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On the cover
Appalachian’s students have long held a commitment to sustainability. This fall, they will travel to Washington, D.C., to enter a fully functioning, zero-energy home in the Department of Energy’s prestigious Solar Decathlon competition. Nearly 60 team members have participated in the project, which is being designed, built and marketed by students. Pictured with a small-scale model of the project, dubbed the “Solar Homestead,” are from left: (front row) Mason Campbell, Katharine Lea, Meredith Smith, Chelsea Royall, Jill Yearden, (second row) Heather Kinsey, John Amand, Gina Butler, Jose-Luis Marino-Saldana and (top) Jackie Stewart. Photo illustration by Troy Tuttle.
A ‘model’ institution for sustainability

Even before our students were chosen to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011, leaders at the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) were eyeing Appalachian as a best practice institution for sustainability.

This spring, the ARC released its “Green Schools and Sustainability in Appalachia” report. In it, the federal economic development agency recognized Appalachian’s 30-plus years in preparing students to work in the green industry – calling us “a model” for other schools seeking to enter the fields of energy-focused green technology.

Research by the ARC indicates energy efficiency investments could create 77,000 net new jobs in the Appalachia region by 2030 and another 70,000 new jobs in renewable energy. Appalachian was one of six case studies in the 13-state region that illustrates “how educational institutions in Appalachia provide both critical leadership and training to meet the needs of emerging industry and help communities develop markets and generate demand for green products and services.”

I am proud of Appalachian’s long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. I am also excited about its future in the ever-growing sustainability industry.

In this issue of Appalachian Today, I hope you enjoy reading about Appalachian’s relationship with the environment – through academic programs, research, activism and a collective sense of personal responsibility. The Appalachian Family has long been united in its love of the North Carolina mountains and its desire to protect them. You can learn more about what we do in relation to sustainability through the website, www.sustainability.appstate.edu.

Our sustainability activities are just one point of pride. As you will read in this magazine, Appalachian has many more, including continued praise by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine, U.S. News and World Report and Princeton Review. In addition, we recently began discussions about how Appalachian’s College of Health Sciences can partner and collaborate with the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. We anticipate having a memorandum of understanding between us in the near future.

These external measures of quality recognize us for what we take for granted as the basic characteristics of an Appalachian education – quality teaching; close, personal attention from faculty; opportunities for undergraduate research; and value and affordability. What concerns me is that our strong foundation is at risk due to North Carolina’s ongoing budget crisis. Reduced funding from the state could jeopardize the quality of Appalachian through a reduced workforce, larger classes and increased tuition.

These times are both exhilarating and extremely challenging. In his classic novel “A Tale of Two Cities,” Charles Dickens wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Are we facing a tale of two Appalachians? I hope not. It is my intention that there remain one Appalachian – the high-quality university that guides and supports its students, offers rewarding opportunities for personal and professional growth, and prepares innovative graduates for a fresh, renewed economy.

With Appalachian pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
Calendar of Events

June 10-11  
Alumni Reunion Weekend  
Alumni Awards Gala  
Holmes Convocation Center

Appalachian Summer Festival highlights

July 2  
African Children’s Choir  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

July 8  
Our Broadway with Chita Rivera and Ben Vereen  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

July 14  
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

July 15  
k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

July 23  
Rosen Sculpture Walk  
10 a.m., Catherine J. Smith Gallery

July 23  
Fireworks Concert with Dierks Bentley  
7:30 p.m., Kidd Brewer Stadium

July 30  
The Manhattan Transfer  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

September 15  
Convocation with Author Christopher McDougall  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

September 16  
The Timejumpers with Vince Gill, Ranger Doug, Dawn & Kenny Sears and Paul Franklin  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

October 20  
KANSAS with the Appalachian State University Symphony Orchestra  
8 p.m., Farthing Auditorium

October 22  
Homecoming  
Mountaineers vs. Samford football

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to view Appalachian’s events calendar.

INSPIRED TO SUCCEED

Delvon Blue wants to care for underserved populations in North Carolina. “I want to help address the restricted health care access for minority populations,” he says. A senior in the Honors College, Delvon appreciates the challenging academic environment, mentorship and internships that are preparing him for medical school.

Delvon was inspired by the success of one of Appalachian’s many passionate and successful alumni. Recently, he came across the story of Richard Sparks, CEO of Appalachian Regional Healthcare System. “I noticed he was in health care, which is my passion, and saw that he had his Bachelor’s and MBA from Appalachian. His success was a testament to where Appalachian can take me.”

Delvon Blue  
Class of 2012  
Psychology major  
Winston-Salem, NC
Student performs at the Grand Ole Opry

Appalachian studies major and musician Matthew Weaver joined the ranks of many a country music legend when he performed on stage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., in April. Weaver, who plays an impressive 19 instruments, represented Appalachian with a “shout out” from the stage, as well as by wearing an “A” pin given to him by Chancellor Peacock, when he stepped into what is known in the industry as the “sacred circle” to give the performance of a lifetime.

Honor society formed for transfer students

Tau Sigma National Honor Society, which recognizes academic excellence of transfer students, now has an Appalachian chapter.

Appalachian has about 3,500 transfer students and enrolls about 1,000 new transfers each year. “I think it is important to recognize the accomplishments of hardworking transfer students and do all we can here on campus to help them acclimate and succeed,” said advisor Robert J. Charlebois, a program specialist at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center.

In addition, Appalachian’s Transfer Student Services Committee addresses the special challenges of transfer students. The Transfer Articulation office helps students incorporate their academic credentials into their Appalachian coursework as seamlessly as possible.

Scan this QR code to hear his performance on YouTube at www.matthewweavermusic.com/html/performance041611.html

SERVICE-LEARNING: Creative writing students Derek Norton of Black Mountain, left, and Hunter Gordon of Winston-Salem share their love of writing with area children through a community service project called the Creative Writing Club for Kids. The club, organized by a senior seminar course in the Department of English, met weekly after school this spring at the Watauga County Public Library. The Appalachian students encouraged the children, helped them focus and often transcribed their stories and other creations. “I feel like it’s important to allow children the opportunity to learn how to write and where to begin,” said one student, April Dellinger of Statesville. “It’s good for us, too.”
Senior theatre student has plays honored at Kennedy Center festival

Senior theatre student Jonathan Fitts has written more than 20 plays, and three have received recognition by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF).

Fitts’ “The Pursuit of Mr. Rockefeller” is the 2010 recipient of the KCACTF David L. Shelton Full-Length Play Award. It was performed at the regional 2011 KCACTF at Daytona State College in Daytona, Fla. In addition, his two one-act plays, “Red Bug” and “The Last Drink of Quincy Wright,” were selected as two of the 2011 Festival’s One-Act Play Concert Readings. “Red Bug” also received the KCACTF Region IV One-Act Play Award.

Fitts’ passion for theatre began 13 years ago, when he started taking classes at a local theater in his hometown in New Hampshire at the age of 8. “I’ve acted, directed and designed, but my main focus is writing plays,” said Fitts.

The idea for “The Pursuit of Mr. Rockefeller” came from a newspaper article Fitts read in the summer of 2008. Based on a true story, “The Pursuit of Mr. Rockefeller” is about the investigation of Clark Rockefeller, a con artist convicted of a double homicide.

“It was a small article but I knew I wanted to research it,” said Fitts. “The play explores the epistemology of identity in post-modern America.”

“It’s been amazing,” Fitts said of the recognition his work has received. “Getting to develop, revise and work on ‘Rockefeller’ for a year after the 2010 regional KCACTF in Tennessee has been the best learning experience for me.”

After receiving his degree in theatre arts, Fitts plans to attend grad school for play writing. He hopes to continue writing, teach as a university professor and develop a new work that will help writers develop new ideas and new plays.

KCACTF is a national theatre program designed to improve the quality of theatre programs at colleges and universities in the United States.

Outdoor Programs wins national Polartec competition

Appalachian’s Outdoor Programs received a $10,000 cash prize and Polartec gear as winner of the Polartec Made Possible award. The competition was based on Facebook votes cast for the favorite video posted online by competing schools.

Outdoor Programs, part of the division of Student Development’s University Recreation office, is using the award to create a scholarship fund for students to pursue a variety of different outdoor adventure and education programs.

“In the end, we received 10,900 votes cast out of 23,000 total votes among four finalist schools, which is just incredible,” said Rich Campbell, associate director of University Recreation. “It is a tribute to the Mountaineer spirit we have at Appalachian and a testament to the value of outdoor adventure and education.”

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Junior Sara Mang reaches new heights on an Outdoor Programs climbing expedition.
SUSTAINABLE FARM: Students studying sustainable development use a nearby teaching and research farm to enhance classroom lessons about sustainable farming practices, environmental and resource economics, soil and pest management, and farm business management and marketing. They grow and sell in-season produce on campus and at the local farmers’ market. The farm is a project of the Goodnight Family Sustainable Development Program, which has been a thriving interdisciplinary academic and outreach program on campus for two decades.

Notable graduation

When music education major Jordan Michael Craig crossed the stage at Appalachian’s December 2010 commencement, he became the university’s 100,000th living alumnus. The ceremony also marked the first graduates of Appalachian’s new College of Health Sciences. U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin delivered the commencement address, urging graduates to remember to take care of themselves in terms of good health habits. “My vision for a healthy and fit nation is a change in the national conversation from a negative one about obesity and illness to a positive conversation about being healthy and being fit,” she told the graduates.

Pictured from left, Jordan Michael Craig cheers with his friends, Dr. Tim Harris of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders carries the College of Health Sciences banner, and Dr. Regina Benjamin addresses graduates. Also pictured are brothers James T. “Jim” Broyhill of Winston-Salem and Paul H. Broyhill of Lenoir, with former Board of Trustees chair Jeannine Underdown Collins, after receiving honorary degrees for their leadership and philanthropy. Also receiving an honorary degree for her leadership and philanthropy was Mary Elizabeth “Jerri” Heltzer, pictured with Chancellor Peacock.
2011 accolades

- The Princeton Review and USA TODAY teamed up to present “The Princeton Review Best Value Colleges for 2011.” They included Appalachian among the 50 select colleges and universities.


- Appalachian is listed 35th in Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s February list of the top-100 best values in public colleges.

- The Institute of International Education has recognized Appalachian as a top producer of Fulbright scholars within the institution’s Carnegie classification of master’s degree-granting universities. Appalachian has had 12 faculty Fulbright award recipients in the past 10 years.

Cycling moves up to Division I competition

Appalachian’s cycling team moved up to Division I in the Atlantic Coast Cycling Conference during the 2010-11 academic year, and already has won two conference championships and competed in nationals.

Team success and increased university enrollment were the reasons for the division change. “Prior to this season, the team captured several ACCC Division II titles but winning championships the first season in Division I is a huge accomplishment,” said Sean Weddell, the cycling team’s advisor and coach.

The team won its first ACCC conference championship in cyclo-cross in November and placed fourth overall at the USA Cycling Cyclocross Nationals in December, with Ashley James winning the national title in the collegiate women’s race. The team won its second ACCC conference championship in April, this time in road racing, and as of early May was headed to compete in road nationals.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more or visit www.appstatecycling.com

faculty kudos

- **DR. ELIZABETH MCGRADY**, Department of Nutrition and Health Care Management, received the 2010 American College of Healthcare Executives’ Service Award. It recognizes her contributions to healthcare service excellence through her volunteer service to the healthcare management profession, the community, and the ACHE organization.

- **DR. GERI MILLER**, Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling, received the 2010 N.C. Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies’ Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her exemplary leadership, dedication, and commitment to service and outstanding academic excellence in the addiction professional fields in North Carolina.

- **DR. DAN JONES**, Counseling and Psychological Services Center, is president-elect of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, which has 890 member institutions from the U.S. and other countries. Jones will serve as president-elect for one year, and then president for two years.

- **DR. MIRAL AL-TAHAWY**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, received the 2010 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature for her book “Brooklyn Heights.” The annual award recognizes the best contemporary novel published in Arabic, and is presented by the American University in Cairo Press. She was also one of 16 Arabic authors nominated for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, also known as the Arabic Booker Prize.

- **DR. JEFF MOTTER**, Department of Communication, received the National Communication Association’s Stephen E. Lucas Debut Publication Award. It recognizes contributions to the discipline by an author publishing his or her first scholarly book or monograph.

- **DR. PATRICIA BEAVER**, Center for Appalachian Studies, and **TOM HANSELL**, Appalachian Studies and University Documentary Film Services, were designated Appalachian Teaching Fellows by the Appalachian Regional Commission for the 2010-11 academic year. They are overseeing local efforts to implement a five-year public arts plan for the Elk Knob Community Heritage Organization and the Watauga County Arts Council.
American Red Cross honors campus as Sponsor of the Year

The American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region has recognized Appalachian as its College/University Sponsor of the Year. Sponsor of the Year winners are the highest collecting sponsors in the Carolinas Region in the categories of business, community, college and university and schools.

