CAMPUS CAMERA

During Appalachian’s 2012 Homecoming celebration, theatre performance major Pamela Cuevas, class of 2013, and Benjamin Scott Salisbury ‘12 react to the news that Cuevas has just been named Homecoming Queen.

Photo: Amanda Getty, technical photography major, class of 2013

Homecoming King Ismael Gomez and Queen Pamela Cuevas with Chancellor and Mrs. Peacock at the 2012 Homecoming game.

Photo: Glenn Dion ’11
Creating globally competent graduates

A defining moment in my life came in 1995 when I was dean of the Walker College of Business – my first trip to China. I had traveled internationally before, but never to a country whose culture was so unlike my own. The experience was life-enriching and life-changing.

The Chinese way of life was so different than any way I had seen. While the cultural sites were fascinating, it was the people who struck me the most. They knew more about the U.S. and our way of life than I did about theirs. They could speak English as well as I did. And in their hearts, they were just like me. I realized for the first time that governments and cultures may be very different, but people are a lot alike. We all have similar dreams, which include a better life and fair treatment for all.

That trip, during which we made amazing connections with educational leaders at Fudan University in Shanghai, led to the establishment of the William R. Holland Fellows for Business Study in Asia program (see page 4) and planted the seed for my vision for Appalachian students: that they should have the opportunity for the same eye-opening experience I did.

I would love for every student to study or travel abroad. I recognize that not all students can for a variety of reasons. I believe it is imperative the university support Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, our leader in international education and development, in his efforts to expand transformational international experience opportunities for our students.

In my time as chancellor, I have been struck with how Appalachian students have a heart for others and demonstrate that through their volunteer work and solution-finding for problems locally and regionally. Imagine what can happen when we do a better job of getting the majority of our students to see and understand the broader world, and they realize they can apply that same energy for problem-solving to issues worldwide.

This goal cannot be achieved with state funding alone, so I thank those who have supported Appalachian’s international endeavors in the past and who support it today. I hope other alumni and friends will see the value of global competency and will help ensure our students are fully prepared in this area by the time they graduate.

With Appalachian pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
21st Century Leadership: 
Making a difference on the mountain, 
in North Carolina and beyond

In recent issues, Appalachian Today has examined our university’s five strategic initiatives: Scholarship, World Focus, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Health and Quality of Life.

Through the lens of these strategic initiatives, our students, faculty and staff are positioning themselves as 21st century leaders, and are placing Appalachian at the forefront of thought leadership and creative problem solving when tackling matters that face our communities, state and the world.

This issue focuses on how the Appalachian Experience is engaging our current students in the development of a global perspective and how our students, faculty, staff and alumni are making real differences by employing a global perspective.

Our undergraduate and graduate degree programs support the development of effective leaders who are at the top of their fields. From accounting, creative writing, public relations and sustainable development, to environmental biology, music performance, nursing, teaching and appropriate technology and more, we are preparing our graduates to be critical, creative and global professionals.

The review of our strategic initiatives illustrates how Appalachian continues to provide and strengthen a transformational experience for our students. I am sure you will be proud and excited to read about the scholarship, research and learning through action our great university fosters, and see examples of how a deep engagement with the world around us is an important part of these experiences.

Regards,

Hank Foreman
Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications and Cultural Affairs
Executive Editor

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Bernard Havard, Producing Artistic Director

Appalachian’s Hayes School of Music presents
Dido and Aeneas by Henry Purcell and
Bastien und Bastienne by W.A. Mozart
April 4–7, 2013

An Evening with
Maya Angelou
The 29th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration
January 22, 2013
Presented in collaboration with Appalachian’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance.

Appalachian’s Office of Multicultural Student Development presents
An Evening with
Garrison Keillor and Musical Guests
April 16, 2013
Presented in collaboration with the APPS Heritage Council.

The 29th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration
An Evening with
Maya Angelou
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Presented in collaboration with the APPS Heritage Council.

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Friday, March 1, 2013
Friday, April 5, 2013
Friday, July 5, 2013
Donor’s vision builds a tradition of life-changing international experiences

By Jane Nicholson

William R. Holland first traveled the world as CEO of United Dominion Industries, with trips taking him primarily to Europe. But it was a trip to China that ignited his passion for providing transformational overseas experiences to students in the Walker College of Business at Appalachian.

“China was fascinating. The city of Shanghai was transforming itself before your eyes,” the retired CEO said of his travels in the early 1990s. “We had business dealings there and could see what was happening, even before it became the powerhouse that it is today.”

At the time, United Dominion – now SPX Corporation – had opened a facility to manufacture pre-engineered metal buildings through a joint venture with Bao Steel Group of Shanghai.

Holland’s fascination with China, coupled with the enthusiasm of former business college dean and now Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock for the emerging Asian nation, led to the creation of the William R. Holland Fellows Program for Business Study in Asia Endowment in 1997.

In what is now called the William R. Holland Fellows for Business Study in Asia program, 12 business students are selected each year to travel to Fudan University in Shanghai and visit businesses in Beijing and Hong Kong to learn firsthand about business practices and interactions in China.

Wendy Greene ‘97, a senior consultant with CapTech in Richmond, Va., was one of the first students to travel to China with the Holland Fellows program.

“China was literally worlds away. You couldn’t have picked a more exciting place to go,” she said. “This is the program that I know changed my life.”

After the Holland Fellows experience, Greene returned to China and spent a semester learning Mandarin and teaching conversational English at Northeast University in Shenyang, one of Appalachian’s partner institutions. “The Holland Fellows Program was really the gateway for me to do that,” she said. “My thirst for travel started with the Holland Fellows Program and it gave me an insatiable curiosity to visit different places. It’s something that never gets quenched.”

Greene finds that 16 years after her first trip to China she still has opportunities to talk about the experience. “People in my job setting often ask me about that trip,” she said.

Greene tells them of its emotional and professional impact. “It just gave me such confidence,” she said of her interactions with the students and others while in China and at Fudan University. “You can’t get that in a typical classroom.”

The drive to succeed

It’s not only China’s evolution from a Communist-ruled country to one that has embraced capitalism that interests Holland. He feels a kinship to the U.S. and Chinese students who exhibit a drive to succeed.

“I grew up a poor boy in rural Oklahoma, I was ambitious, I worked hard and I wanted to get ahead,” Holland said. “And I think I see that element in the Chinese students to a very great extent and in the Appalachian students as well.”

Holland earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver. He was a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the U.S. Air Force. He was a partner with the law firm Bridges, Young, Matthews, Drake, and an attorney for Southwestern Bell before joining United Dominion in 1973 as general counsel.

Holland has served on the boards of Coltech Industries, EnPro Industries, Goodrich, J.A. Jones Construction Company and Snyder’s-Lance Inc. He also has served as a corporate member of the Jupiter (Fla.) Medical Center and a member of the Walker College of Business Advisory Board.

Becoming ambassadors to the world

Now in its 16th year, the program has since expanded its scope to provide experiences for students from Appalachian and Fudan who visit each other’s campus and work jointly on business projects, culminating with student presentations at Fudan University.

“The program became much richer when it evolved”
“One of the real benefits of this program, in addition to the experience the students have, is its ambassadorial feature.”
– William R. Holland, retired CEO of United Dominion Industries

It’s not uncommon for Holland Fellows to return to China for internships with China Daily News in Beijing; Liaoning New Century, an office furniture and entrepreneurial ventures company in Shenyang; or Owens Corning in Shanghai.

In addition to interning with China Daily News, Russell Warriner ’07 served two one-year terms as the UNC System’s liaison in China, a position based at Fudan University. Warriner told the Walker College of Business’ Business Leaders Magazine that the experiences provided him a more balanced and objective view of the world.

“When I think of the United States of America, I can see what it would be like through the eyes of a person from a different country,” he said in a 2008 interview. “I could have never done that before I went to China. This new view that I’ve taken of the world is much more balanced and objective ... The global perspective is amazing.”

Warriner currently is strategic marketing manager for Trina Solar, a Chinese manufacturer of photovoltaic modules.

Over the years, Holland has lectured to students while they were at Fudan, and often meets with the Appalachian and Fudan students when they are in Boone.

“One of the things I did in the business world, being exposed to different cultures and different kinds of thinking than we have as Americans probably broadened me more than anything else,” Holland said. “Being exposed to a different culture and language is very enriching,” he said. “Being able to experience that at their age is a real plus for these students.”
Global Learning at Appalachian

‘Multiple and varied’ experiences are central for students in new plan

By Linda Coutant

Jordan Scruggs ’12 lived in Costa Rica the last semester of her senior year, taking Spanish classes in San Jose, traveling the countryside and writing her honors thesis in creative writing. The English major said she came back a changed person – from how she perceived herself as a writer to how she relates to others.

“Speaking more than one language is critical in the modern global context,” said Scruggs, a former Honors College student from Hendersonville. She is now pursuing a master’s degree at Yale Divinity School.

How to create transformational cultural experiences like Scruggs’ for more students – through multiple and varied activities at home and abroad – is receiving greater attention at Appalachian State University. The American Council on Education (ACE) has praised Appalachian for its international activities since 2002, and despite being a leader in international education by ACE standards, a 2009 self-study conducted through ACE revealed that these efforts could be improved and expanded to a greater number of students to ensure they can live and work successfully in a multicultural, interconnected world.

A five-year plan called “Global Learning: A World of Opportunities for Appalachian Students,” to be implemented beginning in the 2013-14 academic year, emphasizes strengthened activities which are offered both at home and abroad and earlier in a student’s college career.

From global ‘awareness’ to ‘competency’

National surveys indicate that high school seniors and their families expect their students to have an increased global

64 universities in 27 countries
Appalachian’s number of formal relationships with partners abroad
awareness and/or competency during college, as graduates will likely encounter coworkers, clients and neighbors from different cultures in their professions. In addition, 90 percent of employers consulted for the 2008 UNC Tomorrow report, a guiding document for all UNC institutions, believed colleges and universities needed to improve the quality of student achievement in order for them to be globally competent. Keeping the state globally competitive is among central goals being laid out by UNC President Tom Ross for the system’s next five years, as well.

It’s not enough to be globally aware anymore – all Appalachian graduates must be globally competent, says Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor for international education and development. He is co-leading the team devising how to develop the majority of students from one level to the next.

“Global learning,” Lutabingwa explained, “is where students will engage in multiple and varied experiences at home and abroad to increase their knowledge of global issues, regions and cultures; improve their intercultural skills; and demonstrate global citizenship.”

To achieve the goals of globally competent knowledge, communication and citizenship, Appalachian advocates eight diverse experiences that can begin as soon as students step foot on campus, regardless of their major:

At Home:
• Globalized curriculum
• Multicultural experiences in the U.S.
• International students and faculty on Appalachian’s campus
• Globalized co-curricular environment

Abroad:
• International student research
• International internships/practicums
• International service-learning
• Long-term and short-term study abroad

While these activities already are being implemented to varying degrees, the trick is to ensure they reach the entire Appalachian student body, Lutabingwa said.

“All students should develop a global awareness and competency. One trip abroad does not equal global competency, so we’re talking about getting students to have varied experiences – and that takes place in the classroom and in their co-curricular and extracurricular experiences,” he said.

The way forward, he explained, includes broadening existing international opportunities, expanding current student opportunities, utilizing partner institutions more effectively, taking advantage of technology such as video links and electronic collaboration to connect Appalachian students with those abroad, internationalizing faculty development, and further diversifying the campus environment.

To measure students’ progress in developing global competency, the university will conduct assessments at the course, program and university level using internally and externally developed measurement tools. This includes surveying of students’ knowledge, skills, and attitudes as

“People travel to find themselves. There is a freshness found in a foreign place, an opportunity to view life through a different lens, a chance to sift through the clutter and discover oneself outside of the complications created by expectation and memory.”

– Jordan Scruggs ’12, in an essay on her three months in Costa Rica

Photo courtesy of Jordan Scruggs
The QEP report calls for 80 percent of Appalachian students to achieve a rating of “globally competent” or above on an externally developed assessment tool used worldwide by the 2017-2018 academic year.

well as their participation in classes, study abroad, and co-curricular activities, said Dr. Renee Scherlen, who serves with Lutabingwa on the team developing the global learning goals. She teaches in the Department of Government and Justice Studies.

