011.
KNOX DAVIS ’37, May 29, 2011.
GRAHAM JACKSON ’36, Nov. 1, 2010.
THOMAS WILSON ’35, May 2, 2011.

1940s deaths

JAMES DENNIS ’49, Nov. 1, 2010.

‘38 GRAD RETURNS: Charlotte Sutherland Stanley, at 100 years old, is among Appalachian’s oldest living alumni. This summer, she participated in Appalachian’s Black and Gold Society Induction as a part of Alumni Reunion Weekend and re-lived her student experience with fellow Appalachian alumni.
Appalachian has meant a lot to Joe '73 and Sharon Reid of Mount Airy, who came to Appalachian already married, and quickly caught the Mountaineer spirit.

"I received a quality education that helped me advance in life. We've made a lot of friends and continue to meet new people. We love Appalachian," says Joe. The couple explains that their passion for Appalachian has lasted because the friendliness and approachability of Appalachian in the 1970s remains true today. "It's the Appalachian Family atmosphere," Sharon says.

The Reids made their first gift to Appalachian in the mid-1970s. "It was $25 to the Yosef Club, which was a lot to us back then," remembers Sharon. They have a vision for Appalachian to continue growing and to become one of the top universities academically anywhere in the United States, and they continue to give their time and resources to this place that brings them so much joy. Recently, the Reids finalized their estate plans and created two endowments that will support Appalachian for many years after they are gone. The Joe & Sharon Reid Yosef Scholarship Endowment will continue their love of Appalachian athletics – they have attended every home Mountaineer football game since 1980 and are avid tailgaters. The Joe & Sharon Reid Endowment for the Walker College of Business is an unrestricted fund to be used at the dean’s discretion for the college’s greatest needs. Both gifts count toward the Campaign for Appalachian.

"We think Appalachian is top rated," Joe says. "We hope our endowments will inspire others to also give the gift that keeps on giving."

To become a member of the 1899 Legacy Society, please call 828-262-3192, or visit give.appstate.edu/giftplanning.