Since 2008, Appalachian has collected 1,000 or more pints of blood at its fall blood drive sponsored by ACT (Appalachian and the Community Together) and held on campus in conjunction with Homecoming. In addition to collecting more than 1,000 pints of blood, last year’s Homecoming blood drive included 330 first-time blood donors and 104 people registering to be a part of the National Bone Marrow Registry.

According to the American Red Cross, Appalachian’s accomplishments have inspired other colleges and universities in the state to increase their annual goals.

Residence halls reduce energy consumption by 5.4 percent

Appalachian reduced electricity usage by 5.4 percent in a three-week period during November 2010, ranking 12th out of 40 universities in the first-ever Campus Conservation Nationals competition.

Appalachian saved 32,063 kilowatt hours of electricity in the energy reduction competition, or roughly what three average-sized homes in the United States use in a single year. The university also averted 39,053 pounds of carbon, which saved the university $2,244. Cannon Hall was the most successful of the 20 residence halls on campus, with a 34.5 percent reduction in electricity usage.

Students’ sustainable practices in the competition included using natural daylight whenever possible, taking the stairs and using desk lamps rather than overhead lights. “I believe our students will continue to commit to these sustainable practices,” said Norman Smith, university program specialist for Housing and Residence Life. “They are very mindful and passionate about sustainability.”

Campus energy and water use are down

Appalachian decreased its energy use by 16 percent between 2003 and July 2010, and water use dropped 22 percent between 2007 and July 2010.

The reduction has been achieved in part through two major projects: The University Energy Savings Performance Contract with Pepco Energy Systems Inc., and federal stimulus grant funding applied to energy efficiency projects.

In this multi-year project, Appalachian contracted with Pepco Energy Systems Inc. for $5.4 million to improve energy efficiency in campus buildings. The investment is estimated to save Appalachian $600,000 per year.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the university secured more than $500,000 in grant funding. This was applied to energy efficiency projects in several residence halls, as well as Duncan Hall, I.G. Greer Hall, Sanford Hall and the Broyhill Mu-
In addition to these savings, the university has invested in green construction features to make new buildings LEED® certified as mandated by the Appalachian Board of Trustees. The university also has adopted “Green Cleaning” products and standards in all academic buildings.

New buildings and their features include:

The new Plemmons Student Union, now under construction, is set to achieve LEED® Gold certification by utilizing a solar hot water system, extensive day lighting spaces, sustainable forest wood products, high-efficiency window glazing and energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems.

The new Reich College of Education building, is set to achieve LEED® Silver certification. Sustainable features include a vegetated green roof area, use of low-flow plumbing fixtures, solar hot water, certified sustainable forest wood products, high-efficiency window glazing, and energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems.

The new AppalCart Transit building, located off the Highway 105 Bypass, is set to achieve LEED® Gold certification. Sustainable features include a rainwater catchment and reuse system, a solar hot water system, and foam insulation in office areas to improve energy efficiency.

The new Mountaineer Residence Hall, which will replace Mountaineer Apartments, is set to achieve LEED® Silver certification. Sustainable features include solar water heating, high-efficiency lighting, high-efficiency heat pumps and bike racks and access to a major bus route to encourage use of alternative transportation. All material from the demolition of Mountaineer Apartments was reutilized, reclaimed, recycled or reused.

The Beasley Broadcasting Complex at the corner of Depot and Rivers streets is targeting LEED® certification. Sustainable features include a rainwater catchment system, green vegetated roof, high-efficiency lighting, reuse of architectural features and high-efficiency heating and ventilation.

For more information on Appalachian’s energy savings initiatives, view the university’s Sustainability Yearbook at sustain.appstate.edu.

Or, scan this QR Code with your smartphone.
Student addresses domestic violence in documentary

As a professional advocate for battered women in North Carolina for 25 years, Kit Gruelle has helped domestic violence victims tap into their unrealized strengths and become survivors. It’s a profession she loves. Now, she is working to reach a broader group about the misperceptions of domestic violence by producing a documentary film called “Private Violence” that includes interviews with Vice President Joe Biden and activist Gloria Steinem.

“Over the years I have seen from all different angles how much people don’t understand domestic violence. There are a lot of stereotypes attached to violence against women,” said Gruelle, who lives in Wilkes County and is working on a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She plans to graduate in 2012.

A survivor of an abusive relationship, Gruelle has lectured throughout the United States as a community educator to law enforcement, clergy and healthcare professionals. She also has helped write training curricula for professionals who work with domestic violence cases.

“Private Violence” was first produced as a 20-minute educational video about two years ago. It’s now being expanded into an empowering, full-length documentary with support from Steinem and others.

Attempting college in her mid-50s, while still active in the battered women movement, has required Gruelle to tap into unrealized strengths of her own. “I came here timid and afraid, but I came to realize that I had a level of understanding about things outside of the textbook. The professors have been amazing because they really want someone accurately reflecting what’s happening on the streets. I’ve finally come to feel like I can do this.

“I just love Appalachian. Now that I’ve had this experience, I want to say to others, ‘Go for it. It doesn’t matter how old you are,’” she said.

HANDS-ON LEARNING: At Appalachian’s Lucy Brock Child Development Center, the children learn about nutrition and green living practices. Sustainable development interns like Erin Myers, pictured here, work with the children to grow organic vegetables, which the center serves along with local foods for snacks and lunches.

Administrative changes

Jeff Lowrance has been named Appalachian’s director of communications. He is responsible for strategic communication and crisis communication, and oversees University News. He was previously director of college relations at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

Dr. Sandra B. Lubarsky is the new director of the sustainable development program, housed in University College. Lubarsky founded the master’s degree program in sustainable communities at Northern Arizona University, a program the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs called “one of the most well implemented programs in the country.”

Also in University College, Dr. Donna Lillian has been named director of the women’s studies program. She previously was associate professor of discourse and linguistics and associate chair in the Department of English at East Carolina University.

Diana Salazar has been named director of International Student and Scholar Services within the Office of International Education and Development. A former immigration attorney, she previously worked as the assistant director of faculty services and as an international scholar specialist at the University of California San Francisco.

student kudos

Kit Gruelle

HANDS-ON LEARNING: At Appalachian's Lucy Brock Child Development Center, the children learn about nutrition and green living practices. Sustainable development interns like Erin Myers, pictured here, work with the children to grow organic vegetables, which the center serves along with local foods for snacks and lunches.
Alumnus shares Appalachian’s Commitment to Sustainability

By Jeff Lowrance

You never know where a dinner conversation might take you. For Appalachian State University Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock, a discussion with a participant in Appalachian’s 2010 Martha Guy Summer Institute for Future Business Leaders resulted in a rooftop trip to nearby Weaverville, N.C., where an alumnus shares the university’s strategic focus on sustainability.

The Martha Guy Summer Institute brings a select group of rising high school seniors to campus each summer to learn about business and develop leadership and professional skills. The participants spend two weeks at Appalachian followed by a trip to Washington and New York City. A gift from Martha Guy, who served 60 years as president of Avery County Bank, has funded 75 percent of the cost of the program since its inception in 2004.

Every year the Martha Guy participants are invited to dinner at Appalachian House, where they meet the Chancellor and Mrs. Peacock, as well as leaders in the Walker College of Business, including Dr. Randy Edwards, dean.

At the 2010 chancellor’s dinner, Henry Nagle, the son of Appalachian alumnus Andrew Nagle ‘87, sat next to Chancellor Peacock and discussed the Nagles’ family business, Conrad Industries Inc., of which Andrew is executive vice president. Conrad Industries is an international company with operations in the U.S., China and Mexico. In Weaverville, Conrad operates as AB Emblem, a designer and manufacturer of embroidered emblems and patches.

Henry, having just learned about Appalachian’s emphasis on sustainability, invited Chancellor Peacock to see the AB Emblem manufacturing facility, where his father was leading efforts to have solar panels installed on the 60,000-square-foot building’s roof.

“We’re actually renting our roof space to SunEnergy1 of Charlotte, a company that provides turnkey solar solutions,” Andrew explained. “Through a chamber of commerce connection, we learned they were in search of a large roof space to demonstrate their solar panels. We had wanted to install solar panels for some time, so the partnership made sense.”

The 1,280 solar panels, 3-feet-by-5-feet in size and covering 19,200 square-feet in space, are collecting energy from the sun, which is then sent to the Progress Energy power grid. Progress Energy pays SunEnergy1 for each kilowatt of power sent to the grid. After 20 years, AB Emblem will own the solar panels and will collect the power for its manufacturing needs. Any power collected over the amount needed by the company will be directed to the grid.

The panels have a lifespan of at least 40 years, according to the manufacturer. The AB Emblem system of solar panels is one of the largest in North Carolina.

“Chancellor Peacock accepted Henry’s invitation and came to Weaverville while the panels were being installed,” Andrew said. “It was a hot August day, but the Chancellor climbed up a scaffold onto the roof and saw the process first-hand. We all had a good time.”

With the panels in place and collecting energy, Andrew now plans to make the roof an educational opportunity for local schools.

“The next step of the process will be to build a permanent set of stairs and a viewing platform so school kids can come and see and learn about sustainability and making facilities more than just energy consumers,” Andrew said.

The Nagles’ connection to Appalachian will continue and be strengthened though the experience. Andrew reports that Henry had a great time as a Martha Guy Summer Institute participant.

“Henry just fell in love with Appalachian,” Andrew said. “The Martha Guy program is fantastic. It made me proud as an alumnus and a father that the university offers such a program, where kids who know they have interest in business can come and meet people such as the chancellor and dean and be encouraged by them.

“The experience sold Henry on Appalachian completely. He applied as soon as the application period opened, with no prompting from me. It was his decision. We were all thrilled when he received word he had been accepted,” Andrew said.

Henry Nagle will start classes at Appalachian in August 2011.

For more information about the Martha Guy Summer Institute for Future Business Leaders, scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit business.appstate.edu/marthaguy
Women’s Basketball – Another Stellar Season

Appalachian’s women’s basketball capped off another stellar season under third-year head coach Darcie Vincent.

The 2010-11 campaign saw the Black and Gold post a 25-7 mark, a school record in wins, and go 17-3 in Southern Conference action, also a school record for conference victories. As if breaking program records wasn’t enough, the Mountaineers achieved a major milestone by capturing their first regular season Southern Conference title since 1995-96.

Throughout the season, Appalachian posted an 18-game home winning streak that lasted from Jan. 11, 2010, until Feb. 21, 2011, and the squad also tied the longest winning streak in program history with 12 straight games.

In a season of numerous accomplishments, Vincent earned her 300th career victory on Nov. 22, when Appalachian beat Gardner-Webb, and led the Mountaineers to their first win over an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent since 2004, when the squad beat Wake Forest 64-57 on Dec. 29.

For Vincent’s efforts and the entire team’s season performances, Vincent was named the SoCon Coach of the Year for the second year in a row, and three Mountaineers picked up all-conference accolades. Ashlen Dewart, Anna Freeman and Sam Ramirez were all named to the all-SoCon team. Freeman was also tabbed the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year, and Ramirez became just the fourth player and first true guard in program history to be named the SoCon Player of the Year.

The Mountaineers took their strong play all the way into the SoCon Tournament championship game before falling just short to Samford, suffering a three-point loss to the Bulldogs, to become the SoCon tournament runner-up.

Despite the defeat, for the first time since 1987 Appalachian earned a Women’s National Invitation Tournament bid and played South Carolina in the opening round. Appalachian suffered a 67-54 defeat to the Gamecocks to close out the season.

With plenty of talent, Appalachian returns four starters to the fold for the 2011-12 season.
The installation of new turf to replace the 8-year-old playing surface at Kidd Brewer Stadium is underway and will be complete in plenty of time for preseason football practice. “The Rock” is one of the first venues in the nation to feature FieldTurf’s new “Revolution” playing surface to give the Mountaineers the most durable and player-friendly field currently available.

The new field design features Appalachian’s familiar block A logo at midfield, the recognizable Appalachian football wordmark in both end zones, and alternating shades of green every five yards to give the synthetic surface the look of freshly mowed grass.

The project includes leveling the field’s crown and replacing the high-jump pit that currently sits beyond the south end zone. The pit will be moved to the other end of the field to allow for the installation of additional stadium seating in the north end zone in front of Owens Field House.
Evolution of a land trust

The formation of the Watauga Land Trust (WLT) in 1994 was the group’s crowning achievement. Its growth and evolution over the past 17 years has ensured the protection and continual preservation of thousands of acres of land in the High Country.

“When development skyrocketing in the mountains, we knew we needed to act quickly to protect the region’s environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources,” said Jeffrey Scott ’98 ’02, one of the founders of the trust and its first president.

“It was a fascinating time, when students, local citizens and business leaders came together to help save an iconic resource,” he said. “It was also a time when the land conservation movement was gaining steam nationally. We were part of the growing statewide movement.”

In 1997, the trust became the High Country Conservancy (HCC) to reflect inclusion of Ashe and Avery counties, and to achieve the goal of preserving land as envisioned by the founders.

Last May, the organization merged with the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust based in West Jefferson to create the Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC), adding Alleghany, Mitchell, Wilkes and Yancey counties to its jurisdiction. The merger represents a collective history of protecting more than 15,000 acres in Northwestern North Carolina.