A roadmap for student learning

The global learning plan developed out of Appalachian’s reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a process that occurs every 10 years. A relatively new requirement of the reaccreditation process is for institutions to develop a “quality enhancement plan,” or QEP. While much of a university’s reaccreditation is based on what it has done in the past, the QEP looks forward. It serves as a roadmap that addresses a well-defined topic related to improving student learning, and it includes ways to measure that learning over time, said Dr. Tony Carey, vice provost for faculty affairs, who co-leads the QEP team with Lutabingwa.

During the 2010-11 academic year, Appalachian considered 29 faculty/staff proposed QEP topics, including student research, citizenship and engagement, and sustainability, before selecting global learning.

“These are all great aspects of the Appalachian Experience, and global learning is an initiative that defines who we are as an institution because Appalachian is committed to graduating students who are fully prepared for this global economy,” said Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock.
Appalachian students don’t have to leave the U.S. to have a meaningful international experience.

Through the creativity of professors and the availability of social media and teleconferencing, students in Boone interact with students from around the globe.

By Jane Nicholson

Faculty internationalize courses

Culture and Language Across the Curriculum

Developing skills in a second language and learning the nuances of another culture are not limited to the foreign language classroom. The Culture and Languages Across the Curriculum program, jointly developed by the global studies program and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, encourages faculty from all disciplines to use resources on campus to add a linguistic or culturally-based international component to their courses.

For example, a discussion of conflict management in a communication class takes on a new perspective when cultural differences come into play. A class on religions of the world gains added depth when segments of the Koran are read in Arabic. And students learning Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and German increase their understanding of these languages by working with international teaching partners who provide additional conversational experiences to those available in regular foreign language classes.

“I think it’s really important to have young Americans realize that if they can read a headline or a newspaper in the actual language of that culture, that gives them a window into that culture, into the news, into political science that they don’t really have if they only speak English,” said Dr. Beverly Moser from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

First Year Seminar Goes International

This fall, students in an 8 a.m. class virtually crossed time zones to interact with students halfway around the globe. “Global Understandings,” a new initiative piloted fall semester, provided the opportunity for multiple global
encounters within the structure of a First Year Seminar course.

High-quality technology on campus allowed students to converse with their peers in Thailand, Taiwan and China in a way that was natural and personal. Topics of discussion included college, family, success and images/stereotypes. By seeing one another on a high-definition screen, the students practiced their nonverbal communication skills and learned more about another culture than they might have through email or by telephone.

Dr. Jeanne Dubino, one of three professors team teaching the course, said she had “never seen such an intense level of excitement.”

Although students conversed primarily in English, the course helped increase Appalachian students’ language awareness and taught them some vocabulary from their partner schools.

Social media aids work of global virtual teams

Students in Dr. Pam Brewer’s professional writing classes in the Department of English have worked in global virtual teams with students in Armenia, Taiwan and Canada, writing reports, documents or other instructional materials and proposals.

The students decide what tools will work best for their collaborative project, such as email, Facebook, Skype and Google docs. Her experiential learning model in which teams work internationally on joint projects is being considered for implementation within other disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Brewer said that while all universities today offer some type of study abroad experience for their students, few provide experience in global virtual team communication.

“The workplace today, with very little exception, is desperate to get graduates who are competent internationally and who are competent in virtual communication,” Brewer said. “Our students get both experiences, in addition to practicing a hard skill, like proposal or report writing.”

Immigration: A world view

What better place to learn about immigration issues than visiting New York City, the nation’s early melting pot?

Dr. Linda Veltze, a professor of library science at Appalachian, partnered with faculty at the University of Karlsruhe School of Education in Germany to teach a summer class that focused on immigration. Her students were current and future educators from Germany and the U.S.

“Immigration is a big issue in Germany where most of the immigrants are Turkish, and prejudices also occur there,” Veltze said. “The German professors are as concerned that their students learn about immigration as we are about our students.”

Prior to the trip, the students worked for a month on assignments that Veltze posted on AsULearn, the university’s online course management system.

Using the university’s New York Loft as their base, the eight students from Appalachian and eight from Germany attended lectures held at the United Nations, visited the Tenement Museum in New York’s Lower East Side, early immigrant Jewish and Italian neighborhoods, current Latino and Chinese neighborhoods and the Statue of Liberty.

“It was a living experience,” Veltze said. “The students put the experience right to work in their classrooms. All came away transformed, including myself.”

The class received an award for innovative and best practice teaching from the University of Karlsruhe’s School of Education.

General Education develops international knowledge

All Appalachian students must complete six to nine hours within a Local to Global perspective that is part of the university’s General Education program. Students select a theme within Local to Global that combines several classes from different disciplines and is designed to enhance their worldview. Themes include titles such as Empire, Colonialism and Globalization; Sustainability and Global Change; and Origins and Migrations. General Education also integrates study abroad programs with its courses.

To help faculty members enhance global contexts within their courses, General Education offers grants for curriculum development. As a result, for example, an introductory art course now incorporates the study and making of masks from multiple cultures. A technology course addresses personal, national and international energy consumption patterns and explores where in the world energy comes from.
Members of International Appalachian (INTAPP) have regular interaction with international students, improving both the experiences of the international students and INTAPP members.

Cameron Batchelor, a freshman geology major and member of INTAPP, meets Yuko Suzuki, an exchange student from Kansai Gaidai University in Japan, for lunch in Central Dining Hall. Each month, INTAPP members meet with two international students for activities and conversation. After spending time together during October, Suzuki and Batchelor have developed an ongoing friendship.

Photo: Marie Freeman ’85
Multicultural opportunities are key to broadening the classroom experience

Globalized co-curricular environment

Not all students have the time in their academic schedule, the inclination or financial means to go abroad, so Appalachian makes sure they can be exposed to other cultures on campus.

Here’s how:

- To keep the global community in sight and in mind, Appalachian offers the occasional visual reminder: a hallway of nations’ flags in Plemmons Student Union and clocks representing different time zones around the world in Raley Hall. Expect more of these and other visuals around campus in the year ahead...

- Residence halls can provide a great opportunity to learn more about other cultures and customs. Appalachian houses many of its international students in the Living Learning Center as part of the Language and Culture Residential Learning Community, which benefits American students who want to practice and expand their knowledge of the global community.

Activities include peer study groups, foreign language suites, discussion groups that speak in a different language, and close interaction with international students and Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures faculty.

The 10-story Summit Hall, which opened this fall, also houses international students.

- Presentations by international visitors can inspire students. Jennifer Lampo, a business management major concentrating in entrepreneurship, said she was “becoming emotionally invested” as she listened to Isabel Richardson of India talk about the Madras Christian Council helping children who live in dump yards. Richardson gave the keynote address during the 4th Annual Global Opportunities Day in the Walker College of Business.

Moved to support the cause, Lampo, who wants to spread her cosmetics sales internationally, used her Mary Kay Cosmetics contacts to raise $3,000 in a month to benefit the non-profit organization.

- AS•U•GO is Appalachian’s Cultural Speaker’s Bureau composed of students and scholars from many world cultures who bring with them a wealth of cultural expertise and life experiences to share with university classrooms, local schools, and community organizations.
Pick up your mail… and apply for a passport

Students don’t have to go far to apply for a passport. Since fall 2010, the campus post office has offered complete application services and photo-taking each weekday without an appointment. The post office now handles more than 400 passport applications each year.

Because a portion of the passport application fee stays on site, revenue generated through the service helps the campus post office purchase new equipment, including a campus mail delivery truck that the university could not have afforded because of reduced state funding.

Turchin Center exhibits the world

Every two years, the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts hosts an International Focus Exhibition to bring the work of international artists to campus to deepen the community’s educational and cultural experience.

For 2012-13, the International Focus Exhibition features contemporary Polish art – from photography, painting, installation and graphic arts to fashion. This is the third time the Turchin Center has partnered with the Office of International Education and Development to bring international artists to campus. Other exhibitions have focused on China and Mexico.

Five individual shows collectively titled “21 Sztuka: Contemporary Art of Poland Series I-V” make up this year’s exhibition. On display until early February 2013 are a site-specific installation in the Mezzanine Gallery by artist Jedrzej Stepak, who completed a residency at Appalachian, and the Jan Fejkiel Gallery Exhibition in the Main Gallery, featuring the work of 24 artists. Located in Cracow, the Jan Fejkiel Gallery specializes in contemporary prints and drawings.

The fifth exhibition runs Feb. 15 through June 1 with a group show of graphics, fibers and fashion arts.

“21 Sztuka” developed from a fall 2010 trip to four Polish cities during which Turchin Center staff met contemporary artists to lay the groundwork for future artist residencies and faculty, student and cultural exchanges.

Learn more at www.tcva.org/exhibitions/528

Appalachian is ranked sixth in the nation among master’s degree granting institutions by the Chronicle of Higher Education for the number of students participating in international study.

1999

The American Council on Education selects Appalachian as a model of internationalization for other American campuses; the university has exchange relationships with 36 foreign institutions.

2000

Appalachian joins the Peace Corps’ Master’s International program, which allows individuals to pursue graduate degrees while serving in the Peace Corps.

2002

Appalachian hosts the first Diversity Celebration on campus.

2006

Appalachian selects global learning as its “quality enhancement plan” as part of reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

2007-2011

Appalachian expands international opportunities to more atypical and emerging parts of the world in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

2012

Appalachian is ranked sixth in the nation among master’s degree granting institutions by the Chronicle of Higher Education for the number of students participating in international study.

Source: News Bureau/University Communications records
Multicultural events
Sponsored by clubs and organizations

**Diversity Celebration** – Appalachian hosts a Diversity Celebration each April, a day-long event featuring a wide array of local and international music, dancing, food and crafts - from African dancing to Appalachian storytelling. The 2013 celebration is April 9 in Plemmons Student Union.

**Chinese Moon Festival** – September; honors one of the two most important occasions in the Chinese calendar

**Eid-Al-Fitr Potluck** – September; honors the Muslim holiday that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan

**Find Yosef a Holiday Fair** – November; introduces international holidays such as Guadalupe Day, Magpie Festival, Apokrias, Chinese New Year, Guy Fawkes Day, Ramadan, Diwali, Canivale di Venezia, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Irish St Stephen’s Day, Christmas, Moravian Love Feast, Boxing Day, Egyptian Coptic Christmas, Kwanzaa, Leonard Peltier Day, Mid-Autumn Festival, Day of Chango and New Year’s

**Kwanzaa Celebration** – November; an African-American celebration based on harvest and planting ceremonies in Africa

**Norooz and Holi Festival** – April; recognizes the Persian and Hindi festivals that celebrate the arrival of spring.

**Hispanic Heritage Festival** – April; celebrates this culture with music, food and dance

**Food Services**
TexMex, Italian and Asian are already on the menu in Food Services, with a greater international flair coming soon. Cuisines from around the world will be highlighted nightly in Trivette Hall after a new display cooking area is added in 2013. Plans also call for kosher and halal food offerings on campus.
International Week
Students highlight opportunities for involvement and use creative displays and stories to engage their peers during the university’s 2012 International Week in November, which celebrated the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of Appalachian’s efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States. This year’s theme was “Environment, Economics and Social Justice.” The university also held its first Appalachian Global Symposium.

Homecoming Parade
Students from the International Club bring big Mountaineer smiles and inspire the community to catch the global spirit.

Using the performing arts, Malawi native Masankho Kamsisi Banda motivates and inspires people of all ages to work together to bring about peace, social justice and cultural understanding. Appalachian brought the teaching artist and educator to campus in October to lead workshops for students and the community. During his residency, he also guest lectured in music education classes, collaborated with the Gospel Choir and led workshops for K-12 teachers.

International Coffee Hour
The International Coffee Hour in the Plemmons Student Union has become a popular gathering time for free coffee, food and conversation with campus’ international community.
Destination Appalachian

Appalachian State University has become an international crossroads, bringing faculty and students from around the globe who interact with the campus and Boone community.

Appalachian currently enrolls approximately 170 international students and hopes to grow that number to at least 220 students over the next three years. Helping achieve that increase are recently established formal relationships with 15 high schools in China as part of an international student recruitment effort. Other programs are:

- Recently established dual degree programs with Burapha University International College in Thailand and Duy Tan University in Vietnam. The programs allow students from the partner universities to study for two years at their home university and then transfer to Appalachian for their last two years of education. The students graduate with degrees from both Appalachian and their home university. The first students from Thailand and Vietnam are expected to enroll at Appalachian in 2014.

