Discovering the paths to success
Junior psychology major Steven Powell is a trendsetter at Appalachian, making a splash on campus with his giant boombox, music and dancing that generate big Mountaineer smiles. Fans set up a Facebook page in his honor (which now has more than 2,500 likes), and on nice weather days, his presence on Sanford Mall quickly became an expectation for students, faculty and staff. Setting trends once again, Powell is lending his celebrity status to a retro Yosef retail line that will be available in the fall (see page 39 for details).
Increased quality, one student at a time

What makes our university distinctive? Prospective students say their top reason for choosing Appalachian State University is our academic reputation. Our level of scholarship already attracts many of the brightest students in North Carolina and beyond, and as this edition of Appalachian Today showcases, our scholarship and the facilities that support it keep getting better.

For example, our culture of research presents incredible opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, alumni and participants in lifelong learning. New buildings nearing completion will further enhance the educational opportunities at Appalachian – notably, the Honors and Engagement Village and the Beasley Media Complex (see page 25). This summer, renovations will begin on another facility, Earthing Auditorium, as we transform it into The Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts. This impressive facility will benefit not only our campus but the entire region.

I recently attended Scholars’ Day during which select students interviewed for potential scholarship awards, and I met highly talented young people. Many of them plan to enroll in Appalachian, including our Honors College, but some may be drawn to other schools that can offer more competitive financial incentives.

What I tell these students is that while we may not be able to match other schools’ financial packages, we make up and exceed the difference in the quality of our academics and extracurricular opportunities. They simply will not find better educational opportunities anywhere else.

All this is possible because of the relationships that form among those associated with this great university. Our donors – who include alumni who are grateful for their time at Appalachian and want to give back, and parents and friends who have caught the Appalachian spirit – allow us to create opportunities beyond what we can afford with limited state resources. My deep gratitude goes to more than 32,000 contributors to the Campaign for Appalachian, which has raised more than $140 million since its launch in October 2011. Together, we are preserving and enhancing Appalachian’s academics, arts and athletics so future Mountaineers are prepared at the highest level and the university is poised to expand its role as a leader and innovator in higher education.

I need more people, however, to share this dream. I encourage you to talk to your classmates, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others who might reconnect or get involved with Appalachian. Think of the impact made by people such as George Beasley ‘58, whose lifelong interest in radio led to the Beasley Media Complex, or brothers Kenan Smith ‘84 and Hayes Smith ‘82 whose connections with Rocky Mountain Institute are making Appalachian a leader in helping to reduce energy use in North Carolina (see page 35). Business leaders like the Honorable Helen Powers (see page 4) and Bonnie Schaefer (see page 33) support Appalachian because someone invited them to become involved.

With increased support from alumni and friends, we can distinguish Appalachian as one of the finest universities in the nation. I hope you will participate in the Campaign for Appalachian and make a difference in the world… one student at a time.

With Appalachian pride,

Kenneth E. Peacock
Chancellor
Making a difference in the world...

Learn how these students and many others are making a difference at

WWW.CAMPAIGN.APPSTATE.EDU

Launched at Homecoming in October 2011, the Campaign for Appalachian will preserve and enhance the Appalachian Experience by strengthening the priority areas of Academics, Arts and Athletics. Mountaineer students, faculty and staff will realize new opportunities through the support of scholarships, programs and facilities. The campaign goal has been set at $200 million and the support of Every Mountaineer is critical to ensuring that we not only meet our goal but that, in true Appalachian style, we surpass it! As of the beginning of May 2012, the campaign has reached:

$140 million

Thank you to all our donors for being part of this amazing accomplishment. If you haven't made your commitment, please think about how you can help us make a difference in the world, one student at a time.
Helen Powers
North Carolina’s “First Lady” of business

By Kate Cahow

Often referred to as North Carolina’s “First Lady” of business because of the many firsts she achieved in her career, the Hon. Helen A. Powers’ life has been one of great success and altruism. A devoted friend to Appalachian State University, an honored public servant, a powerful yet humble woman who shattered many glass ceilings in male-dominated industries, Powers’ accomplishments reflect highly upon her family name.

“She is North Carolina’s ‘First Lady’ of business because of the many firsts she achieved in her career,” said Susan Potterjohn, vice chancellor for university advancement.

“Helen is one of those rare people who leaves such a lasting impact on the community,” Potterjohn said. “She is a visionary leader, and very generous with her time and energy. This is a wonderful recognition for an amazing woman.”

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock met Powers in the early 1990s while planning the Harlan E. Boyles Distinguished CEO Lecture Series, named in honor of Powers’ friend, the late North Carolina State Treasurer.

“Helen is a visionary leader, and very generous with her expert advice,” said Peacock, who has sought Powers’ guidance during the current economic downturn.

“Now, when dollars are scarce, her understanding of revenue and finance have been particularly helpful to the university,” he said. “She has been a trusted friend and advisor, and for all that she does for us we are so grateful.”