“Our mission is to preserve natural spaces and resources that make our region unique — endangered plants, habitats we absolutely cannot lose, the vistas that when people come up the mountain and see them they know they’re in the High Country,” said Michelle Merritt Leonard, first president of the HCC, and former board member of the WLT.

Leonard and Bob Cherry ’01, a resource management specialist with the Blue Ridge Parkway who was also a WLT board member, credit Scott and Joey Henson ’90 as the motivating force behind the land conservation movement in the High Country.

“Jeffrey and Joey did the hard part. They got the 501(C)(3) status and motivated the rest of us to take action,” Leonard said.

“They were a bunch of energized college kids trying to protect a favorite rock climbing site,” Cherry said of Scott, Henson and the other students who founded the WLT.

“Jeffrey and Joey had the passion and vision to get things started. Their efforts laid the foundation for the High Country Conservancy and the Blue Ridge Conservancy,” he said. Cherry continues to serve as a board member with the BRC.

Appalachian students in action

Along with Scott, Debi Golembieski ’99 and Jim Horton ’93 were key founders of the WLT. Today, they reflect on how their efforts to “Save...
Howard’s Knob shaped their lives in ways they could not have imagined nearly 20 years ago.

Building the road by walking - Jeffrey Scott

On July 14, 1995, as bulldozers began razing the approximately 75 acres above Boone known as Howard’s Knob, Scott was hanging upside down from a tree on the property in protest.

That dramatic moment serves as a backdrop for Scott’s future as an environmental activist and steward: from 1999-05 he served as executive director of the National Committee for the New River; from 2004-05 he chaired North Carolina’s Land Trust Council; in 2006 he founded Frontline Conservation Real Estate in Boone.

Scott is currently on staff with Heifer International, working to build local and regional food systems in Appalachia.

J.S. - We were passionate about Howard’s Knob, and not just because it was a recreation destination for so many of us. It was—and still is—a significant natural resource. Ten acres of superb rock formations were slated for about 40 home sites. The knob is still not protected from development, but I’m hopeful that someday we’ll be able to change that.

The day the bulldozers showed up we had about 500 people marching through downtown Boone. We tried to get media coverage so more people would be aware of the plight of the knob. Our campaign brought in about $10,000 that day.

We ran the Friends of the Knob campaign on T-shirt sales. There was a lot of good effort both on and off campus to raise money to actually purchase the knob. Appalachian students really rallied.

Later, when I was working on my master’s in geography and planning it became apparent how important it is to protect large contiguous parcels of land.

Ecologically things aren’t as they appear on a tax parcel. You have to look at the larger landscape to understand the impact of residential development on native plants, geological features such as water, and keystone species like bears and mountain lions. It’s all connected. If you focus on preserving just one tract of land the eco-system...
Passionate alumni leave a conservation legacy

it's part of will suffer because everything around it has been fragmented.

Looking back I can see that our efforts to save Howard's Knob were stepping-stones to what I'm doing today. As a social entrepreneur, I'm involved in businesses that take risks to solve society's problems. Sitting back and waiting for a solution is not an option for me.

It all goes back to those early days of organizing; you build the road by walking.

Setting a “green” example for businesses - Debi Golembieski

As president of the group SAVE (Students Actively Volunteering for the Environment), Golembieski was already practicing what she believed in when Scott and other Appalachian students began rallying around the Howard's Knob effort.

Her activism and concern for the environment became one with her lifestyle. In addition to being a key founder of the Watauga Land Trust, and serving on the HCC's board of directors for seven years and the staff for two, Golembieski worked for the National Committee for the New River from 2000-01.

In 2007, she became co-owner of Green Mother Goods in Boone, which she describes as a “triple bottom-line business.”

D.G. - This means we consider the societal and environmental impacts of our products. We want our store to be an example of how businesses can make a positive impact on the world and still make a profit.

When I was working with the Howard's Knob effort and helping to found the Watauga Land Trust, I matured a lot in my activism. That experience helped me grow and evolve into who I am today—personally and professionally.

It takes a different mindset to establish a conservancy as opposed to a student group. We learned to work at finding solutions that were win-win for everyone, versus debating who's right.

SAVE was very active on campus back then. We campaigned for recycling, organized Earth Day festivals, did some political work. We knew how to attract attention and get the word out.

Jeffrey and Joey approached us about helping with the Howard's Knob campaign and we all joined forces.

Working to protect the knob taught me that preserving the environment shouldn't be a fight. It shouldn't be an "us against them" battle. Environmental and economic sustainability have to go hand in hand.

Since tourism is a driving force of our economy, it's in everybody's interest to protect the scenic beauty of the High Country. People come here to enjoy that beauty. If we destroy it, we destroy what sustains our community.

Getting his hands dirty for the things he loves - Jim Horton

An avid rock climber, Horton built his chops for the sport on the boulders of Howard's Knob— before class, between classes, and as the sun set over Boone.

As a student, Horton developed the "Save Howard's Knob" graphics used in signage, t-shirts and bumper stickers. Today, he is the owner of Horton Design, a graphic design company in Wilkesboro. He also manages the largest rock-climbing event in the country: the Triple Crown Bouldering Series. The event developed out of a fundraising effort Horton founded in 1994 to help save Howard's Knob.

J.H. - I have a passion for climbing and the fellowship it brings that developed at the knob. It was a special time with friends up there. When they took it over for development, it was hard to accept that coming to an end.

I started the Hound Ears climbing competition in hopes of raising money to buy the knob. That experience motivated me to help purchase, lease and maintain climbing areas for the public.

Having access to natural environments to escape the four walls of your life now and then is huge.

The Triple Crown is currently the major fundraiser for the Southeastern Climbers Coalition and the Carolina Climbers Coalition. They purchase a lot of climbing areas in the Southeast. We typically raise about $50,000 for them every year.

The event still takes place at Hound Ears, and has grown to include a competition in both Alabama and Tennessee. It has become a large part of my identity.

Coming together to try and save the knob opened my eyes to the reality of the world. I know I wouldn't be where I am now if that hadn't happened.

There are times you have to get your hands dirty if you want to continue to enjoy the things you’re passionate about.

“"The Appalachian campus is a powerful engine for motivating people in this community to take action for things they’re passionate about— like the start of the Blue Ridge Conservancy. People don’t associate that organization with students at Appalachian, but they were the force that made it happen.”

– Michelle Merritt Leonard, fundraising chair of the Blue Ridge Conservancy and the first president of the High Country Conservancy
Student Kudos

Graduate student Kimberly Fairbrother and a classmate demonstrate use of the Zeo Inc. Personal Sleep Coach, a light-weight wireless headband attached to a bed-side display with online analytical tools that monitor wakefulness, REM cycles, and depth of sleep periods throughout the night.

Graduate student receives equipment for sleep study

Second-year graduate student Kimberly Fairbrother received $3,000 in equipment from Zeo Inc., to assist her thesis research into how the time of day of exercise affects a person’s sleeping habits.

The grant provided Fairbrother with 10 of the company’s Personal Sleep Coach units to monitor sleeping behavior. Zeo Inc., is dedicated to helping people learn how they sleep through the night.

“We know sleep is healthy and exercise is healthy,” said Fairbrother, who graduated in May with a master’s degree from the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science in the College of Health Sciences. “We also know exercise helps people sleep better. What we’re looking for is the optimal time of day to exercise so that people will sleep better.”

Fairbrother, a native of Vestal, N.Y., who hopes to become a physician assistant, studied people between the ages of 30 and 60 with no reported sleep disorders. Subjects visited Appalachian’s Vascular Biology and Autonomic Studies lab four times, once for a physical activity/health questionnaire and three visits at random times of day for personal exercise protocols. After each exercise visit, subjects wore a blood pressure monitor for the next 24 hours.

Inactivity and obesity

Appalachian’s Institute for Health and Human Services has received a $99,000 grant to better understand and prevent chronic diseases related to physical inactivity and obesity, and better understand health risks of adolescents.

The project is funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It supports partnerships among community health practitioners, schools, agencies concerned with promoting physical activity, district health department representatives and Appalachian.

Activities include the promotion of lifelong skills through programs such as Girls on the Run, a physical activity resource loan library, a youth risk behavior survey, and strategic planning support for disease management for the underinsured.

Surveying purchasing patterns

Appalachian’s Center for Entrepreneurship is gathering data about consumer purchasing patterns in Northwestern North Carolina through an online survey funded by a Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant.

Results will be open to the public, and will be useful for economic development entities, entrepreneurs and the region at large.

“We hope to create a list of business opportunities entrepreneurs can take advantage of,” said Lisa Redman, external programs officer with the entrepreneurship center. “For example, there may not be a big enough market in one town to create a particular business, but through this survey we may realize that there is a big enough market demand in three adjoining counties to start that particular business.”
Biologist uses goldenrod to study how plants and insects interact

While some consider it a weed or simply a nuisance, biology professor Dr. Ray S. Williams is growing goldenrod to better understand the role plant genetic variation plays with insects that associate with it.

This spring, he is relocating about 1,200 goldenrod plants grown in the Department of Biology’s greenhouse to the Gilley Field Station. The 300-acre tract of land is within 20 minutes of Appalachian’s main campus, making it a valuable location for a biology research and education lab. The land was given to the university in the late 1990s by alumnus Robert F. Gilley ’57.

“It’s an ideal, natural, undisturbed setting,” Williams said of the field station. “It’s been used as a site for collecting insects and mushrooms and for field lectures and labs. The property is a real treasure for research.” He developed this research project specifically for the property.

“Insect communities are structured by the plant community which they live on and in,” Williams said. “When you have an area with a dominant old-field plant like goldenrod, that greatly influences associated insect communities. This matters because insects are the most diverse terrestrial animals, so understanding how the community is structured helps us better understand the earth’s biodiversity.”

Goldenrod differs genetically across the species. For instance, two patches of goldenrod located within a couple hundred feet of each other can be genetically different. “There is a real interest right now within ecology in community genetics– why does genetic diversity matter?” Williams said.

He and his students will plant a variety of genetically varying goldenrod plants collected from different elevations to conduct a long-term genetic study of the plant to investigate how variation in genotype and location within the native goldenrod species, S. altissima, affect the insect community currently inhabiting the Gilley research site. A key focus of this research will be to measure levels of the plants’ defensive chemicals, in an effort to explain why some insects seem to prefer genotypes at certain locations over others.

Being able to conduct long-term research in an area that will remain undisturbed provides a better snapshot of what is really occurring there, Williams said. “Short-term studies just don’t provide enough information for researchers. As ecologists, we know that the world is not static; it changes constantly.”

Also at Gilley Field Station…

Assistant professor of biology Dr. Mike Madritch will monitor sections of Appalachian’s Gilley Field Station for a long-term study of forest dynamics, including how climate disturbances, such as ice storms, affect a forest. “Having this facility is invaluable to understanding how forests change over time,” he said.

“We will track the species on the property, how fast they grow and how that changes with differing soils, elevation changes, storms or insect outbreaks,” he said. He also will look at whether diverse forest stands store more carbon, and whether they respond differently to environmental variations.

Madritch’s research focuses on linking population and community process with ecosystem functions. He studies how global changes including loss of biodiversity, shifts in atmospheric chemistry and spread of invasive species influence critical ecosystem services.

Scientists need beachgoers’ help in tracking jellyfish along the North Carolina coast

A new website developed by scientists at Appalachian State University – www.jellyfish.appstate.edu – allows beachgoers and others to track jellyfish sightings along the North Carolina coast. Data provided by “citizen scientists” will help add to scientists’ understanding of when, where and why jellyfish show up.

More and more jellyfish are being seen along the coast, affecting the state’s seafood industry, according to biology professor Dr. Vicki Martin. She created the site with research operations manager Monique Eckerd and web specialists at the university.

“Changing conditions within our ocean, including increased acidity and water temperatures, is killing some organisms but not jellyfish,” Martin said. “They are thriving in these conditions.”

On the website, individuals can log information about the type of jellyfish observed, as well as date, time and weather and water conditions. Spotters can also record the size of the jellyfish, which can range from smaller than a dime to larger than a beach ball. The site also contains pictorial descriptions of eight species of jellyfish common to the N.C. coast.
Do Disney movies promote ‘beauty-is-good’ stereotype?

In a study recently published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology, Appalachian researchers shared that a “beauty-is-good” bias is already present in children as young as 6 years old.

The paper, “Do animated Disney characters portray and promote the beauty-goodness stereotype?” was authored by Appalachian psychology professors Dr. Doris Bazzini, Dr. Lisa Curtin and Dr. Denise Martz.

Researchers selected Disney films that had a beauty-goodness stereotype and also ones that did not, and then showed them all to a group of children ages 6 to 12. The children were then shown photographs of other children and asked to state which ones they would most like to be friends with.

“Regardless of which movie was viewed, children expressed a preference for an attractive child as a friend (78 percent) over an unattractive child (22 percent). Thirty-six percent of the sample of children did not show a preference for either target. In no case did the movie type significantly alter friendship choice,” the journal authors wrote.