- Appalachian’s dual degree program in communication at the Universidad de las Américas Puebla in Mexico (UDLAP) in Cholula, Mexico. Students from both countries spend their freshman and senior years at their home institution and their sophomore and junior years abroad, and receive degrees from both institutions. (See page 19.)

“These are winning partnerships for all the institutions involved,” said Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor for international education and development at Appalachian. “These programs will enable Appalachian to increase its international student population on campus, helping the university to achieve one of its strategic plan goals. And our partner institutions will be able to expand their educational instruction beyond what currently is being offered on their campuses.”

Muslim Student Association

The Muslim Student Association provides an opportunity for Muslims and non-Muslims to learn more about each other. Special events like the “Feast of the Sacrifice” – Eid al-Adha – celebrate Muslim traditions and culture. The association partners with classes to offer cultural experiences that strengthen classroom learning.

Approximately 170 international students are currently enrolled at Appalachian.
Natalia Durkalec shows off her Mountaineer spirit at a University Communications “photo booth” on Sanford Mall. Durkalec is attending Appalachian for a year and is studying French, German, Russian and Spanish. In addition to her linguistic pursuits, she is active in numerous campus clubs. In Poland, she attends Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

Photo: Marie Freeman ’85
Doctoral student Arshad Bashir talks with local public school students about what they are learning by engaging with their peers in Pakistan. The project, which employs social media as a tool to share cultures, has been met with excitement by the students on both sides of the globe.

Social media connects U.S. and Pakistan students

When Arshad Bashir first traveled to Appalachian in 2007 to attend a six-week training program for science teachers, he wasn’t sure what to expect. His perceptions of the U.S. had been formed by news reports from Pakistan’s state-run media and Hollywood movies.

“That was my first experience to come out of Pakistan,” the International Fulbright Scholar from Islamabad said. “That gave me exposure to international education and inspired me to return to the U.S. to earn a higher education degree.”

Now a fourth-year doctoral student in the Reich College of Education’s Ed.D. program, the former high school biology teacher discovered what many others do when visiting a foreign country – that the media often present skewed accounts about a country, its people, politics and religion.

“Normally whatever information we receive is about U.S. government policies, not about the culture or the people. So I had a very different perception before coming here, including stereotypes and negative perceptions about Americans and how U.S. policies are administered in our region,” Bashir said. “But even in the first year of living here, I felt a transformation going on, changing most of the things I had perceived about U.S. society. In some ways, the people here are more helpful than my own people in Pakistan.”

Bashir now helps students and teachers from his hometown and those in Northwest North Carolina better understand his culture. “People either don’t know anything about Pakistan or what information they do have is based on reports from the Western media. Those reports usually represent only a small percentage of the Pakistani population,” he said.

Bashir has given talks about his country, customs and religion to classes at Appalachian, at community colleges and in the public schools. “In some ways it’s very challenging to come from a country that is 99 percent Muslim to a town where it’s hard to find any Muslims, but it’s a good opportunity for me to help people learn more about the religion.”

That experience inspired Bashir to find ways to connect school students in Taxila with those in three Northwest North Carolina schools. For the past two years, students from both countries have used social media to share a day in their life through photographs, videos and blogs. “The idea was to help students talk to each other and collaborate with each other through cultural activities,” he said. “That helps them understand the differences between the two cultures as well as how we are similar.”

In early December, 12 students, teachers and administrators from schools in Educational City in Taxila traveled for the first time to the U.S. — and for some the first time out of their province — to spend two weeks at either Watauga High School, Hardin Park Elementary School or Green Valley Elementary School. They also spent one week in Washington, D.C. The students stayed with host families while in Boone.

In late February 2013, teachers and administrators from the Watauga County Schools will travel to Pakistan for a 10-day exchange.

The exchange is sponsored by a $266,197 grant from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

“International educational and professional exchanges play an important and vital part in public diplomacy particularly because face-to-face contact between peoples of different countries and cultures helps to diminish stereotypes and ultimately facilitates inter-cultural communication,” said Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, Appalachian’s associate vice chancellor for international education and development, who co-wrote the grant with Bashir.

“Both countries are in a very difficult relationship with each other and there is a lot of trust deficit,” Bashir said of Pakistan and the U.S. “But we must keep trying, especially with the younger generation. At that age it’s easier to help them understand the complexities of the two countries.”
Mexican student works toward dual degrees

Francisco “Frank” Contreras is the first Mexican student to come to Appalachian as part of the Department of Communication’s new dual-degree program with Universidad de las Américas Puebla (UDLAP) in Mexico. He will spend his sophomore and junior years here and earn a degree from both institutions. Appalachian sophomore Shannon Trudeau is attending UDLAP during this same time and will also earn two degrees.

Contreras arrived this fall and is studying journalism with the hope of going into sports broadcasting in Spain. He was attracted to the dual-degree program, he said, because of its consecutive years and because he believes a communication education in the United States is more specialized than in Mexico. He has a sister following in his globetrotting footsteps by studying this year in Italy.

Contreras said he’s had to adjust to the English language’s multiple meanings for words and a difference in cuisine, and that tailgating before football games is a new concept to him, but overall he said he is enjoying his time at Appalachian.

The dual-degree program is giving him the ability to experience a different culture and atmosphere, Contreras said. During his time in the U.S., he plans to travel around the U.S. with friends during school breaks to experience different cities, including Miami.

Twenty-one teachers from 17 countries spent six weeks enhancing their ability to teach English as a foreign language as part of the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program in fall 2012. Appalachian was one of the four U.S. universities selected to offer the program. Learn more at today.appstate.edu/tea
Professor uses the arts for cross-cultural teaching

For each academic degree Dr. Kin-Yan Szeto has earned, she studied in a different locale – first in her native Hong Kong, then the United Kingdom, mainland China and the United States.

“Universities are a great place for us to study and work with people from other cultures. I treasure the education experiences that students can have in college because of what we learn about ourselves and others,” said Szeto, who joined the Department of Theatre and Dance in 2005.

An expert in performance studies, Szeto came to Appalachian as part of the Faculty Fellows Program, which works to recruit and retain a more diverse faculty. She is among a growing number of Appalachian faculty members with international backgrounds – a figure that may be at least 10 to 15 percent, according to the Office of International Education and Development.

Since coming to Appalachian, Szeto has integrated interdisciplinary perspectives and methodologies in her research and teaching, both in theatre courses and in general education courses, and has produced cross-cultural theatre productions.

Szeto finds the arts to be a cultural bridge to better understanding humanity – “to see our differences and also what we have in common. We all have pain, suffering, joy,” she said.

Jonathan Fitts ’11 says Szeto profoundly influenced him as a student, scholar and playwright. Now an M.F.A. candidate in dramatic writing at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Fitts said, “I firmly believe that the theory she exposed me to and our critical discussion of it helped shape my artist’s conscience.”

As a student in her performance studies class, Fitts said Szeto offered “a perspective alternative to my own (and, largely, the class’s) in terms of cultural practices, political views and sociological perceptions,” he said. “Regularly we were brought to question what degree our perceptions of certain issues were informed by our American lens.”

Both Fitts and current student Tim Reis reference their involvement in the department’s production of Gao Xingjian’s “The Other Shore,” which Szeto directed in spring 2011. “Aspiring to produce a work of Chinese post-modern theatre at a university in a rural Appalachian town takes a great deal of courage, and she never wavered in her commitment to the project, understanding the tremendous value it would have for her students,” Fitts recalled.

At the time, few American theatres had performed “The Other Shore,” Reis said. As “westernized thinkers,” Reis said he and his peers had difficulty understanding the nuances of the show’s themes – of tension between the individual and the collective, and of the Buddhist idea of freedom.

“She gave us the background and worked with us to improve our understanding of the culture and Eastern philosophy through meditation and group discussions. She was patient and shared her knowledge with us all at our own pace – as we were practically reshaping our entire life philosophy and way of thinking,” said Reis, now a senior. That experience led him to add theatre arts as a major in addition to social work.

“I find students today know a lot about the outside world through the Internet, they’re open and want to learn more and are excited to learn something different,” Szeto said. “All of us in education want students to broaden their horizons and see things differently. I was blessed to have professors who inspired me, and now I want to inspire them.”
MBA students Aymeric Lepage and Sarah Triplett present a project in an international ethics and leadership class in the Walker College of Business. Lepage graduated from the University of Angers with a degree in business finance.

Photo: Marie Freeman ’85
Above, Sruthi Abraham and Leela Nadimidoddi show Chris Daley, a sophomore international relations major, the finer points of making Chai tea in a kitchen in the Living Learning Center where they live. The three became friends when Daley, who studied abroad in India last year, met them as the Indian students moved in at the beginning of the semester. Daley plans to study at Madras Christian College in Chennai, India next year, where Abraham and Nadimidoddi are students.


Photos: Marie Freeman ’85
www.news.appstate.edu/2012/11/05/parent-to-parent-race
Central America field experience helps solve geologic puzzles

By Jane Nicholson

Hannah Reigel had a once-in-a-century opportunity this summer when she was selected to work with a research team at the Panama Canal. Expansion of the canal, which was constructed between 1881 and 1914, is providing researchers the opportunity to expand scientific knowledge about extinct faunas and floras of the ancient Neotropics.

Reigel, a senior geology major from Stuarts Draft, Va., was one of three university students, and the only undergraduate, from across the U.S. selected to spend three months there this summer.

“One of my jobs was to catalog all the fossils being recovered into a database system, check fossils and review research,” Reigel said.

Her past field experience with Appalachian’s Department of Geology’s annual summer field experience in the southwestern U.S., plus her fluency in Spanish, helped her secure a spot in Panama. Later during the internship, Reigel was able to work on her own research project – paleosols, which are ancient soils that have been preserved under layers of sediment.

Her work has provided valuable clues about the area’s past. “Because the climate and environmental history of Panama is really unknown, anything that pieces together a geologic background is pretty cool,” Reigel said.

Her work with ancient soil collected from the site, coupled with another student’s fossil findings, indicate the area was once a freshwater site rather than a brackish deltaic environment as previously thought.

She explained how different animals lived in different environments. The Protoceratids, which were horned deer-like animals, were mostly found in woodlands near riparian zones, the interface between land and a river or stream.

“The fact that we found out that the area once had a braided or multi-channeled stream rather than being a deltaic environment may explain why we found so many protoceratid fossils. Finding out that there was fresh water system makes a lot of other factors fall into place,” she said.

Her field experience led Reigel to give a poster presentation at the Geological Society of America annual conference held in Charlotte in November, and a clearer focus on what to study in graduate school.

“It also gives me a leg up when applying to grad school,” she said. “Not a lot of people can say they have worked in Panama on this project.”

The Panama Canal research project is funded by a Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) international research grant awarded to Florida Museum of Natural history at University of Florida from the National Science Foundation.
Student discovers passion for sharing multicultural music

By Jane Nicholson

An overseas opportunity as a graduate student through her professor’s Fulbright Scholar grant and her own Graduate Research Associate Mentor Grant has helped Meaghan Dunham ’08 ’12 expand her multicultural-focused teaching in her classroom.

Now a music specialist at Highcroft Drive Elementary School in Wake County, Dunham spent two months in South Africa in 2010 as a graduate research associate to Dr. Suzi Mills, a Hayes School of Music faculty member who was researching and collecting South African Choral Music. Public history graduate Lee Roueche also accompanied Mills for part of her six-month, Fulbright-funded research project.

Dunham’s work collecting historical and musical references, transcribing recorded music and cataloging data contributed to Mills’ soon-to-be published book “Freedom Song: Post-Apartheid Expression in South African Choral Music.”

Dunham also taught three primary music classes at a South African elementary school and assisted with an after-school strings program during her stay in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

“The experience gave me a greater appreciation and understanding of ethnic music and instilled in me a passion for finding music that I can share when I teach a multicultural unit in my classes,” Dunham said. “I also feel like I have more creative license to develop lesson plans that can really teach my students about the music of different cultures, but also about the history of the music and the people who performed it, and give them a greater appreciation for world music.”

The experience also reaffirmed Dunham’s views of the educational system in the U.S. “It made me more open minded to think how lucky we are to have the educational system that we do in the United States. They just don’t have the same kind of resources we have here. It made me feel very lucky for the resources and the education system that we have here in the U.S.”

She urges others to take advantage of overseas educational experiences.