“This indicates that the beauty-is-good bias is already present in children, even in children as young as 6,” Bazzini said. “The preference to become friends with an attractive peer did not seem to become more prevalent when the children viewed the high-bias film,” she said.

Special counseling center helps teens in rural areas

Mental health services in rural areas often are limited, especially for children and adolescents. Students encounter many barriers to receiving adequate mental health treatment, including access, transportation and finances.

Appalachian’s Institute for Health and Human Services (IHHS), Watauga High School and area mental health providers have been working together to overcome these barriers, and provide treatment to students with unmet behavioral and psychological needs. Since 2006, they have operated the Assessment, Support and Counseling (ASC) Center at Watauga High School.

The center’s success has been noted in medical and mental health journals since its inception, including North Carolina Medical Journal, Advances in School Mental Health Promotion and The Community Psychologist. This spring, a description of its services appears in The Handbook of Culturally Responsive School Mental Health: Advancing Research, Training, Practice and Policy.

The ASC Center serves 75-150 students annually and has received positive feedback from parents and students. Services include consultation/education with faculty and administration regarding mental health issues, individual psychotherapy, family therapy, crisis intervention, assessment and diagnosis and group therapy.

Twelve people now work in the center, ranging from undergraduate research assistants to practicum students to a full-time master’s level clinical social worker.

“The most common reason students say they like the ASC Center is that people listened and they felt heard,” said Dr. Kurt Michael, professor of psychology and former director of clinical services at IHSS. “Our graduate students are closer in age to the high school students and can relate better, but they also provide effective help under the supervision of school professionals and licensed faculty members.”

NSF-funded mentorship

A $257,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program will fund a 10-week summer research program in the Department of Chemistry. The three-year grant period begins this summer.

Each year, 10 undergraduate chemistry students will be paired with a faculty mentor. Participants will be recruited from the rural Appalachia region, as well as from Winston-Salem State University, UNC Pembroke, N.C. A&T and Appalachian. Students selected for the program will receive a $5,000 stipend and a tablet PC.

“Students can learn in the classroom, in the lecture hall and the lab, but when a student is paired with a faculty mentor, they approach new tasks more fearlessly,” said Dr. Nicole Bennett, associate professor of chemistry and the director of the program.
Shining a national spotlight on Appalachian

Students set standards for zero-energy home design and prepare for a trip to the nation’s capitol

By Leila Jackson

David Lee, Chelsea Royall, Dr. Jamie Russell and Katharine Lea work on the mock-up house, dubbed “The Franken-trailer,” to figure out solutions for the Solar Homestead. This practice facility is used to test the architecture, design and functionality of the shower, skylight, lighting, wall finishes, exterior corners and other details.
It's a sunny springtime Friday in Boone, and the headquarters of Appalachian State University's Solar Homestead is humming with activity. Hardhat in hand, graduate student and Communications Manager David Lee heads back to the work area to check on the day's progress and set up another round of press interviews. "It's such an honor to be chosen to compete. We really want to make the school and the community proud," he said.

An honor indeed. Of all the institutions worldwide submitting proposals and designs for consideration in the 2011 U.S. Department of Energy-presented Solar Decathlon, just 20 were chosen for competition. Appalachian is the lone representative from North Carolina. The 2011 version of the biennial contest will take place this fall in the National Mall's West Potomac Park in Washington, D.C., where the zero-energy houses will be judged on 10 specific criteria, including affordability, communications and architecture.

"As a political science and sustainable development major, I am thrilled Appalachian is involved with a government-sponsored renewable energy project," says decathlete Caitlin Stepp, a senior from Hendersonville. "It shows a commitment to fostering innovation and promoting a cleaner future through student-led initiatives."

According to the Department of Energy, the purpose of the Solar Decathlon is fourfold: to educate the public about opportunities for energy-efficient construction, provide students with a unique experience that will make them the future leaders in a clean-energy economy, encourage cooperation between disciplines on the teams and showcase a "whole-home," integrated approach to new building design and construction.

These goals are echoed by Lee, who is earning a master's degree in appropriate technology while working on this project. "We hope to educate the public about the benefits, ease and importance of energy-efficient design. That awareness will hopefully influence legislation to change, removing barriers to North Carolina's economic growth."

Being green is nothing new at Appalachian, whose sustainable development and appropriate technology programs dating back to the 1970s are recognized as being among the nation's oldest. "Appalachian has been a leader in efficient building techniques and renewable energy technologies for years," states Bret Sowers, market coordinator and building science major. "We are passionate about what we do, and use that passion to drive innovation. Any alumnus of the university can tell you that Appalachian pride and spirit run deep."

And the decades of commitment are paying off: in 2010 Appalachian was named a Sierra Club magazine "Cool School" for efforts in sustainability and environmental responsibility. In the
princeton review’s 2011 “guide to green Colleges,” appalachian scored an impressive 98 out of a possible 99 points based on environmentally related policies, practices and academic offerings.

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“Appalachia has a rich tradition of self-sufficiency and pioneering spirit,” says Architectural Project Manager Katharine Lea, a graduate student in the Department of Technology and Environmental Science. “What better place to draw inspiration from than that?”

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“Building a house that is mobile is a difficult task in itself,” he says with a laugh as he looks at the skeleton of the building, currently housed in a repurposed car dealership in Boone. “The house, OM’s and flex space will all be built on trailers that will serve as the foundation system for the structure itself. Each trailer has been approved by our structural engineer and will serve as the framing system that would typically make up the floor/foundation of a home. We felt that it would be easier to pull our house, OM’s and flex space into position on the trailer, level the trailer with foundation jacks and then leave the structure as-is.”

Transportation is just one more test to pass, one more milestone in the ambitious timeline of the Solar Homestead, but McKenzie is undaunted. “Maintaining the balance between organization and chaos for this project is a thrilling challenge that keeps things interesting.”

Lowe’s helps build solar homestead

The generosity of Lowe’s Companies Inc., and the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation is helping Appalachian students remain competitive in the Department of Energy’s international Solar Decathlon competition.

Together they have given $350,000 and an additional gift of tools valued at $25,000 to assist in building Appalachian’s Solar Homestead.

“Many thanks to Lowe’s and the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation,” said Appalachian Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. “This project showcases higher education and community support at its absolute best. This is what we can do in Western North Carolina when we work together.”

For a full list of donors that have supported our students in this project, visit www.thesolarhomestead.com.

Ten to remember
Since Appalachian’s Solar Decathlon project has been a multi-year effort. Here is a list of the original members who got the initiative rolling during the Fall 2009 semester.

Chad Everhart, faculty advisor
Dr. Jamie Russell, faculty advisor

Jacob Herrin ’10
Nick Hurst ’10
Casey King ’10
Ethan Labowitz
Katharine Lea, project architect
David Lee, communications manager
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Construction team members Michael Germano and Joe Armstrong work on the Solar Homestead.

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When it came time to find a space large enough to accommodate the project, the team found an unequalled ally in Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock, described affectionately yet reverently by the group as their “No. 1 fan.” When Chancellor Peacock heard the team had been selected to compete, he enlisted support from property owners Dale and James Greene, who provided a suitable location to build the house. The Chancellor also assisted Lee and Faculty Advisor Dr. James Russell in securing a major sponsorship from Lowe’s Home Improvement (see sidebar page 25).

“The Solar Homestead is a shining example of Appalachian’s academic excellence, commitment to sustainability and entrepreneurial spirit,” states Chancellor Peacock. “Students from multiple disciplines have formed a cohesive and intellectually adventurous team whose work will continue to showcase our university as a place where the next great generation of leaders are already creating solutions that make a difference in the world.”

“The chancellor has been incredibly supportive– he rented us a facility devoted to our needs, and has provided resources to help us be successful. He compares the importance of this project to the Michigan football win for putting Boone on map,” says Lee. “The administration recognizes the Solar Decathlon as meaning a lot– not only for highlighting the sustainable movement on campus, but also aligning with the key goals for the university as set out by the Board of Trustees.”

Further support from campus has come in the form of money from the student-led Renewable Energy Initiative (REI). As publicity and excitement about the project have grown, the surrounding community has provided financial backing as well.

“The Boone area merchants have been so supportive,” says Lee, taking a break from testing light diffusers in “Frankenstein,” the test house used by the team to work through design challenges. “We’ve had donations for everything from paint to plumbing fixtures to model-making supplies. It’s really been wonderful and overwhelming.”

Support has come from the surrounding region as well, and takes many forms. When a storm at Asheville’s Biltmore Estate felled several large trees, Biltmore, which manages the country’s first sustainable forestry program, milled them and provided the boards to the Solar Homestead team. Now, Appalachian’s newest home will proudly showcase fine hardwood flooring from the forests of America’s largest home.

The latest partner in the project is the local, member-owned utility company Blue Ridge Electric, which hopes that the students’ current research will generate ideas that could translate into cost and energy savings for its members and others.

Diversification is Appalachian’s key strategy for success in the competition. The team includes almost 60 members, ranging from undergraduates looking for real-world, field experience before graduation to architects and builders pursing master’s degrees who have signed on for the excitement and challenge of building a zero-energy home. The group is split into four categories, each bringing specialty disciplines to the table: Architecture/Design, Construction/Project Management, Engineering and Communication.

“Our team itself is diverse in its members and that provides us with multiple vantage points from which to consider problems. Versatility is a great benefit,” says Social Media Correspondent Katie Watson.

In a field that includes single projects from groups of institutions such as “Team Florida,” which is comprised of four different schools, Appalachian represents the lone entry without an engineering or architectural program.

“Oddly enough, I think our lack of engineering and architectural programs here strengthen our school’s entry,” explains Stepp, who serves as media coordinator. McKenzie agrees: “The wide variety of disciplines offered by Appalachian affords our team an advantage over other universities. The diversity within the team keeps the project from being heavily weighted to one concentration.”

In the common area of the Solar Homestead building there is a dry erase board, visible to anyone entering or exiting. It says simply, “Days to Go,” accompanied by an ever-dwindling number. It’s only a few short months until the team packs up and heads to Washington with their goal of wowing the judges and, more importantly, educating a sometimes skeptical public about the bright future of renewable energy and efficient design. There are, literally and figuratively, many miles to go before they invite the world to sit a spell on the porch of the Solar Homestead, but they are already well into the journey, and all the late nights and tireless work it entails.

McKenzie puts it this way: “We want the satisfaction of helping Appalachian win this competition and showing the world what we can do up here. We’re going to put Boone on the map. Again.”

Learn more at www.thesolarhomestead.blogspot.com
“Sustainability” is defined differently across academic disciplines, but at its heart it encompasses the notion of pursuing practices that allow for the renewal and preservation of our limited resources.

As a basis for business management models, sustainability concepts such as the “triple bottom line” (measuring firm performance in terms of profits, people, and planet) are gaining increased acceptance. Sustainability cuts across business functions and manifests itself in many areas, including environmental economics, social entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility and environmental accounting.

The Walker College of Business intentionally seeks to educate its students in sustainable management practices, and leads short-term study abroad programs to Brazil as part of this effort.

A steward of much of the world’s rainforest with a commitment to sustainable development, Brazil serves as an excellent location for collaborating on sustainability initiatives. Brazil’s economic growth suggests it also will be an important consideration in the future careers of our business graduates.

As sustainability is cross-disciplinary in nature, our trips to Brazil have included participants from other areas of the university. The latest trip included participants from Appalachian’s Energy Center, Department of Biology, and appropriate technology program, as well as MBA and undergraduate business students.

In 2010, Appalachian was awarded a multi-year grant by the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) to promote international collaboration in sustainability-centered education with three partner universities in Brazil. Appalachian’s partnership with our Brazilian colleagues allows for a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas and resources.
Our students spent time with students at the University of Fortaleza working on a social responsibility training project for corporate agents in local firms.

On visits to indigenous communities along the Rio Negro (Black River), the group discussed deforestation issues, planted trees and helped clear plots for sustainable gardening. Along with engaging in impromptu soccer games, fishing for piranhas, and swimming with freshwater dolphins, the group also examined Brazilian renewable energy efforts by visiting a wind farm along Brazil’s northeastern coast.

In the State of Ceará, we visited the industrial city of Maracanaú, where the mayor signed a formal agreement of intent with Appalachian’s Energy Center to form a community-based landfill project. Funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Global Methane Initiative, the project will capture methane gas generated from decomposing garbage in the landfill and convert it to electricity, fueling economic and community development for Maracanaú. The partnership between Appalachian and city of Maracanaú will create a valuable source of energy, and will also create jobs in the recycling industry.

Clockwise from top: • Appalachian students visit with children in a home along the banks of the Rio Negro. • Students swim with the Botos, or pink fresh water dolphins. • Here, students prepare to plant acai trees in Nossa Senhora de Fatima. • A spider monkey finds an Appalachian ball cap the perfect perch. • Appalachian students remove discarded batteries, aerosol cans and other toxic items from the jungle floor in the village of Terra Preta.
While visiting the University of Fortaleza, International Program Coordinator Meredith Church and Adam Nagle, a management and international business student, take an up-close look at Brazilian photographer Vik Muniz’s portrait of a catador made out of garbage. Muniz’s enormous art project was chronicled in the movie “Waste Land,” which the Appalachian students watched prior to visiting Brazil.

Chris Reddeck, an MBA student in the Walker College of Business, tours a wind turbine project during a visit to Tractebel Energia’s wind farm in Beberibe, Brazil.

Working alongside vultures, locals known as catadora glean recyclables from heaped garbage at the Maracanau landfill as their way to make a living.
University benefactor Irwin “Ike” Belk

By Jane Nicholson

Carol Grotnes Belk Library and Information Commons, Belk Residence Hall, Anne Belk Hall, Ike Belk Track.

The Belk family name is as much a part of Appalachian State University as the students who fill Sanford Mall in the spring.

University benefactor Irwin “Ike” Belk revels in enhancing Appalachian—through his donations of sculptures, support of the library, and donations funding endowed professorships.

Belk is the son of the late W.H. Belk, who founded the New York Racket department store in Monroe in 1888, which is now Belk Inc., with store locations in 17 states across the South. He stepped down as president of Belk Finance Company and as an officer and director of the Belk Group in 1996.

Education was important to his parents. “My mother was a teacher,” he said. “Helping higher education has always been my objective. If you don’t educate this generation, you won’t have much of a future.”

Belk has endowed three professorships at Appalachian: Anne Belk Distinguished Professorship, which provides funds that support the research and community outreach of the W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection Librarian; the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professorship for Library and Informational Studies, the first professorship for a library within the UNC system; and the Daniel B. German Professorship in Political Science.

“The quality of a university lies within the quality of its faculty,” Belk said. “The state program that matches private contributions to create these professorships is one of the greatest things to attract quality faculty to the universities.”

“Ike Belk has done so much for higher education in North Carolina,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. “He was on the floor of the legislature when the bill was passed creating the distinguished professorship program, and Ike has funded several distinguished professorships throughout the system. He believes in higher education, and has demonstrated that support here at Appalachian and across the state through his generous philanthropy. Mr. Belk’s admiration for his family and his generosity for higher education, public and private, is without parallel.”

In addition to his work as a teacher, Belk’s mother, Mary Irwin Belk, was an artist. He still has several of her paintings. He grew to love art, especially sculptures, through his international travels while a young boy and his military service in the Army Air Force in World War II.

Belk was appointed a public delegate to the United Nations by President Bill Clinton in 1999. Through his work on behalf of the U.N., Belk brokered a deal between the late Sen. Jesse Helms and former Sen. Joe Biden to reduce the dues the U.S. owed the U.N. The Helms-Biden bill, which passed in 1999, authorized repayment of a $1 billion debt in exchange for a reduction in membership dues. That reduction has saved the U.S. $175 million a year since.

Belk maintains a photo album with pictures or drawings of all the sculptures and artwork he has given to schools over the years. He has a particular fondness for North Carolina artists, commissioning Jon Hair of Cornelius, Brenda Councill of Blowing Rock and the late Richard Hallier of Boone.

He views the sculptures he has given Appalachian and other universities and colleges as important as landscaping. “Some people put shrubbery around a building. I put sculptures around them,” he said. “And I have had a lot of fun out of it.”

In addition to the 12-foot-tall bronze Mountaineer on campus, Belk has commissioned larger-than-life statues of the mascots for the other UNC system schools. “The biggest in the world,” he says of each mascot, whether it’s the ram at UNC Chapel Hill or the Spartan at UNC Greensboro.

He also has funded 41 outdoor tracks at schools, universities and colleges across the Southeast. The Irwin “Ike” Belk Track at Appalachian was dedicated in 2009. Belk ran track while a student at the McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn. “When I was a young man, I set the half-mile record for the school, and I held it for 12 years,” he said. “I believe in amateur sports. I think pros are overpaid.”

Although retired, Belk remains active in the state with his philanthropic interests developed from those of his parents. “It’s the way my father trained me. He said you support the community you live in, and I taught my kids that,” he said.

“I served my city, I served my county, I served my state, I served the United States and I served the United Nations,” said Belk, who served in the N.C. House and Senate, on the UNC Board of Governors, as a public delegate to the United Nations and on the American Cancer Society’s Southeast Division.

Belk received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Appalachian in May 2010 and the university’s D.D. Dougherty Medallion in 1998, both in recognition of his significant contributions to the university, state and region.
The Belks At Appalachian

Carol Grotnes Belk Library and Information Commons opened in 2005 and is named in honor of Belk’s wife of 63 years. “The library is the center of any college or university. It should be an outstanding building,” he said of the library at Appalachian, pictured. Belk Residence Hall, constructed in 1980, was named in honor of Belk for his service on the state legislature.

Anne Belk Hall opened in 1969 as Belk Library and was renamed in honor of Belk’s late daughter-in-law in 2009.

The Irwin “Ike” Belk Track at Kidd Brewer Stadium dedicated in 2009.

Art On Campus

At Belk Library and Information Commons:
“The Quest for Knowledge,” mural by Brenda Councill
“Lucky 8,” sculpture by Jon Hair, pictured
“Dance of Learning (aka Moondance),” sculpture by Richard Hallier
“Carol and Mary,” sculptures of Belk’s granddaughters by Gregory Johnson
“Anything but Homework” and “Story Time,” sculptures by De L’Esprie

At Stadium Drive: “Yosef,” sculpture by Richard Hallier

Planned Installations:
Forthcoming is a mural to be created by Brenda Councill for the new College of Education building, a sculpture honoring Coach Jerry Moore, to be installed at Kidd Brewer Stadium, and “Aspire,” a sculpture by Jon Hair to be installed this spring near the Central Dining Hall.
Don Cox ’93 is a man with a passion for doing good deeds. He is also, as he boisterously claims, “committed to brewing the best stinking cup of fresh roasted coffee” his customers have ever tasted.

For Cox, as proprietor and head roaster of Bald Guy Brew coffee company in Boone, these aspirations are not mutually exclusive. They are the motivating principles that drive him to accomplish his life’s work.

“I’m like that kid running up and down the beach tossing starfish back into the sea,” said Cox. “One of his buddies yells out, ‘You can’t save them all.’ But the kid picks up another starfish, tosses it into the water and yells back, ‘Maybe not, but I can save this one.’”

Dreaming up ‘Bald Guy’

Several years ago, Cox and his wife Shannon dreamed of creating a business that would feed their souls as well as their checking account. They wanted it to be ecologically friendly, socially responsible, and provide them with an opportunity to help those “starfish stranded on the beach.”

They chose coffee as the vehicle for their business because of the exploitation of coffee-growing communities they witnessed first hand.
“We were doing medical relief and mission work with the Anglican Church in coffee-growing countries like Mexico, Peru and Rwanda, and saw how the poor in these communities are exploited,” Cox said.

Next to oil, coffee is the most-traded commodity in the world. “But the farmers who grow it don’t make money on it, and neither do the women and children who pick it,” he said. “It’s the shareholders who make the money.”

Through the establishment of Bald Guy Brew in Boone in 2005, the Coxes found a way to empower members of coffee-growing communities and make a difference in the world—both globally and locally.

The company purchases organic, shade grown beans, ensuring farmers who use sustainable practices a better price for their product, and an agricultural commodity that is ecologically sound.

“Beaufort a.k.a. ‘Bald Guy’ on a mission with new friends.”

“Most business models these days look at people as a credit, a transaction,” Cox said. “There’s a dignity in humanity that has been lost in pursuit of the almighty buck.”

“The platform for our company is ‘you don’t give to get, you give for the sake of giving,’” he said. “It’s not really a business model. It’s more how we choose to live our lives.”

**Words to live by**

After graduating from Appalachian in 1993 with a history degree, a religion minor and a knowledge of biblical Hebrew under his belt, Cox strapped on a carpenter’s belt to work in Boone’s construction industry.

“I had to make a living,” he said. But it wasn’t long before he began to question that choice.

“I thought, ‘What am I doing on this ladder?’ I had learned biblical Hebrew in order to read the Old Testament. I found a system of living and giving there that offers hope,” he said.

“Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God—which message is at the heart of how I choose to live my life,” he said. “Stewardship, sustainability and social responsibility are all part of the answers I found in that message.”

Guided by these words and a desire to “do right by others,” Cox entered the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Pittsburgh. He graduated with a master of divinity in 1996.

Over the next 13 years he served as a priest with the Anglican Church in Pittsburgh, worked as a youth minister in the city’s ghetto, and began doing medical mission work and leadership development with Shannon in countries like Mexico, Peru, Rwanda and Uganda.

“I picked up the ‘Bald Guy’ moniker when I was working with street kids in Pittsburgh,” he said. “We focused on developing social and interpersonal skills, core values, and sometimes just keeping kids from getting beat up or shot.”

“They could never remember my name. ‘Yo, bald guy,’ they’d say. ‘What’s up?’ I guess it stuck,” Cox laughs.

**Beans for Bikes**

In early 2000, nearly six years after the mass murder of an estimated 800,000 people in Rwanda, Cox was invited by the nation’s Anglican Archbishop to work with an emerging leaders program.

“Our goal was to equip Hutu and Tutsi genocide survivors with skills to lead and serve others in their parishes, schools and missions,” he said. “The work was incredibly moving.”

“What we ended up doing was reconciliation work, dealing with issues of trust and the horrible pain of the mess,” he said.

During the trip, Cox became familiar with the sight of Rwandan farmers pushing coffee on bikes with wooden wheels through the countryside.

Bicycles are the primary method of transportation for these farmers.

Through a group called Project Rwanda, many coffee farmers now have access to modern, purpose-built bikes that cut in half the delivery time for their fresh berries.

“The bikes serve as a tool of economic development and a symbol of hope,” said Cox.

“When I learned about Project Rwanda’s Coffee Bike Project I decided to get behind their efforts.”

Getting behind the effort meant starting the Beans for Bikes initiative—delivering coffee to Cox’s local wholesale accounts by bike. To date he has delivered more than 2,150 pounds of coffee pedaling the steep hills and streets of Boone and Watauga County.

This spring, Cox will mount a purpose-built cargo bike packed with 100 pounds of Rwandan coffee from a distributor in Atlanta and ride 300 miles to Boone—his first long-distance Beans for Bikes trip.

“My goal is to have riders along the route join me in carrying coffee to raise awareness of and money for Project Rwanda,” said Cox.

“The initiative puts into action the environmental stewardship component of my ‘love mercy and do justice principles,’” he said.

“By riding a bike I’m being eco-friendly and reducing my carbon footprint. I’m being socially responsible by raising money for Rwandan coffee farmers. And I’m doing this out of love for my Rwandan brothers.”

“The fact that I’m losing weight is just an added incentive for a guy who’s doing his best to ride from point A to point B without falling or getting hit.”
Former student-athlete excels in the art of business

By Kate Cahow

Lorelle Rau ’09, an arts graduate and former setter for the Mountaineers volleyball team, is applying the skills she developed both on and off the court to navigate the fast-paced, quirky world of arts exhibition.

“When you play a high-level team sport you are forced to be accountable to yourself and others. The experience instilled in me a sense of discipline and responsibility,” she said. “In this regard my work at the Corcoran is a lot like being on the court with my teammates, where everyone is working together toward a common goal,” she said. “We all have to rely on one another to ensure our exhibitions will be successful.”

Rau came to Appalachian on a volleyball scholarship with the intent to study art. She graduated with dual degrees in studio art and art management and a minor in business. Her leadership skills, hard work and dedication to excellence were rewarded in the fall of 2009, when she was hired as the college exhibitions assistant by the Corcoran College of Art + Design, in Washington.

Alumni release CD of traditional Appalachian music

By Jessica Lance

Traditional music has always been an important part of the culture in the Appalachian Mountains, especially for handing down stories. Preservation of this oral tradition is becoming scarce, but a recording is helping to bring it back and keep it alive.

Alumna Susan Pepper ’08 MA began a project of recording traditional Southern Appalachian women for her graduate thesis, “A Whistlin’ Girl and a Crowin’ Hen Always Come to Some Bad End — The Singing Traditions of Three Western North Carolina Women,” during her studies at Appalachian. With an interest in music, Pepper came to Appalachian with the intent of getting a graduate degree in music therapy. As she learned more about the region, however, she chose to pursue a degree in Appalachian studies instead. With a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, Pepper released a CD of traditional Appalachian music a few years later.

Alumni share their passion for the arts
Susan Pepper ’08 MA

Pepper became familiar with Appalachian folk music while participating in a women’s choir in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2001. After performing some of the songs, Pepper decided she wanted to further pursue that interest by living in a rural setting and learning more about the southern Appalachian region. She came to Boone in 2005.

“I studied French and Italian, as well as other cultures, during my time at Yale. I realized that you didn’t have to go abroad to learn about different cultures; the United States is full of diversity,” Pepper said of her interest in Appalachian culture.

During her graduate studies, Pepper attended primitive Baptist church services for an Appalachian religions course. That is where she met Pearl Hicks, one of the women featured on her CD. From her research in the field and contacts through the W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection on campus, Pepper came across the other women featured on the CD—Rosa Hicks, Hazel Rhymer and Zora Walker.