“The experience was so invaluable that no amount of money that I spent to travel to South Africa or on my education could hold a candle to the things that I learned or the experiences that I was able to bring to my job once I graduated,” she said.
Through a collaboration between the Center for Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana and Appalachian’s Walker College of Business (WCOB), Appalachian students are exposed to cutting edge research by top Cuban economists who seek to adjust their country’s socialist model to promote economic growth. As the Cuban government reduces the ranks of state employees and tries to increase entrepreneurial opportunities for its citizens, the WCOB is working to support this reform and to be at the forefront of potential business opportunities that may be created as the US–Cuba relationship changes. Collaboration and the exchange of ideas between students from both countries facilitates creative problem solving and critical thinking. Above: Omar Everleny Pérez Villanova (on computer), professor and researcher in the Department of Economics at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) in Havana, works with Appalachian students Sam Thomas (right) and Chris Ashley (left). Left: Appalachian students tour the Museum of the Revolution in Havana, Cuba.

Photos: Marie Freeman ’85

Watch the video about this international experience at today.appstate.edu/cuba.
Clockwise from top left: Seniors Sam Thomas and Anicia Cardo on the Plaza de la Catedral in Old Havana; junior Erin Boltz learns about internationally renowned Cuban painter Wifredo Lam from a display in the Fort Matanzas National Monument; senior Gordon Reddick supports a local artist in Korimakao, a popular artists’ community in Playa Larga; Cuban-born freshman Aneisy Cardo views Havana through the tour bus window.
Jerome Boyd “J.B.” Hallan, a psychology major, knew he wanted to study abroad in a country culturally different from the United States and began planning his trip two years in advance. His countless months of planning proved to be a worthwhile investment.

“I learned more and grew more than I have all throughout high school and college combined. Those five months were some of the hardest of my life, but it was eye-opening. It was an intense yet, amazing experience,” said Hallan.

Hallan decided that he wanted to intern with the Family Counseling Center at Madras Christian Council of Social Services (MCCSS), a nonprofit organization in Chennai, India. MCCSS is a partner organization with Appalachian’s International Community Development Initiative (ICDI) sponsored by ACT (Appalachian and the Community Together) and the Office of International Education and Development.

At MCCSS Hallan provided basic therapeutic counseling for individuals with mental disabilities, families with marriage and domestic problems, girls and women recovering from sex and other forms of human trafficking, and orphaned girls and boys taken in by MCCSS.

Initially Hallan’s ACT adviser told him he could not intern in India because he lacked volunteer and international experience. That summer he interned at a homeless shelter in Durham and volunteered with his church in Haiti. Realizing he was now qualified for the program, ACT gave Hallan the “OK” to begin planning his trip.

To help fund his travels and internship, he organized a 75-mile hike fundraiser. By sending letters to family and friends and asking local businesses for sponsorship, he was able to raise $3,600, half of which he donated to MCCSS.

After his three-month internship, Hallan traveled to Kolkata where he volunteered with disabled children at Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. Since his return, Hallan has applied to the Peace Corps and has started to reach out to international students on campus.
Brazil – Rachel Duffus

Junior Rachel Duffus, a global studies and Spanish double major, was one of six Appalachian students who taught English in Brazil this summer – an experience in which her students taught her as much as she taught them.

“I never expected to learn so much. Thus is Brazil, though. A constant learning experience, full of the unexpected. Always!” wrote Duffus in her blog. “Now, more than ever, I see every class as such a great opportunity to learn and grow.”

Sponsored by a grant from the Brazilian government and further supported by Appalachian’s Office of International Education and Development, Rachel and her peers planned daily lectures and activities to help prepare Brazilian science students to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The test is required in order for them to come to the U.S. on the Science Without Borders initiative recently established by the government of Brazil. The program was organized by one of Appalachian’s partner universities, the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.

Duffus prepared English lessons focused on reading, writing, speaking and listening practice – all essential elements to successfully pass the TOEFL exam. She began each class by asking a random question to her students, an exercise that helped them practice speaking English and ability to think creatively. Duffus also assigned homework, which ranged from researching topics for class presentations to writing short stories.

Budapest, Hungary – Robert Irsai

Robert Irsai, a senior political science major, interned with the economics division of the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary this past spring. During his internship, he assisted with topics such as how to rebuild Hungary’s airline industry after the collapse of the national airline, Malev. Irsai also attended the NATO Hungarian Conference and other conferences, and met politicians and ambassadors from countries around the world including Afghanistan, Great Britain, Romania, Israel and the United States. Find out more at today.appstate.edu/Irsai.

“My career goal has been set and I cannot wait to become a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State. It’s been an amazing experience and I am thankful for everything.”

– Robert Irsai

South Africa – Health sciences students

A number of students in the health sciences, including senior Meghan Kusper, spent part of their summer in South Africa interning at hospitals and clinics. They shadowed medical students and observed the role and impact South African clinical education has on communities at community outreach centers. Students learned about nutritional supplementation, growth charts, pre-natal, neonatal and maternal health. They were also introduced to health prevention programs such as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

“I not only learned a ton about medicine and the health issues the country is facing, but I learned about the country’s history, culture, nature and people. We also made connections with people here that we can maintain from back home. The relationships and knowledge I gained through my time abroad will certainly shape how I view health issues in the states when I return.”

– Meghan Kusper
Twelve students from the Department of Computer Information Systems (CIS), along with associate professor Dr. Charlie Chen, chose to explore Valencia and Barcelona, Spain over fall break. The mission of this trip was to grow future global business leaders interested in doing business in Spain via exciting, exhilarating learning experiences. Students learned to use global technologies (e.g. video conferencing tools, blog, social media, media sharing and cloud-based presentation software) and developed effective strategies for intercultural communication with the focus on business and social etiquette, attitudes towards time, negotiation practices, relationship building, leadership, motivation and team building. They enjoyed summer-like weather, spending time at Costa Blanca Beach and visiting The America’s Cup Port, a small city of its own, built by Valencia City especially for the 32nd America’s Cup.

Above: Junior Leighla Chan and senior Alexander Bailey spend time with Spanish English-as-a-second-language students on the campus of the Universidad Europea de Madrid. Left: Senior Caroline Lelly’s body language sums up the spirit of the adventure, outside the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (City of Arts and Sciences), a unique complex devoted to science and culture.

Photos: Troy Tuttle ’07
Watch the video about this international experience at today.appstate.edu/europe.
Above: Like North Carolina barbecue, paella is Spain’s specialty dish. A waiter proffers students a huge platter of Valencian paella, traditionally made of white rice, green vegetables, meat and snails, beans and seasoning. Top Right: Senior Rebecca Meade shops in Mercado Central, an enormous food market, one of the stops during a walking tour that included the Plaza de la Virgen, the ancient central square of the city. Bottom Right: Senior Joseph “J.D.” Roberts indicates “We Are Here” on a globe in the Port of Valencia.
Alternative Spring Break offers international destinations, reached six countries in 2012

The popular Alternative Spring Break trips, which are created and led by trained student peer leaders, provide another international opportunity for Appalachian students. The trips immerse students in a week of community service, and purposeful reflection and fellowship.

“It was such a wonderful and transforming experience. You create some of the most memorable and eye-opening college experiences with the people you visit and the university group you venture there with.”

– Junior Christin Birchard, public relations major. She performed community service in the Dominican Republic during her 2012 spring break.
Appalachian ranks 3rd in the nation for number of students participating in short-term study abroad among master’s degree-granting comprehensive universities.

Source: Institute of International Education’s 2012 Open Doors Report

Student’s global perspective enriched at leadership summit

By Amanda Moore, global studies major, class of 2013

Global issues are right at our own backdoor. Jerrin Kollick, a junior psychology major, came to this realization after attending a Global Leadership Summit this summer in South Africa.

“I realize how fortunate I am to have what I have, but I also recognize that poverty isn’t just in Africa. It is on the other side of my town,” she said. “There are big buildings and then 15 minutes down the road there are poor areas.”

Developing this global-to-local perspective motivated Kollick to volunteer at a soup kitchen in her hometown of Charlotte after she got home. She also started donating excess clothing and items to Goodwill and speaking with her friends about outreach and volunteer opportunities.

“When I think of the changes that have happened in my life, they are experiences that have helped me to think in a different way or have completely changed certain aspects in my life,” she said.

Kollick and four other Appalachian students were among 128 participants from around the world at the 2012 Global Leadership Summit in July, learning about leadership and social change. Sponsored by the University of the Free State, the two-week event included presentations by activist and retired Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu, and prominent educators and organization leaders from around the globe.

Students addressed transformational leadership, citizenship, race, education, globalization, gender, change agents, social justice and reconciliation.

Kollick aspires to work with disadvantaged children in the United States and has considered participating in another study abroad experience. “Studying abroad puts you in an uncomfortable position and forces you to face your challenges. It gives you more insight on what an issue is really about,” Kollick said. “You go into an experience thinking one way, and completely change.”
The 2012 freshman class of Chancellor’s Scholars, 10 students on full scholarship and members of The Honors College, took to James Joyce’s Dublin for a crash course in Irish history, sports and scholarship. They visited Clontarf Castle, above, built in 1172 by Hugh de Lacy as an inner circle of defense sites protecting Dublin. Accompanied by The Honors College Director Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones, the students covered the gamut: they attended the Ireland vs. Germany World Cup qualifying match and the Maths Week festival, a competition to attract young students to mathematics; ate at Dublin’s premier fish and chips purveyor, left; and toured St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Phoenix Park, and the National Museum of Ireland. The last night was spent enjoying an Irish dinner and dancing.

Left: At Leo Burdock’s, left to right, Chris Waldon, Luke Sealey, Colleen Choate, Laurel Bates, Olivia Fitts and Elisabeth Artz.

Above: In front of Clontarf Castle, left to right, Dillon Hewitt-Castillo, Colleen Choate and Laurel Bates.

Photos: Troy Tuttle ’07

Watch the video about this international experience at today.appstate.edu/europe.
Freshman Laurel Bates, a mathematics major, interviews a presenter at Dublin's annual Maths Week festival to gain perspective on the differences in teaching styles between the U.S. and Ireland.
Faculty-led, short-term programs: 35 countries in 2012-13

“A study abroad program is an excellent way to let students learn through experience. In our situation, we learn more about intercultural communication by living in another culture for a month and studying theories pertinent to diverse cultures. Students always talk about how much they learned and how much fun it was to learn in this way.”

—Dr. Nina-Jo Moore, professor of communication

Short-term study abroad:
600 students
65 programs
35 countries in 2012-13

Communication students in Warsaw, Poland. During a four-week study abroad with Dr. Nina-Jo Moore, they learned how the country’s history and diverse geography affect communication.
Honors College requires study abroad

Students in Appalachian’s Honors College are required to complete an international education experience either during the summer or an academic semester to gain a broader understanding of the world and diversify their learning. Recent experiences include:

- pre-med and pre-health professions majors learning the impact of culture on health education and practice in Mexico and South Africa
- a chemistry major synthesizing chemical products in Mexico that can be used to prevent potentially harmful bacteria from surviving in water
- an Appalachian studies major exploring sustainability and service in Wales
- a mix of majors studying themes of love, power and sex in the history of Christianity in Paris and Rome
- music majors studying traditional Irish music in Ireland
- a human resource management major studying at India’s University of Hyderabad and working with the non-profit Voice 4 Girls
- a communication disorders major studying in Spain in hopes of someday working as a speech-language pathologist with bilingual children

In August 2010, Appalachian offered a faculty-led study abroad opportunity for incoming freshmen – a 10-day excursion to Costa Rica that was tied to a General Education course once they returned to campus. Based on its success, a similar trip is planned for May 2013. The goal is to get students overseas as early as possible in their college career to help prepare them for global citizenry. Below, 2010 freshmen visit an organic, sustainable farm in rural Costa Rica.

Learn more about the 2013 trip at international.appstate.edu/education/aoep/CostaRicaFRSummer13

Chancellor’s Scholars in front of Clontarf Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Garner Dewey
Interior design students from the Department of Technology and Environmental Design spent fall break on an interior design field study getting a taste of London’s lifestyle, museums and historic architecture, and visiting some of the city’s most cutting-edge design firms.

Left: Seniors Shane Zimmerman, left, and Abbey Reynolds pose in front of Trafalgar Square, the city’s largest square and a vibrant open space in the heart of London.