“I enjoyed getting to know the women and experiencing what life was like in a different time,” Pepper said of her time spent with them. “It was like looking through a window into mountain life in the 1920s and 1930s. As a singer myself, I also enjoyed learning the songs these women sang. It was an adventure, something I had never done before.”

After receiving her M.A. from Appalachian, Pepper applied to the N.C. Arts Council for a grant that would allow her to record and the songs these women sang. It was an adventure, something I had never done before.

After receiving her M.A. from Appalachian, Pepper applied to the N.C. Arts Council for a grant that would allow her to record and share the music of these women—something that had never been done before. She received $6,000 to produce the CD which she titled, “On the Threshold of a Dream: unaccompanied singing from the Blue Ridge Mountains.” The title came from a poem written by Pearl Hicks about Beech Mountain and her love of that particular place. The poem can be found in the booklet of the CD.

“It’s a preservation of these women’s traditions and lifestyle. Some of these songs were handed down to their ancestors in Europe, before their families came to the United States,” said Pepper. “It would be sad to lose this oral tradition, as we become more obsessed with today’s media.”

Pepper also said she doesn’t think the CD would have been possible without the support of the N.C. Arts Council. “The financial support and the deadline really motivated me to do this project. It had to be done within a year. It would’ve been much harder without the support of the council,” she said. “It is also nice to have that stamp of approval, knowing that it’s important to a major organization that a project like this be done.”

When asked what her favorite piece on the CD is, Pepper answered, “‘The Old Man From the North Country’ because it sounds old timey and is very unique. The song has an upbeat melody even though it’s a murder ballad. It was meant as a ‘play party song’ so you can do a dance to it. This song is what really got me hooked on this project.”

“I feel like this CD is a historical contribution, because there are songs on it that have never been recorded. It serves to preserve them,” said Pepper. “One of the songs that had never been recorded before is ‘The Madison County Crew.’ I hadn’t imagined being able to find a ‘new’ old song that I had never heard before.”

Pepper is currently director of the Junior Appalachian Musician (JAM) program at Alleghany County Schools, and she also teaches in the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian. She enjoys playing the dulcimer, banjo and guitar.

“I am hoping to release my own CD within the next year, which will include traditional and original ‘old timey’ songs,” Pepper said of future plans. “I also hope to keep learning from and working with these traditional singers.”

After fulfilling her four-year obligation to the Mountaineers, Rau quickly moved from Appalachian athletics into the university’s art world. She took advantage of the many opportunities available to art students to get practical experience associated with the arts. During her senior year she worked as gallery assistant at the Catherine J. Smith Gallery, collections management assistant and curatorial assistant at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, and curator at the Looking Glass Gallery in the Plemons Student Union.

“One of the most important lessons I took from Appalachian is every opportunity is a step in reaching your goals,” Rau said. “Any job is truly what you make of it, and each opportunity leads to the next.”

Rau’s goal after graduation was to work in the commercial art scene amidst the excitement of a big city. Her position at the Corcoran College of Art + Design, located in the heart of the nation’s capital, is a major step in fulfilling that goal.

She and her colleague in the college exhibitions department maintain and coordinate three exhibition spaces within the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and are responsible for all facets of the exhibition process. They are currently organizing a collaborative exhibition between the gallery and the college for the spring called “NEXT at the Corcoran: BFA Class of 2011,” featuring the thesis work of graduating seniors.

Rau says the challenges associated with her job include working with the many different departments and complex personalities at the gallery and the college. The skills she developed at Appalachian, both as a student-athlete and a young arts professional, have helped her nurture and create effective working relationships.

“Patience, communication and time-management skills, and the ability to multitask are essential qualities in my work,” she said.

“I’ve learned to focus on my own responsibilities, to be polite and considerate, and I’m always willing to return a favor.”

Today, with nearly two years experience in the arts world behind her and satisfied with her achievements, Rau contemplates the meaning of success.

“Success equals contentment with your life. Of course you have to work hard to achieve your goals, but it is the balance between what you do professionally and personally that makes you happy on a day-to-day basis,” she said.

“I’m in the exact field I want to be in and in an exciting city. I come to work wondering who will be stretching the boundaries and within what new medium.

“The variety of the artwork and diversity of the job keep me going. One day I’m hanging artwork in the gallery, and the next I’m at my computer planning for the next series of shows.

“Going to art exhibitions and openings in museums and galleries are things I love to do. They can also be considered research experiences, and thus relate directly to my job,” Rau said.

“The merging of these personal and professional aspects of my life feels like success.”
2000s

KATIE (LOVE) ALSPAUGH ‘00 and MATT ALSPAUGH ‘00 announce the birth of Luke Nathaniel, Sept. 29, 2010.
JONATHAN HALL ‘00 and TRACEY (CHAPPELL) HALL ‘01 announce the birth of John Bishop, Nov. 13, 2010.
KELLY (DOWNES) OEHLER ‘00 and Kevin Oehler announce the birth of Graham Robert, Sept. 27, 2010.
DARREN SCHWARTZ ‘00 announce the birth of Shelson Porter, Sept. 18, 2010.
BROOKE (CORBELLO) SMITH ‘00 and Jason Smith announce the birth of Austin Eric, July 30, 2010.
KILEY (COSTNER) THIEL ‘00 and Andrew Thiel announce the birth of Paisley Addison, Nov. 9, 2010.
TRENT ARROWOOD ‘02 announce the birth of Benjamin Patrick, Aug. 18, 2010.
CORTNEY DAVIS ‘00 and Aaron Davis were married June 26, 2010.
RACHEL KELLER ‘00 was named Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member of the Year by Walkers College of Business at Appalachian in 2010.

2010s

ALUMNI NOTES
Boulder, CO.

BART TULBERT ‘01 received a master of music education from the University of Southern Mississippi on Dec. 10, 2010. He was elected to the N.C. chapter of the American School Band Directors Association in February.
DIANA VUKSIC-HARRIS ‘01 completed requirements for the Accredited Advisor in Insurance and the Associate in Insurance Services through the Insurance Institute of America in August 2010.
REED DAVIS ‘02 and Lindsey Davis announce the birth of Finley Page, Aug. 27, 2010.
KAMALA (CRUMP) MCKAY ‘02 and Chris McKay announce the birth of Paisley Addison, Nov. 9, 2010.
TRENT ARROWOOD ‘02 was promoted to national manager—sales merchandising at Altira Sales & Distribution, Inc., Richmond, Va.
PATRICK BEESON ‘02 recently accepted a position as webmaster at Virginia Tech Carillon Research Institute in Roanoke, Va.
CATHERINE GRUBBS ‘02 and Kevin Abeyta were married April 24, 2010.
LYNSEY PETREE MOORE ‘03 and Brian Moore announce the birth of Mason James, Aug. 31, 2010.
JEREMY SMITH ‘03 and MONICA (PEDERSON) SMITH ‘03 announce the birth of Ethan Tyler, Oct. 20, 2010.
JENOB (COATES) WO막ACK ‘03 and Reid Womack announce the birth of Jacob Alexander, March 13, 2010. Jenoji recently accepted a position as arts specialist with Crowder Construction Company in Charlotte.
KARL HERMANN ‘03 has accepted a position as video sales engineer with LG Innovations in Greensboro.
LYNNE (MININGER) BLEDSOE ‘03 and Keith Charles Bledsoe were married Dec. 19, 2009.
ERIN REILLY ‘03 and Lee Bowman were married Oct. 2, 2010.
BRITT TULBERT ‘03 received a doctor of medicine from Northeastern Ohio University’s College of Medicine on May 15, 2010.
ALFRED WOOD ‘03 and Ashley O’Bryant were married Aug. 28, 2010.
CHARLES HALL ‘04 and Tabitha Hall announce the birth of Sawyer Enley, Nov. 18, 2010.
LINDSAY (PARKER) SUTTON ‘04 and JAY SUTTON ‘07 announce the birth of Adair Carol, July 8, 2010.
DIANNA COATES ‘04 has accepted a position as an attorney—advisor at the Social Security Administration in Johnstown, Pa.
HEIDI AUSTIN ‘04 received a doctorate in educational leadership from The University of North Carolina-Greensboro on Dec. 16, 2010.
BRADLEY CARSON ‘04 received a doctorate in philosophy in oceanic chemistry from The Georgia Institute of Technology on Aug. 6, 2010.
LYNSDA COX ‘04 received the Early Childhood Credential in Montessori Education from the American Montessori Society in June 2010.
LAURA BELK ‘04 and Andrew Thomas were married June 12, 2010.
RILEY CURRY ‘04 and Ashley Curry of Greensboro were married March 27, 2010.
LYNSDA COX ‘04 and Jonathan Hicks of Boston, Mass., were married Oct. 10, 2010.
NATHAN KREEGER ‘04 and SUMMER (DENNY) KREEGER ‘04 of King were married July 24, 2010.
JOHN YATES ‘05 and DENISE ‘05 announce the birth of Madelyn Leah, Sept. 29, 2010.
SHAWN MCDONALD ‘05 has accepted a position as Application Systems Analyst II with Geico in Chevy Chase, Md.
JASON CAMPBELL ‘05 and Kimberly Hancock of Charlotte were married July 2, 2010.
LAUREN AUTON ‘05 and NATHANIEL CARSWELL ‘03 of Winston-Salem were married Dec. 6, 2010.
RINALD SNYDER ‘05 and Rebecca Tower of Jefferson were married Dec. 10, 2010.
JONATHAN KAPPLER ‘05 has been appointed by the Raleigh City Council to its Fair Housing Hearing Board.
ANGELA MEAD ‘05 and Jeremy Hicks were married Aug. 28, 2010.
MARK VUKSIC-HARRIS ‘06 and Mark Fee ‘06 announce the birth of Breckan Carver, Aug. 16, 2010.

2000s

KATIE (LOVE) ALSPAUGH ‘00 and MATT ALSPAUGH ‘00 announce the birth of Luke Nathaniel, Sept. 29, 2010.
JONATHAN HALL ‘00 and TRACEY (CHAPPELL) HALL ‘01 announce the birth of John Bishop, Nov. 13, 2010.
KELLY (DOWNES) OEHLER ‘00 and Kevin Oehler announce the birth of Graham Robert, Sept. 27, 2010.
DARREN SCHWARTZ ‘00 announce the birth of Shelson Porter, Sept. 18, 2010.
BROOKE (CORBELLO) SMITH ‘00 and Jason Smith announce the birth of Austin Eric, July 30, 2010.
KILEY (COSTNER) THIEL ‘00 and Andrew Thiel announce the birth of Tucker Stillman, Dec. 12, 2009.
Tiffany (Glassgow) Wuzzardo ‘00 and Kevin Wuzzardo announce the birth of Benjamin Patrick, Aug. 18, 2010.
Cortney Davis ‘00 and Aaron Davis were married June 26, 2010.
Rachel Keller ‘00 was named Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member of the Year by Walker College of Business at Appalachian in 2010.

tials

RYAN GILMORE ‘06 and KAREN (RANKIN) VUKSIC-HARRIS ‘01 announce the birth of Connor Scott, July 26, 2010.
CHARLES EGGLESTON ‘06 and Amy Queeneberry were married May 15, 2010.
SHELLEY MOSS ‘06 and ERIC SNYDER ‘07 of Dallas were married Sept. 18, 2010.
CARMEN STEPCHU ‘06 and Jeremy Yates of Kingsport, Tenn., were married May 22, 2010.
LINDSEY (MORSE) ZAPLETAL ‘06 and Jeff Zapletz ‘08 of State College, Pa., were married July 31, 2010.
PRENTISS HENDERSON ‘07 received a master of public administration from Troy University on Dec. 10, 2010.
ERN JENNINGS ‘07 and Coli Woodley of Elizabeth City were married July 31, 2010.
JESSICA (LUTHRINGSHAUSER) JUllian ‘07 and JUSTIN JULIAN ‘07 of Apex were married Oct. 16, 2010.
JOSHUA BLEDSOE ‘08 recently accepted a position as a speech/com- munication instructor with Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock.
VICTOR “Trey” ELDAR ‘08 has accepted a position as the Mountaineers’ wide receiver’s coach at Appalachian.
JOSHUA BLEDSOE ‘08 received a master of arts in communication studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro on May 14, 2010.
LACEY (Mull) Blake ‘08 and Dana Blake of Greenville were married July 18, 2010.
ROBERT SLACK ‘08 and Anna Chilton of Cary were married Aug. 14, 2010.
Shana (Bonne) GEBELEIN ‘09 and Michael GEBELEIN ‘10 of Asheville were married Sept. 4, 2010.
BRITTANY CARR ‘09 and Lorne Lawing of Jonesboro, Tenn., were married May 22, 2010.
WESS PASOUR ‘09 and JENNIFER (Hefest) Pasour ‘10 of Gastonia were married June 19, 2010.

deaths

DAVID “DJ” Scott ‘01, Sept. 12, 2010.
WILLIAM REDMAN ‘08, Oct. 9, 2010.
TIM GOLDEN ‘90 has accepted a position as director of bands at Lone Star High School in Frisco, Texas.
Appalachian loses founder of general honors program


A lifelong educator and a learner, Latour joined the Religious of Christian Education order of Catholic nuns after graduating from high school. She had undergraduate and graduate degrees in English and received grants to study mathematics and physics. She held a master’s degree in religious studies.