Above: Juniors Kayla Schippert and Catie Cannon test a soundproof mini-conference space at Steelcase, a global leader in office furnishings. The interior design students enjoyed a full tour of the Steelcase offices; visited Foster & Partners, one of the world’s most influential architectural design firms; and were hosted at Humanscale, a firm entrenched in the belief that the best designs in the world are based on purpose and function.

Photos: Troy Tuttle ’07
Watch the video about this international experience at today.appstate.edu/europe.
Above: Senior Abbey Reynolds admires sculpture in London’s Victoria and Albert Museum. Fellow classmate Rachael Willford, right, tries on a replica tunic in one of the museum’s mini-exhibits. In a video interview, Reynolds said this trip allowed her to “see how the English live and how they inhabit spaces. The world has become so small and we work on such a global level,” she continued, “I don’t see how you can not have an experience abroad.”
Junior design students Taylor Wilcox, kneeling, Celeste Mize, left, and Katie Black squeeze into a phone booth outside of the prime minister’s residence at No. 10 Downing Street, London.
Dean Charles Duke to retire in 2013

After 51 years in public education, including 18 years as dean of the Reich College of Education, Dr. Charles Duke has announced plans to retire at the end of the 2012-13 academic year.

“I would like to do some other things,” Duke said when talking about his retirement plans. “I’m not sure what that will be, but I have a bucketful of plans and ideas.” One item on his new to-do list: Duke has recently been appointed chairman of the executive board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Duke had a “bucketful of ideas” during his tenure at Appalachian that has expanded the college’s outreach, increased its enrollment, and secured a new facility for the college. The 124,547 square-foot Reich College of Education building officially opened in August 2011.

During Duke’s tenure, there has been a steady increase in the number of faculty and 90 percent of the faculty now teaching in the college were hired while Duke was dean of the college.

The college’s productivity at the undergraduate and graduate levels has grown under Duke’s leadership to the point that close to 1,000 students each year complete either an undergraduate or graduate degree in education. The college has expanded its early field experience program for prospective teachers, which also helps meet a need in the community for afterschool tutoring and programs. In any given semester, 300 prospective teachers are involved in early field experiences while placements in public schools for student teaching typically involve 41 districts. The college also has developed a strong emphasis upon international education.

“One of the biggest growth areas for the college and one of most successful has been expansion to off-campus sites,” Duke said. Appalachian first began offering degrees off campus through a grant to provide instruction at community colleges in Cleveland and Shelby counties and the Isothermal area. The program gradually grew to encompass 10 community colleges.

During Duke’s 18 years at Appalachian, the Ed.D. program also has grown, adding an off-campus cohort which alternates between Hickory and Winston-Salem.

“Our outreach to the public schools also is something that I view with pride,” Duke said.” The ASU Public School Partnership now comprises nine school districts and offers a great deal of professional development to the public schools.

Another significant element in the college’s growth under Duke’s leadership has been the commitment of the college to be a leader on campus in the applications of technology to teaching and learning.

Number of double majors on the rise nationally and at Appalachian

Are two bachelor’s degrees better than one? An increasing number of students think so.

The number of undergraduates choosing to double major at Appalachian State University has increased 65 percent in the past five years. University officials and students alike attribute the climb to a combination of having more than one passion, plus seeking ways to be as marketable as possible in an uncertain economy.

According to U.S. Department of Education this is a nationwide trend, as other colleges and universities report similar boosts.

Lynne Waugh, Appalachian’s director of academic advising, said students can acquire the credits necessary for a second major simply by adding two or three more courses to their minor requirements. A second major choice also might be in a foreign language to complement a desired career path. Other students select polar opposite degree programs for their double major, such as business and dance.

“I hear students say, ‘I love this field but I know I can get a job in this one,’” Waugh said. “Planning is key regardless of the number of majors. If the second major keeps them here another year or more, they should look at a master’s degree instead of getting two bachelor’s degrees. I tell students to do the research and see what might best serve them.”
Nursing class has 100 percent pass rate on national exam

Appalachian’s first graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program graduated in May and in short order marked another milestone – the class had a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination.

“All nursing programs look at the first-time pass rate as a standard of excellence for their program,” said Dr. Linda Johanson, interim chair of the Department of Nursing housed in the College of Health Sciences. “It means that the students who take and pass with a high pass rate are qualified as being competent regarding the content in nursing that is relevant into entry into the practice. It’s an excellent statistic to have.”

The newly licensed BSN/RNs have begun their careers in locations such as Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Duke University Medical Center, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Frye Regional Medical Center, Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Mission Health and Carolinas Medical Center.

Since the on-campus BSN program was approved in 2010, it has grown to approximately 80 students in the junior and senior class. More than 150 students applied for admission in the spring of 2012, and that number is expected to increase each year.

“First cohort graduates in new nursing programs have a target on their back, and for our first to receive a 100 percent pass rate the first time they took the licensure exam is a testament to the academic training our students receive on campus from our nursing faculty, the invaluable on-site experience they gain from our clinical partners, and the hard work and dedication of our students,” said Dr. Fred K. Whitt, founding dean of the College of Health Sciences.

The 124-semester hour prelicensure BSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and is fully approved by the N.C. Board of Nursing.

Learn more at nursing.appstate.edu.

Meet North Carolina’s Poet Laureate

Joseph Bathanti, North Carolina’s new poet laureate, began writing poetry in high school – not to nourish a creative streak, but to attract girls.

“A lot of my buddies who began to submit work to the school’s literary magazine began to get all this lavish attention, especially from the very intelligent girls I was dying to get attention from. And I thought, maybe it’s time to trade in my football shoulder pads for feelings,” he said.

Bathanti is a professor of creative writing at Appalachian, where he is also director of the Writing in the Field Program and writer-in-residence in the university’s Watauga Global Community.

Bathanti described his early work as having “all the virtues and downfalls of early 16-year-old boys writing poetry in 1969 with a lot of deep images and a lot of abstractions.” But he kept at it, “writing in fits and starts and trickles whenever I was feeling profound,” he said.

That persistence paid off. The latest in a string of honors awarded to Bathanti over the years came in mid-July, when then N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue named him N.C. Poet Laureate.

As poet laureate, Bathanti said he will “go wherever in the world I am summoned” to read from and talk about his work. He also plans to implement a project in which he will teach creative writing to veterans and their families, “something I had been moving towards doing anyhow.” Bathanti has taught in prisons, homeless shelters and battered women shelters, helping them express themselves through writing. He wrote a special poem honoring veterans for this past Veterans Day.

Bathanti’s other honors include literature fellowships from the N.C. Arts Council, the 2006 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction, the 2006 Novello Literary Award, the 2012 Ragan-Rubin Award, the Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry and the Mary Frances Hobson Prize to be presented by Chowan University in April 2013.

Bathanti shuns technology when writing his poems. “When I write poetry, I like to really start out with the pen and good old-fashioned paper tablet the way I did in high school because they still feel like tools to me,” he said. “I come from real blue collar people, so maybe I am deluding myself that there is some connection to the pen as a tool, to the connection of the hammer as a tool and the trowel as a tool. There is something about having something other than an electronic gadget in your hands that I find appealing.”

One of Bathanti’s favorite poems, “Paolo Mio,” was written about his grandfather who emigrated to the U.S. from Italy in 1907. “It’s the one I remember feeling that I cracked into another level with this. Now I get it,” Bathanti said. “I felt like an entire vein of ore opened up there,” he said when he realized the inspiration his family could provide for his writing.

“It was like a bunch of home movies began just rolling in my head. I could see it, I could smell it, I could hear it,” he said. “I think that poem charted my writing from there. It had a narrative and a dramatic situation. It was concrete and not just about abstraction like how I felt.”

Still, Bathanti uses feelings to describe being poet laureate. “I have the usual clichés,” he said. “Anybody would have to say ‘holy cow, what an honor, I can’t believe this, my head is spinning,’” he said.

“It’s also a very humbling honor because North Carolina is simply ripe with wonderful writers, wonderful poets, many of whom are my very dear friends and close friends,” he continued. “There were any number of people who could have been selected for this. To somehow surface out of that pool of all-stars is just amazing.”

Read some of Bathanti’s poems and hear him talk about his writing at www.ncarts.org/poet_laureate.cfm.
Award-winning Solar Homestead goes to market

An award-winning entry in the international U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 competition is now available for purchase through an agreement between Appalachian State University and Asheville-based Deltec Homes, leading builder of round, high-wind resistant homes.

Deltec is marketing and manufacturing The Solar Homestead, a net-zero energy home designed by students and professors at Appalachian State University and winner of the People’s Choice Award at the 2011 Solar Decathlon in Washington D.C.

Deltec was a lead contributor to Appalachian’s Solar Homestead project.

Through the agreement with Appalachian, Deltec Homes will pay royalties that support the Department of Technology and Environmental Design’s next large-scale, sustainable design-build project and other research and creative activities at the university.

Steve Linton, president of Deltec Homes, said: “The collaboration between Appalachian and Deltec Homes has been truly inspiring. We have all pushed our limits, gained knowledge, and developed a relationship that provides in-depth experience for the students and a design that has a profound impact on the future of homebuilding – a home that produces as much energy as it consumes.”

“This is a great example of our department working with local industry to bring sustainable solutions to the people of North Carolina and beyond,” said Dr. Jamie Russell, assistant professor of building science in the Department of Technology and Environmental Design. “It is a great step forward, bringing energy efficient housing to a large consumer base.”

Chad Everhart, a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and an associate professor and director of the building science program in the Department of Technology and Environmental Design, modified the design for the commercial market. “The 2011 Solar Decathlon entry was not only a prototype but an exhibition house and had features that were required based on the competition’s rules,” he said. “The revised design still feels and looks the same, but is targeted for a broader audience. It is a house people can grow into and retrofit later.”

While the original Solar Homestead was constructed in modules that were transported to the National Mall and installed for the competition, the updated homestead incorporates a panelized building system that will be constructed at Deltec’s facility, then shipped to the job site for assembly.

The modified design maintains the homestead’s grand porch and can be configured for two bedrooms and one bath, or enlarged through the purchase of outbuilding modules that can serve as additional bedrooms, office or living space. The design also has options that can be added by the purchaser, such as additional solar panels, and a solar hot water kit and fresh air exchange system.

“This licensing agreement validates the work of the students and faculty that went into the Solar Homestead project,” Russell said. “We won the 2011 Solar Decathlon People’s Choice award and that was not a fluke. The fact that Deltec has chosen to add The Solar Homestead to their portfolio of designs reflects that and proves the value of the students’ and faculty members’ work.”

Kudos

Dr. Pamela Brewer, Department of English, has been named an associate fellow in the Society for Technical Communication, one of the highest ranks that the society confers upon a member.

Dr. Tony Carey, vice provost for faculty affairs and a professor of history, received the Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History for his book “Sold Down the River: Slavery in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley of Alabama and Georgia.”

Dr. Jeffrey McBride, Department of Health Leisure and Exercise Science, was selected as the William J. Kraemer Outstanding Sport Scientist award winner from the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Susan Morgan, director of testing services, was elected secretary of the 17-member Governing Board of the National College Testing Association (NCTA).

Michael J. O’Connor, director of the Physical Plant, was one of six individuals receiving the President’s Award given to members of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators for exceptional achievement in facilities management and outstanding contributions to the association.

Latest rankings for Appalachian

• 3rd among top public regional universities in the South, U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 America’s Best Colleges Guide

• No. 10 in SIERRA magazine’s “Coolest Schools” of the nation list

• 32nd in Forbes magazine’s “100 Best College Buys” for 2012

• Among the “Best in the Southeast” for 2013, The Princeton Review

• Among Victory Media’s Military Friendly Schools® for 2013
Summit focuses on energy reduction

More than 250 representatives from the 17 University of North Carolina (UNC) system campuses as well as five private universities in the state participated in the inaugural Appalachian Energy Summit held on campus in July.

The summit was the start of a multi-year process in which participating campuses collaborate to set goals, share best practices, and educate leadership on integrated design and the latest technologies.

The UNC system has goals to cut average annual energy costs by 30 percent by 2015, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and to operate in a more sustainable manner.

Reducing energy consumption ultimately could defer $1 billion in funds spent on energy over the next 20 years. UNC campuses currently spend roughly $227 million on energy each year.