Latour taught high school English, Latin, French, math and biology in Massachusetts and North Carolina before joining the faculty at Appalachian.

One of Latour’s colleagues was faculty emeritus Dr. Peter Petschauer, from Appalachian’s Department of History.

“When Helen arrived at Appalachian, she had already had a career in teaching as a nun. The dissolution of her order made university teaching almost inevitable. Having taught all her life, she continued with it and did so vigorously and devotedly,” Petschauer said. “Because of her experience in another academic setting, she saw the university’s needs and articulated them skillfully and persistently.”

“She set out with amazing agility to improve the situation for students learning foreign languages and to increase the number of foreign students at the university. The concept of a foreign language residential hall was born, and her generous leadership allowed it to flourish for some time in East Residence Hall,” he added.

Latour brought the same energy to the community that she brought to the classroom. She founded the Watauga County Literacy Association in 1987, founded the Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy in 1989, was a charter member of the Wilkes Literacy Consortium, and chair of Northwest Literacy United. She was also a member of the Governor’s Council on Volunteerism, as well as several professional literacy, honors and comparative language associations. In 2009, Latour was one of 20 North Carolinians awarded the Medallion for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

“She worked tirelessly and spiritedly despite physically crippling ailments that she acknowledged but refused to give in to. Anyone who ever heard her laugh knew that it was life-filled and life-giving,” Petschauer said. “The memory of her enthusiasm, determination, sterling character, generosity and commitment to the betterment of her fellow human beings will inspire us for life.”

Dr. William G. Spencer died Aug. 30, 2010. He was 89. Spencer was a member of Appalachian’s music program from 1951 to 1986, including 14 years as chair of what was then the Department of Music. He was a gifted teacher and visionary whose leadership helped in the founding of the Cannon Music Camp, construction of the Broyles Music Center, and the reorganization of the department into the Hayes School of Music. The William G. Spencer Instrumental Rehearsal Hall was dedicated in his honor in 1989. He retired a professor emeritus in 1986.

Dr. Sharon Leigh Smith Pennell ’70 ’79, an associate professor of journalism, died May 8, 2010. She was 61. She taught in the Department of Communication for 24 years. She began her career as a teacher at Bunker Hill High School where she was the Southern Speech and Communications Association Speech Teacher of the Year in 1977.

She received the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Forensics in 1988. In 1992 she was named the North Carolina Career Woman of the Year. In 1997 she was named to the N.C. School Boards Association All-State School Board. She had served on the Caldwell County Board of Education since 1984, and was currently serving her fifth two-year term as chair.

Dr. Eric J. Hatch served as a professor in Appalachian’s Department of Psychology beginning in 1979. He died Aug. 28, 2009 at age 66. His engaging lecture style earned him many accolades with students, and he was often cited as a “favorite teacher” on campus. Hatch was the founding coordinator of Appalachian’s School Psychology Graduate Program. He served in that position from 1979 to 1991. In addition to his responsibilities at Appalachian, Hatch maintained a private practice as a licensed psychologist in the local community.

Ruby C. Adams died Jan. 3, 2011. She was 95. She worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 1977.

Annie C. Brewer died Aug. 5, 2010. She was 85. She worked in the bookstore, and retired in 1987.

Charlie Brown died May 29, 2010. He was 78. He worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 2002.

Robert E. Heathershaw died Oct. 7, 2010. He was 76. He was a retired employee who served in the maintenance department.

Kimberly S. Slate died Nov. 12, 2010. She was 48. She was currently employed at Appalachian’s Office of Student Accounts.

Dorothy “Dot” Tugman died Jan. 13, 2011. She was 89. She worked as an administrative manager at Farthing Auditorium and at the Student Union. She retired in 1985.

Argus Wallace died Dec. 6, 2010. He was 93. He worked in the housekeeping department, and retired in 1982.

Nathanial Robb ’90 has opened a dive shop, Indepth Watersports Ltd, in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

Patrick Vickers ’90 has been promoted to economic development field services representative at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in Atlanta.

Mitzie Mccurdy ’91 and Stephen Alexander were married March 20, 2010.

Nancy J. Simpson ’91 has published a novel set in Boone, “Not So Random.”

Robin (Rackley) Thornton ’91 was awarded Leader of the 4th Quarter 2010 at the Great Wolf Lodge, Charlotte/Concord.

Timothy Copeland ’92 was promoted to sergeant first class (E-7), Jan. 3, 2011. He is the automated information systems supervisor at HHG. 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Camp Henry, Daego, Korea.

Tamar (Denmark) Lamont ’92 has accepted the position of...
Michael Gregory hits No.1 on YouTube

By Julianne Olson

Michael Gregory ’07, whose quirky band The Gregory Brothers skyrocketed to fame with the viral video sensation “Auto-Tune the News,” turned his focus from the media and politicians to an everyday person who by accident or bad luck became a newsmaker. The result was YouTube’s most popular video of 2010 and the chance for a family to make a better life.

Last summer, the Auto-Tune the News series captured a news clip of Antoine Dodson as he explained how his sister fought off an intruder in their Huntsville, Ala., apartment. Gregory sent Dodson into the realm of “super sensation” when he applied his Auto-Tune magic to the news clip, which became known as the “Bed Intruder Song.”

On July 30, Gregory released his Auto-Tune version of the news report. By Aug. 18, the “Bed Intruder Song” peaked at number 89 on Billboard’s Hot 100 list. In October, Dodson, who is listed as a co-writer, performed the song with Gregory on keyboard at the 2010 BET Hip Hop Awards show.

Gregory explained that making a parody of a news story about a serious crime demanded sensitivity. His goal was to take a “terrible situation” and make something positive out of it. “From the beginning, the purpose of creating this video was to enhance the message,” Gregory said. “If Antoine wasn’t into it, we would have taken it down in a second, but he was really pumped.”

Dodson and his sister are receiving 50 percent of the sales revenues from the song and related merchandise. This has enabled them to move to a safer neighborhood.

The Gregory Brothers are currently working on numerous projects, including a pilot with Comedy Central. “We want to keep doing videos, both political and non-political, but there are other things going on too,” Gregory said. “I don’t like to preordain what’s going to happen because whatever happens, happens, and we’ll roll with it.”

Scan this QR code to view the “Bed Intruder Song” and other Gregory Brothers videos at www.youtube.com/schmoyoho

Assistant director of business systems with Appalachian’s Office of Financial Aid.

CHRISTOPHER FINNEY ’92 and Andrea Finney were married Aug. 21, 2010.

DANA HARRISON ’92 is co-producer of a new production company in New York—The Platform Group; assistant director to the New York International Fringe Festival; leader and facilitator to the NYC Artist Roundtable/ Writing Group; and a certified holistic health coach with AADP.

GREGORY SMITH ’93 completed Charlotte’s Thunder Road Amica Insurance Half Marathon on Dec. 11, 2010.

GINNY (EHASZ) EDWARDS ’94 and BG Edwards announce the birth of Lauren Abigail, April 29, 2010.

KEITH VAN WAGNER ’94 has accepted a position as an associate attorney with the Los Angeles office of Nossaman LLP.

CHRISTINE UNDERWOOD ’94 and Gene Vanstory were married July 17, 2010.

JONATHAN HUGGINS ’94 was named 2010-2011 Yadkin County Teacher of the Year.


MYRA (TESTER) HARPER ’97 and Jeffrey Harper were married Aug. 14, 2010.

SARA PROPPST ’97 and Barry Icard of Hickory were married May 1, 2010.

KERRY BARNUM CLARK ’98 and David Clark announce the birth of Kayley Elizabeth, June 10, 2010.


JASON CALLICUTT ’96 and MARCIE (QUARLES) CALLEICUTT ’96 announce the birth of Nathan Paul, Sept. 19, 2010.


SARAH RICHARDS ’98 has accepted a position as performance solutions designer with Carney Inc., Alexandria, Va.

JEFFREY STRICKLAND ’98 has been promoted to regional sales manager at the Midwest Business Center, Chrysler Group, LLC, Chicago, Ill.

RICHARD STROUPE ’98 completed Harvard Business School’s owner/president management program in October 2010.

CAMERON LIPPA’RD ’98, of Appalachian’s Department of Sociology, received the College of Arts and Sciences’ Teacher of the Year Award for 2010-2011.


MICHAEL ACKERMAN ’99 recently accepted a position as deputy sheriff with the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, Charleston, S.C.

THOMAS WALL ’91, June 28, 2010.


MARGARET “MEGAN” LOWDER ’96, Sept. 28, 2010.


MICHAEL KRG ’98, Jan. 4, 2011.


1980

KEN DAVIS ’80 is a senior financial planner with WealthPlan Financial Partners in Davidson.

DAVID WEINBERG ’81 was honored for his 25th year with the Press of Atlantic City. He has recently won writing awards from the Pro Football Writers of America and Boxing Writer’s Association of America.

BILL MCDONALD ’83 became the new dean of students at the University of Georgia Jan. 1, 2011.

ROBERT HERRING ’83 and Vickie Herring of Raleigh were married April 24, 2010.

PATTI (BOSTEDO) CHASON ’83, a varsity volleyball coach at Hickory Ridge High School in Harrisburg, was selected South Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

WILL FINE ’84 has accepted the position of sergeant in the criminal investigation division-financial crimes and computer forensics with the Winston-Salem Police Department.

JENNIE (SHAMPINE) HOWELL ’84 has accepted a position as middle school language arts teacher at Lynchburg City Public Schools, Lynchburg, Va.

LEE ANN (TILLEY) WALSH ’85 received a master of health administration from Pfeiffer University,

**KELLY HASTINGS ’86** has been elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives for House District 110.

**ANDREW POE ’86** exhibited a collection of original oil paintings, “From The Beginning,” Oct. 9 - Nov. 30, 2010, at One Heart Yoga in Fuquay-Varina. He also recently returned from his seventh overseas mission trip.

**BETH FROEHLING ’87** was promoted to co-executive director of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Durham on April 1, 2010.

**SCOTTIE STAMPER ’87** has accepted a position as a wellness advocate with Duke University Divinity School.

**JOHN EVANS ’88** has been selected to serve as commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky. He will take command in the summer of 2012.

**MICHAEL AYERS ’89** has accepted the position of dean of math, science, and technologies at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem.

**Awards**

**BARBARA “BABS” CORDELL ’80,** Sept. 11, 2010.

**LURA HOLLEY ’80,** Dec. 11, 2010.

**WILLIAM WYNE ’80,** July 15, 2010.


**STEPHEN FARFOUR ’80,** Nov. 16, 2010.

**DWAYNE WARD ’83,** Oct. 6, 2010.

**1970s**

**ERIC DAILEY ’70** retired Jan. 31, 2011 after 14 years of teaching in Iredell County and 27 years working in the private sector.

**JANICE BRACKEN ’71** retired July 1, 2010 after 39 years of teaching at elementary schools in Archdale and Trinity.

**BILLY VIGER ’72** is the new varsity girls assistant soccer coach at Marietta High School, Marietta, Ga.

**JOHN EATON ’74** has retired after 30 years of service as a rescue paramedic with the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

**JOE GIBBONS ’74** was chosen as an inductee of the Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame - Class of 2010.

**THOMAS H. WATSON ’74** ’76 was recognized as the 2010 Alumnus of the Year by Gardner-Webb University.

**WAYNE TRIPPLET ’74 ’88 ’91** has published his second book, “The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow: Beginning Again after the Death of a Child.”

**DONNA GROCE GOUGE ’76** has retired after 32 years as an exceptional children’s teacher.

**MARIBETH (ARNOLD) LOWE ’76** has renewed her National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification in the area of exceptional needs.

**KAYE (WALL) EDWARDS ’77** has retired from 33 years of service to Stokes County Schools.

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**Hershey executive enjoys the sweetness of success**

By Kate Cahow

Bill Simpson ’78, the first graduate of Appalachian’s hospitality and tourism management program, was named president of Hershey Entertainment & Resorts last November.

“I graduated No. 1 in my class,” jokes Simpson, who was not just the first but also the only student in the program at the time.

Born into a family of restaurateurs in the Reidsville area, Simpson liked the family business but felt being in a more specialized field might give him a competitive edge in the times’ difficult job market. An article in the Greensboro Daily News about individually designed majors at Appalachian piqued his interest, and he headed up the mountain to learn more.

“Much like today, college graduates were having a tough time finding employment back then,” he said. “I thought focusing in hospitality management might demonstrate my commitment to that industry, making me a more competitive job candidate.”

Simpson’s hunch was on the mark. He transferred into Appalachian as a junior in the fall of 1976, beginning a career path that would lead him to the top executive position at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts.