“The summit helped build a common understanding of the problems facing the state’s universities in regard to the pressing need to reduce the high cost of energy on college campuses, and of the technologies, types of solutions, types of business partners and the types of leadership mechanisms that are necessary to solve it. It will be up to each campus to create action steps,” said Ged Moody, university sustainability director at Appalachian.

Moody said working groups formed during the summit have been meeting through conference calls to keep the conversation about energy reduction alive.

In addition, Rocky Mountain Institute, which participated in the July summit, will select university projects with which to assist in a new design or a retrofit of an existing building with energy-saving features that can be implemented on other campuses, Moody said.

Summit participants will reconvene in July 2013 and review the progress made toward reducing energy use on their campuses.

“Our hope is that each campus will have implemented five to 10 initiatives; will have documentable energy savings; will have engaged their student community; and, at the system level, we will have created relationships and collaborations that did not exist before,” Moody said.

Watauga Global Community celebrates 40 years of spirited discourse

Watauga Global Community (formerly Watauga College) has been a gathering place for “students who want something different” for 40 years. David Huntley, director of the program, said Watauga students are “the creative misfits, and I say that very affectionately.”

While the program has changed locations over the years, moving from Watauga Hall to East Hall and to the Living Learning Center in 2003, it remains a popular program for first- and second-year students who thrive on the opportunity to read, write, think, argue, challenge, struggle, laugh and live together during their first years of college.

“We provide a venue for their creativity. We make them work hard but they can show what they have done in creative ways, which is different from writing the standard research paper or taking a test or exam,” Huntley said.

Students who are interested in the program can apply online. Approximately 90 students are accepted each year.

wataugaglobal.appstate.edu/join
University Communications team wins MarCom awards

The MarCom 2012 international awards recognize creative achievement by marketing and communication professionals. There were more than 6,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries. The competition ranged in size from individual communicators to media conglomerates and Fortune 500 companies.

Appalachian’s University Communications team won three platinum awards, two gold awards and four honorable mentions.

www.news.appstate.edu/2012/11/27/marcom-awards

Plemmons Student Union expansion provides new home for 10 campus programs

The 58,000-square-foot addition to Plemmons Student Union that opens spring semester will become a one-stop location for many of the programs and offices that support Appalachian’s focus on international education, student leadership development and student research, among others.

Dave Robertson, director of student programs, championed the central location for these student services. “Appalachian offers wonderful programs and services that are value-added educational experiences, such as involvement in community service, participation in alternative spring break, going on a study abroad experience, or taking a leadership series,” he said.

While the programs have been in place for many years, their offices were scattered across campus. Robertson envisioned having points of contact for these vital out-of-class educational experiences in one location to serve a great number of students.

“By relocating the offices of International Education and Development, Dean of Students, Student Research, along with Student Conduct, Family and Parent Services and Off-Campus Community Relations, into more highly visible space, a greater portion of our student body will likely avail themselves of the opportunities these and other areas offer,” Robertson said.

Also moving to the student union addition will be the student newspaper, The Appalachian, and the Community Together (ACT) Outreach Center, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership and Multicultural Student Development.

Dean of Libraries Mary Reichel to step down

Dr. Mary Reichel will step down as dean of libraries effective July 1, 2013. She will return to the faculty of Belk Library and Information Commons.

She joined Appalachian in 1992 as university librarian, a title she held until the position was renamed dean of libraries this past July. In addition, she has served as the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor for Library and Information Studies since 2000.

Among her contributions as head librarian, Reichel oversaw the planning and construction of the $40 million building which opened in 2005 as the hub of learning on campus. Under her leadership, a total of $2.3 million in gifts was raised as part of the university’s Centennial Campaign that was completed in 2001 and another $7.4 million has been raised as part of the current Campaign for Appalachian – an increase of 20 percent beyond the goal set at the beginning of the campaign.

Reichel began her career as a reference librarian and has worked at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, SUNY – Buffalo, Georgia State University, and the University of Arizona. She has published numerous invited and refereed articles, is the co-author of a book and has made more than 25 presentations at the state and national level. She served as president of the Association of College and Research Libraries in 2001-02 and was active in the association for 30 years.

“My 20 years at Appalachian have flown by. I love working with other administrators, faculty and staff, all of whom are dedicated to the very best education for Appalachian’s students, and it is a joy to meet and work with our students. I look forward to my new role as a library faculty member and to making additional contributions,” Reichel said.

“Dean Reichel loves learning and has devoted her life to making information accessible to students and faculty,” said Provost Lori Gonzalez. “The campus will miss her leadership in the library, but she has created a true 21st century library that will serve the campus well for many years to come.”

Craig Popelars ’89, chair of the Library Advisory Board and director of marketing at Algonquin Books, said Appalachian has been “incredibly blessed to have a forward-thinking” leader like Reichel.

“As a result of Mary’s steadfast dedication to providing students and faculty the very best learning and research experience, Appalachian now has a world-class library where information, ideas, learning and technology proliferate. More importantly, our library has now become the epicenter – the very heart – of Appalachian’s campus.”
Family connection

Jamil Lott, Tyler Zupcic and Frank Eaves are three Mountaineers currently competing in the same position and sport their fathers played professionally.

Junior footballer Lott’s father, James, competed on the collegiate level at Clemson before joining the National Football League’s Chicago Bears organization as a free agent in 1989, playing from 1990-93. Both father and son played at the defensive back position. James Lott snagged seven career interceptions while playing for the Clemson Tigers. After converting to defensive back from wide receiver in late 2011, Jamil Lott hauled in his first career interception vs. Chattanooga earlier this year.

Senior baseball player Zupcic’s father, Bob, played four seasons in Major League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago White Sox. Bob Zupcic is best known in Red Sox circles for hitting two grand slams in his rookie season of 1992, standing as one of only three players in franchise history to accomplish the feat. Just one day before Bob attended a ceremony at Fenway Park to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the historic venue, Tyler Zupcic hit his first career grand slam for the Mountaineers in a 14-2 win over Furman.

Eaves, a freshman basketball player, is the son of former NBA point guard Jerry Eaves. Jerry Eaves was drafted by the Utah Jazz in 1982, and spent four seasons in the league. He suited up for 168 games for the Jazz, the Sacramento Kings, and the Atlanta Hawks. Though new to the college game, Frank Eaves had an impressive prep career at Page High School in Greensboro, where he averaged 20.5 points and five rebounds per game and was named to several all-star squads.

First student-athletes in the nursing program

As the College of Health Sciences continues to expand its educational focus, the Department of Nursing has emerged as having one of the most sought-after degrees on campus.

Soccer player Hannah Coad and cross country runner Cassie Crawford are the first Appalachian student-athletes to be admitted to the nursing program. When first launched, the program offered only one block of clinical time, which made participation by student-athletes impossible given the scheduling commitments of practice and travel. Recently the program has expanded clinical options, making it a workable major for student-athletes in all sports. Both Coad and Crawford were admitted to the program in the late spring and began their nursing coursework over the summer.

Coad, a senior from Alpharetta, Ga., is in her final year of competition with the women’s soccer team, and Apex native Crawford is in her junior season of pole vaulting for the Mountaineers.
New baseball coach
Appalachian named Billy Jones as its new baseball coach on July 5, following Chris Pollard’s departure from the team on the heels of a wildly successful 2012 campaign. Jones, an 18-year coaching veteran, most recently spent eight years at Oklahoma State, serving as the program’s recruiting coordinator and working with the team’s hitters and outfielders. While with the Cowboys, Jones mentored 31 major league baseball draftees and four All-Americans.

Courtney Freeman
Women’s basketball player Courtney Freeman is maximizing her collegiate experience both on and off the court. The Carlton, Ga., native has finished coursework for a degree in health care management, and is currently studying for a second degree in computer information systems. In addition, the senior was a starting player in all 34 games of the 2011-12 season, second on the team in scoring (11.4 ppg), and earned second-team All SoCon honors.

Players drafted
Four Mountaineers from the 2012 squad were drafted by major league baseball franchises, and enjoyed immediate success on the field. They returned to Kidd Brewer stadium on September 29 to receive their Southern Conference (SoCon) rings.

Ryan Arrowood pitched for the Tri-City Dust Devils, the Class A short-season affiliate of the Colorado Rockies. Arrowood was 4-3 with a 2.26 ERA in 20 games.

Jeremy Dowdy signed a free agent contract with Chicago White Sox, and hit .295 over 18 games with the Bristol White Sox and Winston-Salem Dash. Dowdy and Arrowood are slated to graduate this December.

Junior Tyler Tewell hit .308 with three home runs and 27 RBIs in two stops in the Atlanta Braves’ organization.

Nate Hyatt, also a junior, compiled a 2-0 record with a 1.46 ERA and six saves, helping lead the Rome Braves to the South Atlantic League Championship Series. In Rome, Hyatt was coached by Appalachian Hall of Famer Randy Ingle ’79.

International golf students
Appalachian boasts two accomplished student-athletes on the women’s golf team, both of whom are competing not just in the Southern Conference but on the international stage as well. Beijing, China native Yue Xu has won three tournaments in her Appalachian career, including the Southern Conference championship in the spring of 2010. A member of the Chinese national team, the recreation management major is ranked the third-best amateur golfer in China, and served as a commentator for the U.S. Women’s Open for the Chinese travel channel in 2009.

Rumbidzai Masamvu hails from Harare, Zimbabwe, where she won the national tournament in 2008. Majoring in risk management and insurance, Masamvu finished sixth overall at the Southern Conference Tournament in 2011, and had three straight top-eight finishes to close out the season. The senior, a two-time National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar and Appalachian Academic Honor Roll member, holds a 4.0 grade point average.
**Muscle and bone loss on space missions**

Dr. N. Travis Triplett in the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science has been selected to serve on an expert panel convened by NASA to help address problems of muscle and bone density loss on long space missions. The panel met in September at Johnson Space Center in Houston to begin reviewing the research findings of those who have been involved in using exercise equipment in attempts to accomplish NASA’s goal of preserving musculoskeletal strength, conditioning and rehabilitation in astronauts and in research subjects participating in NASA’s ground-analog studies. The panel will prepare a directive report for NASA.

**Hurricanes as drought busters**

News coverage of hurricanes and tropical storms usually focus on the damage they cause. However, they have a benefit: ending drought conditions. Geography professor Peter Soulé and three other researchers analyzed tropical cyclones’ role in reducing drought conditions in the Southeast and found that during a 38-year period up to 41 percent of all droughts and at least 20 percent of droughts in three-fourths of the climate divisions in the Southeast were ended by tropical cyclones. In addition, they found that 4 to 10 percent of all rainfall in the Southeast occurred during the tropical cyclone season and that as much as 15 percent of rainfall in the Carolinas occurred from tropical cyclones. Their work was published in the March 2012 issue of the journal Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

**Weatherization and air quality**

Weatherization improves a building’s energy efficiency by keeping cold air out in the winter and hot humid air out in the summer. But do these measures affect indoor air quality? A team from Appalachian is finding out. Dr. Susan C. Doll, an assistant professor in the building science program in the Department of Technology and Environmental Design, has received a three-year $696,810 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to compare air quality measurements in homes in North Carolina mountain and coastal communities to see if weatherization affects the level of indoor air contaminants.

**Bananas as beneficial as sports drinks**

Research conducted at Appalachian’s Human Performance Lab in the Kannapolis-based North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) has revealed that athletes’ performance was the same whether bananas or sports drinks were consumed, and that consuming bananas had several advantages. In addition to being a rich source of potassium and other nutrients, bananas provided the cyclists in the study with antioxidants not found in sports drinks as well as a greater nutritional boost, including fiber, potassium, Vitamin B6 and a healthier blend of sugars. The study, funded by Dole Foods, has been published in the peer-reviewed online journal PLoS ONE published by the nonprofit Public Library of Science (PLoS).

**Tai Chi and stress relief**

Stress, anxiety and sleep difficulties are pressing problems facing today’s college students. Dr. Karen Caldwell, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling is the lead researcher for a $393,140 grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health to conduct a feasibility study on how practicing Tai Chi, a meditation exercise, affects sleep quality and symptoms of anxiety. The three-year study will also involve faculty from the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science, Department of Theatre and Dance and Department of Psychology.
Making a difference in the world... one student at a time.

To preserve and enhance the Appalachian Experience, the university launched a comprehensive $200 million campaign at Homecoming 2011. These funds will strengthen the Academics, Arts and Athletics experience for students, faculty and staff through scholarships, programs and facilities. The campaign’s World Focus is supporting the university’s goal to foster global citizens.

As our students become the next generation of leaders, it is critical that they view their lives and work through a global perspective. Support for programs which combine on-campus and world travel opportunities such as study abroad and faculty led trips, exchanges, scholarships, visiting scholars, arts and cultural events, and international education can make transformational experiences available to all students. Private giving made an international experience possible for alumna Melanie Whitaker ’01.

A PASSION FOR TRAVEL LEADS TO SUCCESS

Melanie Whitaker ’01 has one recommendation for Appalachian students and new alumni. “Experience what it’s like to live in another country,” she says—“You won’t regret it.”

Melanie is the learning and development manager for Dorchester Collection’s three, five-star luxury hotels in the United Kingdom. She oversees training and development for over 1,100 employees at The Dorchester, Coworth Park and 45 Park Lane.

While at Appalachian, a scholarship made it possible for her to study in Australia. “I met so many people and learned so much about the culture,” she says, and this cultural connection inspired her to move abroad after graduation.

She was traveling to the UK for a friend’s wedding, and decided to take the opportunity to send out her resume. “I sent it to over 50 hotels all over London. I got only one response, but that did it.” She interviewed in London and two weeks later she was offered a job. “I thought I was going to stay for one year, and here it is, 8 and a half years later,” she says.

It’s clear that Melanie’s heart is in London. She comes home once a year and stays in touch with her family and friends with Skype. “I’d say the only thing I really miss are Girl Scout cookies!” she says with a grin. Despite the lack of Thin Mints (although her sisters send her a freezerful each year), Melanie exudes enthusiasm for the expat life. “Just experience living in another culture,” she encourages her siblings, her friends and anyone who will listen.

“It’s really been the best experience of my life.”

Read more about Melanie’s international success at today.appstate.edu/whitaker
Last fiscal year, generous contributions from thousands of donors set an all-time record of $790,000 in unrestricted giving to the Appalachian Fund and the Parents Fund.

These gifts are making real and powerful differences across our campus, assisting areas in greatest need, and changing the lives of our students.

This fiscal year, our goal is $1 million. Please help us continue to break records at Appalachian, and renew your tax-deductible gift today.

– Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock

Appalachian Fund Gifts Support

74 different areas across our campus.

$148,407 in scholarship supplements over a span of three years.

8 degree-granting colleges as well as the newly formed Honors College.

$35,000 this year for study abroad scholarships and international studies.

It's easy to give to the Appalachian Fund!

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"Block A" tag now also available in South Carolina!

Appalachian specialty license plate sales support the Alumni Memorial Scholarship
Chip Bowers ’95

Then and now, it’s all about teamwork

As the chief marketing officer for the Golden State Warriors basketball team in Oakland, Calif., Chip Bowers ’95 logs a lot of time on the road with corporate partners in such places as Los Angeles, Chicago, and Dallas.

Bowers, a longtime fan of the business of sports, thrives on the challenge of building alliances with companies and selling the team’s story to fans and corporate clients. “It’s a very fast-paced business,” he said. “We work to operate like any Fortune 500 company.”

Following the team’s wins and losses is exciting, but Bowers said the best part of his job is the relationships he forms with people.

“From a civic perspective, sports teams really do bring a community together,” he said. “What I most appreciate about my job is that I get to learn from a lot of people from various walks of life.”

The importance of relationships was first brought home to him at Appalachian.

Recently his parents commented that although Appalachian is a small school, many of his friends there are quite successful.

“I think a lot of that is attributed to what the university attracts,” he said. “It attracts people who take life seriously, but don’t take themselves seriously. It’s a small community where a lot of people interacted and fed off each other, supported each other and worked together well.”

WILLIAM BROCK ’99 received a Certificate of Completion in Tutoring Foundations from Crossroads of Learning on May 9, 2012, making him a professional member of the National Tutoring Association.

JOYCE MINTON ’05, April 14, 2012.

ANDREW ERICKSON ’07, April 2, 2012.

STACIE MCPHAIR ’07, June 17, 2012.


1990s

ROBERT SNEED ’90 received a Certificate of Completion in Tutoring Foundations from Crossroads of Learning on May 9, 2012, making him a professional member of the National Tutoring Association.

ALLISON (LAYTON) HARDIN ’91 was honored as Public Service Employee of the Year in 2011 by the City of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

PAULA (BIGGERSTAFF) SALMON ’91 received Franchisee Rookie of the Year 2012 and Overall Marketing Achievement 2012 awards, following opening EmbroidMe in Feb., 2011.

CHAD W. MITCHELL ’92 was elected to Appalachian’s Library Advisory Board this past year. He has had several images from his Cannon Mills documentary in the on-going exhibition “From Cotton Fields to skyscrapers” at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte.

JAMES K. REAVES ’93 is the current secretary of Appalachian’s Alumni Association.

NICK SALVATORE ’93 and Heather Markwood ’99 of Raleigh were married June 8, 2012.

KARISSA WEIR ’93 received the 2012 Outstanding Female Staff award at Gardner-Webb University.

LAURA “BROOKE” LIVENGODD AUSTIN ’97 and Timothy Austin announce the birth of Nathaniel Joseph, May 9, 2012.


ELIZABETH NEWMAN ’97 and Charles Appleshew of Metarie, La., were married May 20, 2011.

MARK SMITH ’97 ’04 was designated a fellow citizen of the Georgia Schools of Mathematics and Related Fields at the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Fort Campbell, Ky., on July 20, 2012.

GREG GENTRY ’88 recently retired from the U.S. Army. He has accepted a position as director of advocacy at World Orphans in Colorado Springs, Colo.

SHERRY (CONRAD) FRYE ’88 received the President’s Volunteer Service Award - Bronze Level. Through this September she had a photography exhibit at the Cameron Village Library in Raleigh.

WALLACE BLACKWELDER ’89 recently accepted a position as transcript evaluation specialist at Durham Technical Community College.

1980s

DAVID PYM ’80 retired in June after 30 years as the art, photography and drama teacher, and chairman of the fine and related art department at Allendale-Fairfax High School in Fairfax, S.C.

JANET (LOVELL) PHILLIPS ’82 received a master of science in adult education from Troy University on March 10, 2012. She was appointed the gifted contact teacher and reappointed chairperson of the social studies department at Richards Middle School in Lawrenceville, Ga.

ROBERT P. ASHLEY ’84, an army brigadier general, is the new director of intelligence of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

JAMES (JIM) SANDERS ’86 has reappointed as resident minister to Crouse and Pleasant Grove United Methodist churches in Crouse and Lincolnton.

MIKESHELL BARROW ’99 was elected to the Michigan Developmental Education Consortium in March 2012.


JEFREY STRICKLAND ’98 was recently promoted to director of U.S. dealer relations and retail strategy at Chrysler Group LLC in Auburn Hills, Mich.

GEORGE COLTHARP ’98 received an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., on March 20, 2012.

WILLIAM BROCK ’99 and Emily Brock announce the birth of Sophia Noelle, Sept. 27, 2011.


KATHRYN (SOWERS) KAPETANAKIS ’99 recently accepted a position as business integrity group risk analyst II at BB&T in Winston-Salem.


PAMELA FORMYDUVAL ’99 was awarded the 2011 CIT Officer of the Year by the Raleigh Police Department this summer. She has received the award three years in a row, more than any officer in the statewide CIT program for law enforcement.

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Kariisa Weir ’93 received the 2012 Outstanding Female Staff award at Gardner-Webb University.

Laura “Brooke” Livengood Austin ’97 and Timothy Austin announce the birth of Nathaniel Joseph, May 9, 2012.

Thomas Flippin ’97 and Faye Corregan-Flippin ’07 announce the birth of Phoebe Claire, Oct. 5, 2011.

Elizabeth Newman ’97 and Charles Appleshew of Metarie, La., were married May 20, 2011.

Mark Smith ’97 ’04 was designated a fellow citizen of the Georgia Schools of Mathematics and Related Fields at the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Fort Campbell, Ky., on July 20, 2012.

Greg Gentry ’88 recently retired from the U.S. Army. He has accepted a position as director of advocacy at World Orphans in Colorado Springs, Colo.

James (Jim) Sanders ’86 has reappointed as resident minister to Crouse and Pleasant Grove United Methodist churches in Crouse and Lincolnton.

Mike Warrick ’87 joined The Oliver Group as area director in Greensboro in February 2012.

John Evans ’88 assumed command of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Fort Campbell, Ky., on July 20, 2012.

Deaths

Ronald Craighead ’92, March 20, 2012.

Alicia Riddle ’92, June 28, 2012.

HeLEN TAYLOR ’93, May 17, 2012.

April enter ’94, June 11, 2011.


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Deaths

Michael Smith ’01, March 24, 2011.

Brandon Crouse ’03, July 19, 2012.

Joyce Minton ’05, April 14, 2012.

Andrew Erickson ’07, April 2, 2012.

Stacie McPhail ’07, June 17, 2012.

Beasley honored among Giants of Broadcasting

George Beasley ’58 was honored in October 2012 alongside CNN founder Ted Turner, writer-producer Norman Lear and the late Andy Rooney of “60 Minutes” as a Giant of Broadcasting by the Library of American Broadcasting (LAP).

Beasley is chairman, CEO and founder of Beasley Broadcast Group in Naples, Fla. He was one of 10 honorees recognized for distinguished leadership or performance in television and radio by the LAP in New York City.

Beasley built his first radio station, WPYB-AM, in Benson in 1961 while serving as an assistant high school principal. He made several “trade-up” transactions during his career, breaking into the nation’s top-10 markets in 1989. Beasley Broadcast now owns 42 radio stations in 11 markets.

Beasley and his wife, Ann, have supported Appalachian scholarships, athletics and the Department of Communication. The Beasley Media Complex, set to open in 2013, bears his name.

Other 2012 honorees were Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer, creators and anchors of “The MacNeil/Lehrer Report”, Erica Farber, president and CEO of the Radio Advertising Bureau, Sir Howard Stringer, chairman of Sony Corporation; the late “Soul Train” creator and producer Don Cornelius and the late TV personality Dinah Shore.

1970s

BILL NIFONG ’72 recently retired from Blount County Schools.
WILLIAM VIGER ’72 recently accepted a position as teacher/coach at Fulton County Schools in Roswell, Ga.
MARY (JONES) ABERNETHY WILEY ’72 has retired from her career as an art instructor, and is now devoting her time to her passion of painting oil landscapes.
BRENDA (VANHOOK) GRIFFIN ’73 recently accepted a position as kindergarten teacher at St. Andrew’s Preschool and Kindergarten in Rocky Mount.
WAYNE TRIPLETT ’74 ’88 ’91 has published his third book, “Heaven Is Waiting: There’s No Place Like Home.”
CAROLINA CADDELL ’74 retired from Scotland High School after 25 years of teaching and building the “Little Scots” learning center program.
DOUGLAS LITTLE ’75 was recently elected to the position of district chairman for the Arizona Legislative District 25, Republican Committee.
THOMAS L. RATLEDGE ’75 ’83 was promoted to chief warrant officer 4 in the North Carolina Army National Guard, Dec. 15, 2011.
KAREN (GREGORY) JAYSON ’76 received a master of science in criminal justice from Bowling Green State University on May 4, 2012.
MICHAEL BRADSHAW ’73 ’77 was recently promoted to department chair of math and natural sciences at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson.
BEVERLY (CROUCH) LYONS ’77 retired from
31 years of teaching biology and environmental science in June 2012.

**SAM POWERS ’78** received the Economic Developer of the Year award for his work as city planner for Asheville. Powers is the current president of Appalachian’s Alumni Council.

**deaths**

- **CHARLES BURLESON ’71**, Nov. 30, 2011.
- **JAMES BEASLEY ’73**, March 21, 2012.
- **DEBORAH COOK ’75**, April 18, 2011.
- **GAIL POTTS ’75**, Nov. 16, 2011.
- **DWIGHT CABANISS ’78**, Nov. 8, 2011.

**1960s**

**DONALD HICKMAN ’61** received a master of arts in English from UNC Wilmington on May 8, 2012.

**OVAL JAYNES ’62** was selected to the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame.

**DONNIE BAXTER ’68** is one of eight individuals to be inducted into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame this coming spring. He and the others constitute the 27th group of inductees. They were honored during halftime at a football game between North Carolina and East Carolina at Kenan Stadium on Sept. 22.