Over the past three decades, Simpson has worked at a variety of well-known hotels around the country—including Hyatt and the Opryland Hotel—and in all areas of the industry in cities such as Phoenix, San Antonio, Houston, Nashville and Williamsburg, Va.

“Early on, I was dedicated to learning every aspect of the business from the ground up, from housekeeping, office management and director of rooms, to opening a property on the River Walk in San Antonio,” said Simpson.

“As I’ve taken on greater responsibility, I’ve learned that the key to being a good leader is developing leadership skills in others,” he said. “These days I listen more and instruct less.”

Simpson began his career with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts in 1996 as general manager of the Hershey Lodge. He has also been executive vice president and chief operating officer with the company, which was founded by Milton S. Hershey as the Hershey Chocolate Company in 1894.

Today the company is comprised of The Hotel Hershey, Hershey Lodge, Hersheypark Arena, Hersheypark Stadium, Giant Center, The Hershey Bears Hockey Club and ZooAmerica.

“Every year Hershey Entertainment & Resorts welcomes over nine million visitors to our various destinations,” said Simpson.

“One of the biggest challenges to both Hershey and the hospitality industry today—and even in the best economic times—is addressing the changing needs and expectations of guests.”

“With all of the advances in technology, the fact remains that personal interactions and the building of relationships are key to a successful business,” he continues. “Hershey is known as the sweetest place on earth, and our commitment to hospitality and delivering on our brand promise demands that sweetness.”

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**DEBORA CUDD ’79** has retired after 30 years of teaching. She is currently employed as travel director at Camp Greystone in Zirconia.

**MARK HUNNEMAN ’79** has had his first book published, “Seeing Ghosts through God’s Eyes.”

**NANCY NETTLES ’79** is the 2010-2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year, Johnson County.

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www.today.appstate.edu 37
Alumni win CASE Awards

The Council for the Advancement of Education (CASE) honored six Appalachian alumni and staff with awards at the association’s annual District III conference on Feb. 22. Linda Coutant ‘01 MA, Ann Kiefert and Sarah McBryde ‘97 ’09 received a Special Merit Award in the category of Printed Publications for Undergraduate Student Recruitment Materials produced for Appalachian. Marie Freeman ’86 received an Award of Excellence and a Grand Award in the Photography category, and Troy Tuttle ‘07 received an Award of Excellence in the category of Photo Essay Series.

James K. “JK” Reaves ‘93 (pictured) received the 2011 Bill Franklin Volunteer of the Year Award for his service to Appalachian.

Fred Robinettes’66 has been promoted to interim director of Alumni Development and Alumni Affairs at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem.

Rebecca (Russell) Roark ‘68 and Kesler Haney were married June 26, 2010.

Kudos

Four alumni serve first term in N.C. legislature

Four Appalachian alumni were elected to the North Carolina General Assembly for the first time in November 2010. They joined five other Appalachian alumni who won re-election to the state legislature last fall. These General Assembly members are working hard to ensure Appalachian and their districts are represented well in Raleigh.

Charles Graham ‘83, a business owner and retired educator from Lumberton, is a first-year member of the State House. Graham represents Robeson County.

Ralph Hise ‘00 of Spruce Pine is serving his first term as a state senator. He represents Avery, Haywood, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell and Yancey counties. Hise is an instructor at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine.

Kelly E. Hastings ‘86 of Cherryville is a first-year member of the State House and represents Cleveland and Gaston counties. Hastings is a realtor with offices in Shelby.

E.S. (Buck) Newton ’91, an attorney in Wilson, is serving his first term as a state senator. Newton represents Nash and Wilson counties.


1950s deaths

Barbara Baredian ’69, Nov. 22, 2010

Timothy Cates ’69, May 31, 2010

Joyce Cooke ’69, Dec. 19, 2010

Joanna Springs ’69, Dec. 6, 2010

1960s deaths

Katie Peterson ’60, Oct. 24, 2010

Eugene Blackwelder ’60, Dec. 22, 2010

William Moffett ’60, Jan. 13, 2011

Glenda Riddle ’60, Nov. 17, 2010

Jack White ’60, Dec. 9, 2010

Gary Chastine ’61, July 26, 2010

David Mckinney ’61, Aug. 8, 2010

Billy Mauldin ’62, Aug. 25, 2010

Alice Oliver ’62, July 27, 2010

James Cornette ’64, Sept. 3, 2010

Diane Mathews ’64, Sept. 10, 2010

Mario Cooper ’65, March 4, 2010

Peter Fogarasi ’65, Dec. 18, 2010

Betty Triplett ’65, Dec. 17, 2010

Fredrick Gaskins ’66, July 27, 2010

Kenneth Moore ’66, Dec. 16, 2010

Joel Schleifer ’66, Jan. 22, 2011

Jane Cook ’67, Nov. 7, 2010

Ronald Blue ’68, Dec. 29, 2009

Fannie Kipka ’68, Nov. 7, 2010

Nancy Small ’68, June 28, 2010

Peter Vasos ’68, July 23, 2010

Van Abernathy ’69, Nov. 10, 2009

Deaths

Van Abernathy ’69

Peter Vassos ’68

Fannie Kipka ’68

Ronald Blue ’68

Jane Cook ’67

Fredrick Gaskins ’66

Kenneth Moore ’66

Joel Schleifer ’66

Jane Cook ’67

Ronald Blue ’68

Fannie Kipka ’68

Nancy Small ’68

Peter Vasos ’68

Van Abernathy ’69

Katie Peterson ’60

Eugene Blackwelder ’60

William Moffett ’60

Glenda Riddle ’60

Jack White ’60

Gary Chastine ’61

David Mckinney ’61

Billy Mauldin ’62

Alice Oliver ’62

James Cornette ’64

Diane Mathews ’64

Mario Cooper ’65

Peter Fogarasi ’65

Betty Triplett ’65

Fredrick Gaskins ’66

Kenneth Moore ’66

Joel Schleifer ’66

Jane Cook ’67

Ronald Blue ’68

Fannie Kipka ’68

Nancy Small ’68

Peter Vasos ’68

Van Abernathy ’69

Katie Peterson ’60

Eugene Blackwelder ’60

William Moffett ’60

Glenda Riddle ’60

Jack White ’60

Gary Chastine ’61

David Mckinney ’61

Billy Mauldin ’62

Alice Oliver ’62

James Cornette ’64

Diane Mathews ’64

Mario Cooper ’65

Peter Fogarasi ’65

Betty Triplett ’65

Fredrick Gaskins ’66

Kenneth Moore ’66

Joel Schleifer ’66

Jane Cook ’67

Ronald Blue ’68

Fannie Kipka ’68

Nancy Small ’68

Peter Vasos ’68

Van Abernathy ’69

Katie Peterson ’60

Eugene Blackwelder ’60

William Moffett ’60

Glenda Riddle ’60

Jack White ’60

Gary Chastine ’61

David Mckinney ’61

Billy Mauldin ’62

Alice Oliver ’62

James Cornette ’64

Diane Mathews ’64

Mario Cooper ’65

Peter Fogarasi ’65

Betty Triplett ’65

Fredrick Gaskins ’66

Kenneth Moore ’66

Joel Schleifer ’66

Jane Cook ’67

Ronald Blue ’68

Fannie Kipka ’68

Nancy Small ’68

Peter Vasos ’68

Van Abernathy ’69
Helen Blanton ’58, Jan. 23, 2011.  
Luther Baldwin ’59, Aug. 29, 2010.  

1940s deaths  
Verona Ervin ’40, Nov. 10, 2010.  
Irma Carpenter ’41, Sept. 18, 2010.  
Mary Carnes ’42, Jan. 24, 2011.  
Mary Morgan ’43, July 26, 2010.  
Annie Storey ’44, Nov. 29, 2010.  
Carolyn Waynick ’45, July 20, 2010.  
Peggy Cashwell ’46, June 27, 2010.  

1930s deaths  
Carolyn Clark ’38, Jan. 5, 2011.  

Ledford protects NC’s parks for future generations

By Kate Cahow

As director of North Carolina’s Division of Parks and Recreation, Lewis Ledford ’76 sees himself as “standing on the shoulders of giants” to protect and preserve the state’s natural areas and parks.

“I’ve never thought of myself as being in charge of the parks, but more as one in a long line of stewards who protects them so they’ll be around for future generations to enjoy,” said Ledford.

“Sustainability, stewardship, and setting the example for the use of renewable resources is so vital,” he said. “If we can’t look to our parks to make that commitment, then who will?”

A Mitchell County native, Ledford grew up surrounded by the majestic beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With Roan Mountain as his stomping ground, he developed a deep love and appreciation for the natural world.

He earned a biology degree at Appalachian State University with the intent to pursue a career in chemical sales. But working summers at Mount Mitchell State Park, and the opportunity to work as a ranger at Umstead Park in Raleigh, set him on a different course.

Ledford joined the Division of Parks and Recreation in 1976, and within several years he was promoted to superintendent at Mount Mitchell—the highest mountain in Eastern America and North Carolina’s first state park.

“This year we’re celebrating the system’s 95th anniversary,” said Ledford, who was named director of the division in 2003.

While on his watch, North Carolina has added six state parks, a state trail and six natural areas—a total of more than 40,000 acres brought into a perpetual care and stewardship. In 2009, the park system experienced a record 14.2 million visits, a 14.2 percent increase over the previous year.

“We’ve gone from being one of the most poorly funded states for parks in the country to receiving national recognition for our conservation work to protect iconic places like Grandfather Mountain and Chimney Rock,” Ledford said.

The National Association of State Park Directors presented its National President’s Award to North Carolina for three of the last four years—in 2009 for the acquisition and preservation of Grandfather Mountain as a state park, in 2008 for the Chimney Rock effort, and in 2006 for the conservation of more than 3,000 acres that adjoin Lake James near the Linville Gorge. Also in 2006, the system was named Government Conservation Partner of the Year by the Conservation Trust, and received special recognition from the Sandhills Conservation Partnership for projects involving species habitat.

Ledford is particularly proud of the division’s efforts to advance stewardship in the parks system, even in the midst of difficult economic times.

“Last year we opened the first non-university public LEED® certified building in North Carolina—a new visitor center at Fort Macon,” he said. “We now have five LEED® certified buildings in the system.

“Of course, like other state park departments we’re struggling with current cuts to public funding,” he said. “I don’t know that we’ve ever been more challenged to manage and care for these places.

“Yet, with over 14 million people visiting our parks for the second year in a row, I don’t know that we’ve had as much support for parks as we enjoy today.

“Trying to grow at the same time we’re paring back is a difficult balance. But we’ve certainly got a good story to tell,” he said.

To learn more about North Carolina Parks and Recreation, visit: nc-parks.gov
ARMY GREEN: A group of cadets from Appalachian’s Department of Military Science recycles newspapers on a misty October day in 1972. The Department of Military Science, in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, began in 1969 and houses the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). The department offers two-year programs in leadership and military training with no obligation of future military service, and an additional two-year program that results in a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

Photo courtesy of Appalachian’s Historical Photograph Collection
We can’t think of a better use of our time and money than to invest in education, and Appalachian is the best place to do this. – Sara Charles and Randy Stevens

Alumni Reunion Weekend
June 10-11, 2011


• Black & Gold Society Inductions
• Appalachian Family BBQ
• Campus Tours
• Appalachian Awards Gala

For additional information and a complete schedule of events, visit: www.alumni.appstate.edu/ARW or call toll-free 866-756-ALUM

There are a multitude of universities with which Sara Charles and Randy Stevens could have developed a relationship. They aren’t from Boone. They aren’t Appalachian alumni, and they have no family ties to the area. But Appalachian welcomed them, embraced them and engaged them as friends and collaborators.

Friends of former Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski and his wife Kay, Sara Charles and Randy became involved with the Walker College of Business and the University Library in the late 1990s. Traveling to China with the Walker College’s Holland Fellows, he spent time with soon-to-be Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock.

“When we first visited Appalachian, the only people we knew were Kay and Frank Borkowski,” Randy explains. “But we immediately noticed the warm and friendly atmosphere here. Soon, others opened up to us, and we have developed longtime, close relationships that have continued.”

Sara Charles and Randy have made a planned gift commitment to Appalachian, ensuring critical scholarship and program support for Belk Library and Information Commons. In addition to including the university in their estate, their influence and enthusiasm led a close friend, Nancy Lee McCrocklin, to leave a generous estate gift to Appalachian as well. Her gift will benefit the University Library for years to come.

“Like us, Nancy had a special love for young people,” Randy says.

“We feel strongly that education is very important,” Sara Charles adds. “Appalachian offers students a lot of one-on-one interaction with faculty. The whole school really cares. Students here are not just a number.”

To learn more about how to become a member of the 1899 Legacy Society, please call 828-262-3192, or visit www.give.appstate.edu/giftplanning
Your support ensures that Appalachian can continue providing scholarships, faculty development, innovative academic programs and opportunities outside the classroom that make the Appalachian experience as unique and special today as it was when you were on campus.

It’s what Every Mountaineer does that will enable Appalachian State University to reach new heights. Make your gift today!

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