**deaths**

- **JOYCE POWELL ’64**, April 28, 2012.
- **PATRICIA WILLIAMS ’64**, May 22, 2011.

**Branching out in style**

*By Mary Giunca*

As the senior vice president of external relations for Target Canada, **Derek Jenkins ’85** is accustomed to juggling. He lives near Philadelphia with his wife and daughter, but is overseeing the launch of Target into Canada. The company is building a headquarters in Toronto and will open 124 new Canadian stores next year.

“It’s similar to a start-up business,” he said. “Everyday you have to sit and learn and understand. You have to become a student all over again.”

On any given day, Jenkins might be helping to figure out a new Canadian social media strategy, working with the Canadian government to comply with business regulations, and making sure that Target makes a splash at such events as Montreal Fashion Week and the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Jenkins thrives on the variety of challenges his job brings. And he credits Appalachian with giving him his first experience in multitasking.

He arrived at the school on an athletics scholarship and played running back for the Mountaineers for four years, while working toward a degree in management and management information systems.

“I liked having dual personalities. You had to be an aggressor playing football, but you had to work with a team,” he said. “In business, you can be competitive too, but it’s more controlled.”
Eric Woolridge creates playgrounds for all ages

By Mary Giunca

Most mornings Eric Woolridge ’01 ’11 begins his day with a cup of coffee on his front porch, as he looks out over a painter’s landscape of creek, valley and mountains in the Bamboo Valley area.

As the director of tourism planning for Watauga County’s Tourism Development Authority, Woolridge is charged with building the trails, the greenways and a new mountain bike park that will help residents and visitors take advantage of the area’s natural beauty.

He helps acquire land, build community support, find grants and oversees projects from the planning to creation.

“The most fun part of my job is seeing something become reality – actually changing the landscape,” he said. “I like knowing that something is going to be there to serve this community for many generations.”

The mountains first lured Woolridge to the area as an undergrad who earned a bachelor’s degree in community and regional planning, and a master’s in public administration.

He counts the day that he dropped his computer information classes his junior year and signed up for a planning class with Dr. Gary Cooper as a turning point.

“That guy changed my life,” he said. “He encouraged me and saw that I had a passion for planning and geography and community development. I took six classes from him and use what he taught me to this day.”

Garner Britt died May 2, 2011. He taught in the Department of Technology and Environmental Design from 2006 to 2010. He was an instructor of materials and processes courses in the industrial design program, and also taught courses in the Michael R. Patricelli Crafts Enrichment Program.

Dr. William Thomas Cottingham Jr. died Aug. 14, 2012. He was 96. Cottingham served at Appalachian from 1973 to 1985. He taught in the Department of Administration, Supervision and Higher Education, and was director of the bachelor of technology program.

Dr. Claude Howard Dorgan joined the Appalachian faculty in 1971. He taught in the Department of Communication until his retirement in 2000. He died July 5, 2012, at the age of 80. He was a professor emeritus. Dorgan’s research in Appalachian religious studies resulted in many journal articles, encyclopedia entries, book chapters and books. For his book “Airwaves of Zion,” he received the 1993 Thomas Wolfe Literary Award.

Cleone Haynes Hodges, faculty emerita at Appalachian, died Sept. 8, 2012. She was 103. Hodges taught for 36 years in what used to be the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She retired in 1974.

Dr. Marten M. Kernis died April 9, 2012. He was 70. He taught in Appalachian’s Freshman Seminar Program from 2002 to 2003, after retiring from 35 years as a faculty member and administrator with other academic institutions.

Dr. Monica Pombo began teaching in Appalachian’s Department of Communication in 2003. Originally from Brazil, Pombo died May 30, 2012, at the age of 45. She was beloved by both her students and colleagues. In 2008 she was honored with the Southern States Communication Association’s Outstanding Young Educator Award.

Johnie Glenn Trivette died May 21, 2012. She was 83. She joined the faculty of Appalachian’s college of education in 1967 as a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and retired in 1991.

Dr. Herbert Max Smith joined the music faculty at Appalachian in 1960 and remained until his retirement in 1994. He was faculty emeritus. Smith died July 6, 2012, at the age of 80. While at Appalachian he developed and was the first director of the University Honors Program, and was instrumental in establishing Watauga College. He served as chair of the music program for four years.

Kathryn Croft Tully taught for 30 years at Appalachian. She died June 18, 2012, at the age of 100. Tully served in what used to be the Department of Business Education and Office Administration. She retired in 1976 as faculty emerita.
1950-30s

PEGGY (BADGETT) RICKERT ’56 is currently serving on the Reich College of Education Advancement Board.

RICHARD CULYER ’59 was recently appointed to program development specialist and reading consultant at Lake Wales Charter School in Florida. The third edition of his co-authored textbook, “School: An Introduction to Education,” will be released next year.

DEATHS

VIOLA YOUNG ’33, April 14, 2012.
HILMA GRIFFIN ’37, Jan. 19, 2012.
LOIS SURRATT ’38, July 4, 2012.
MATTIE WILSON ’38, April 10, 2012.
BLANCHE BADGETT ’40, May 16, 2012.
MOZELLE PARKER ’40, June 18, 2012.
SARAH LINEBERRY ’41, April 25, 2012.
WILMA SCHNEIDER ’42, April 30, 2012.
HELEN MARTIN ’46, June 3, 2012.
ARLENE HODGE ’47, June 10, 2012.
MARIYLIN COLVARD ’48, Nov. 6, 2011.
MARGARET BISHOP ’49, July 18, 2012.
JAMES WALKER ’49, June 10, 2012.
BARBARA BEAM ’50, May 18, 2012.
JOSEPH OLIVER ’50, May 19, 2012.
ROYCE MCNEILL ’51, April 14, 2012.
MARY LEE BARRON ’53, Sept. 25, 2011.
RUSSELL MERcer ’55, April 12, 2012.
GEORGIA SPENCE ’55, June 20, 2012.
JEAN CARMICHAEL ’56, Sept. 16, 2011.
CHARLES MISHOE ’56, May 19, 2012.
BETTY CAUBLE ’57, June 18, 2012.
DAVID DUNCAN ’59, July 9, 2012.
SHIRLEY NUNN ’59, April 1, 2012.
GRADY STAFFORD ’59, July 1, 2012.

Elyse Stone ’08, third from left, is president of the Appalachian Alumni Association of Shanghai. Pictured with her are, from left, junior accounting major Mengxin He; Jackie Greco ’12; Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor for international education and development; Karen Binger, assistant director of admissions; Aaron Wallace ’08, vice president of the Shanghai Alumni Chapter and UNC System-Fudan University liaison intern from 2011-12; Xiaorong Shao from Belk Library and Information Commons; Hunter Levan ’08, ancillary revenue product manager at Spring Airlines; and Jin Li, former Chinese language program coordinator at Appalachian.

2008 grad starts Shanghai alumni chapter

By Amanda Moore, global studies major, class of 2013

Elyse Stone ’08 works as marketing and public relations manager for the SPACE Group, a real estate development and hospitality management firm located in Shanghai, China. Stone is also founder of the Appalachian Alumni Association of Shanghai, the university’s only current international alumni chapter.

“The association is a great place for people interested in, planning on coming to, or already in China to talk to people with similar backgrounds and get reliable answers to their many questions,” Stone said. “It also acts as a place to meet friends and network with people in different industries.”

While at Appalachian, she studied overseas in Spain and Argentina and believes that the education and global experience she gained abroad have given her an advantage in the international job market.

“I still see the benefits of my education throughout my day-to-day activities in China,” said Stone.

After working a short time at a Baltimore printing company, she took an eight-month teaching opportunity in Zibo, China through one of Appalachian’s partner universities. After completing her teaching stint, she worked for Coca-Cola in Qingdao for a year and then moved to Shanghai where she lived with a fellow Appalachian graduate. They joked about starting an alumni chapter.

After attending a luncheon in Shanghai with visiting UNC Board of Governors representatives, she mentioned her interest in starting an Appalachian alumni chapter in China.

“They immediately named me the founder and president of the Appalachian State University Alumni Association in Shanghai,” said Stone. “I was excited about the opportunity and creating a solid network for Mountaineers to reach out to.”

The Shanghai chapter has eight to 10 members.

Learn more at alumni.appstate.edu/chapters
Appalachian Ski Mtn. – 51 years and counting

It should be called Appalachian Family Ski Mtn. That’s because the popular ski resort just outside Blowing Rock has a long history of teaching Appalachian State University students to ski and snowboard, as well as hiring up to 200 students a season to help run the ski area.

Blowing Rock Ski Lodge, which opened in 1962, was the first ski area in the North Carolina High Country. Grady Moretz became general manager of the ski area on Dec. 5, 1968, after Northwestern Bank foreclosed on the property. Moretz projected opening the ski area for business 15 days later.

“He knew very little about snow making and the ski industry,” said his wife, Reba Moretz ’52 ’53.

In spite of the couple’s novice status, the renamed Appalachian Ski Mtn. was the only area resort that had made enough snow to open that day, she said.

“Cars were backed up to Highway 321,” Grady Moretz said of opening day.

A year later, Moretz convinced his wife to leave her career as a music teacher in the county to help run the business. “I loved teaching music, but I could see from that first year that a teaching schedule and ski area management did not fit together well for our family. I preferred a career where our family could work together. It’s been a big challenge, but I don’t regret that decision.”

During the past 50 years, the Moretzes have helped make skiing a viable industry in the South through the use of computerized snow-making equipment, quad and double chair lifts, conveyer lifts, a refrigerated outdoor ice skating arena, and the addition of snowboarding, which attracts even more winter sports enthusiasts to the area.

“Every aspect of the industry has become more sophisticated, more refined and more reliable,” said son Brad Moretz, who took over reins as general manager and vice president in 1997. “That has made for a better experience for skiers as people find more consistent conditions, more snow and better equipment to use. Every aspect of the experience has improved and will continue to improve.”

Grady Moretz stepped down as general manager in 1997, but remains president of the ski area. Daughter Brenda M. Speckmann manages the Alpine Ski Shop, Appalachian Gift Shop, clothing rental, and assists in other aspects of the business. Brad’s and Brenda’s spouses are also active in the operation of the resort.

Reba Moretz is a former member of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees. She continues to work at the resort, just not the 18 hours a day she and her husband logged for many years.

First to ride Appalachian Ski Mtn. quad chairlift in 1984 were from left Appalachian’s Chancellor Dr. John E. Thomas, Hugh Morton from Grandfather Mountain, Charles Benbow, southern division director of the National Ski Patrol, and local banker Alfred Adams. Standing is Grady Moretz. (Photos courtesy of the Moretz family.)
When Neva Clarke married her husband Conley in 1941, she could not have guessed that she would be part of creating a legacy to help other young adults for many generations to come. Conley, a World War II veteran, graduated from Appalachian in 1957 after returning from service overseas, and the two began a life working as educators in the Gastonia area. The couple had two sons and a daughter, and over the years they experienced both heartbreak and success. Although both of their sons died, their daughter, Connie, went on to graduate from Appalachian in 1971, continuing the family tradition of service through education. When the time came to plan their estate, the couple considered how they could pay tribute to their sons, and decided on a charitable remainder trust.

The Clarkes’ planned gift now allows Neva to receive a regular income, and has already provided Stephen Michael Clarke and Keith Emerson Clarke Memorial Scholarships for Appalachian students. Best of all, Neva says, it is a gift that will never expire. As she puts it, “What’s better than putting your money into something that will never end?”

“Young folks face a lot of challenges today,” says Neva. “I’m thankful that we could contribute to further their education, and help them meet these challenges.”

Become a 1899 Legacy Society member. Learn more at give.appstate.edu/giftplanning or call 828-262-3192.

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Class Reunion Giving

Learn more about reunion giving and contribute to your class gift today by calling 1-866-756-ALUM.

www.givenow.appstate.edu/appfund
“You are part of the Appalachian Family. Together, we will continue to grow our university both in substance and in reputation, and make Appalachian even better than it is now.”
– Brad ’75 and Carole Wilson ’75

In October, Brad and Carole Wilson made a $3 million commitment to launch a merit scholarship program at Appalachian. To be named the Wilson Scholars, the program will promote leadership, wellness, service and integrate an emphasis on community, state and global interest and activism into the Appalachian Experience. With this commitment, the Campaign for Appalachian total is $148 million!

Learn more at campaign.appstate.edu