When I was about 10 years old, I set my sights on a career in business,” said Powers, who advanced two grades in elementary school to arrive early in middle school.

“I don’t know why business caught my attention, as I didn’t have much exposure to that world. But courses in shorthand, math and typing were all that excited me in school,” she said.

Recognizing her capacity for management and leadership, her supervisors paid for her to attend the School of Bank Administration at the University of Wisconsin and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. She was the first woman in the nation to earn both degrees.

“Working in the banking industry proved a good opportunity for me. I had positions with a lot more responsibility than most women back then,” said Powers of her career. “Women then – and often now – had to be twice as good and work twice as hard to get good jobs and promotions,” she said.

Asked what allowed her to not only advance but flourish in this world, Powers said, “I worked hard, it’s that simple. My saying has always been to ‘Think like a man, work like a dog and behave like a lady.’”

That motto and her work ethic proved a winning combination throughout her career. In 1987 she was named Distinguished Woman of North Carolina; in 1999 she was the first businesswoman to be inducted into the North Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

While at the Bank of Asheville she was named senior vice president, the first woman to achieve that distinction in the state’s banking industry. When the bank merged with North Carolina National Bank in 1979, Powers led negotiations. She retired in 1980.

But true to form she was soon back to work, establishing an investment firm in Asheville. The effort didn’t last long however, as another path beckoned – one she never imagined for herself.

“I was asked by Gov. Jim Martin to serve as secretary of revenue. I initially said no,” Powers recalls, as she was uncertain about leaving her beloved Asheville and her new business.

After traveling to Raleigh to meet with Martin she decided she couldn’t resist. “This was the biggest decision I had ever made,” she said. “I told the governor he was the only man who ever talked me into leaving my home, and it only took him 20 minutes.”

Powers’ tenure in the capital earned her the “Honorable” title and credit for turning the Department of Revenue into a more efficient operation. She participated in a number of initiatives designed to improve the state’s tax structure in particular. In 1989, a tax amnesty program developed under her leadership replenished the state coffers with $40 million of unpaid tax revenues.

She retired from the appointment in 1990, but went on to serve two terms during Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.’s administration with the North Carolina Banking Commission.

“Helen Powers is a wonderful citizen who believes deeply in North Carolina moving forward with education and the infrastructure necessary for economic growth,” said Hunt.

“Governors of both parties have depended on her leadership. I was particularly blessed to have her help and friendship,” he said.

Upon her second retirement, Powers applied her financial expertise and service ethic to expanding her philanthropy. Her efforts in Asheville resulted in funding for many projects, including major gifts for Warren Wilson College and Mission Hospital.

At Appalachian, Powers has provided critical funding for a variety of initiatives, including student scholarships and faculty development. She supported the remodeling of a 6,400-square-foot banquet room in the Broyhill Events Center, now known as the Helen A. Powers Grand Hall.

Powers has made a leadership commitment to the Campaign for Appalachian through her estate. It is being split between the Walker College of Business and the College of Health Sciences.

Recently, upon completion of a four-year term on Appalachian’s Board of Trustees, Powers was honored with trustee emeritus status. For her generosity and support, Appalachian conferred on her an honorary Doctor of Law degree in 2005.

Richard Sparks ’76 ’78, CEO of Appalachian Regional Healthcare System Inc., met Powers through Chancellor Peacock. “We have been great friends ever since,” he said.

“Ms. Powers is always searching for ways to help others enjoy a good quality of life. To our great benefit, this special woman has chosen Appalachian as a place to share her vision of improving North Carolina through excellence in education,” he said.
A cultural transition that occurred about 15 years ago has become a hallmark of the Appalachian Experience. This mindset to engage undergraduates in research and creative endeavors – previously expected only of graduates students – began when new, younger faculty members came to Appalachian State University eager to share their graduate-level research experiences within the context of a teaching university. More established professors quickly embraced the research mentor role as they realized their own research productivity could be enhanced with the help of undergraduates and that collaborative discovery strengthened their teaching skills.

The result, many Appalachian professors say, is a scholarship continuum: undergraduate students perform at higher levels, which leads to even more opportunities for heightened discoveries as they enter graduate programs and begin their careers.

The following stories celebrate this educational focus.
Alumna’s research illuminates human brain

By Kate Cahow

In the aftermath of a school shooting in its small town this past February, the Chardon, Ohio, community struggled to make sense of the actions of a 17-year-old who killed three of his fellow classmates.

“This is a painful case for all involved,” said neuroscientist Dr. B.J. Casey ’82 ’84, whose research illuminating the psychobiology of the teenage brain may provide clues to such behavior.

“Our imaging work has shown that adolescence is a period in human development characterized by increased experimentation, risk taking, heightened sensitivity to peers and emotional reactivity,” she said of her research conducted at the Sackler Institute at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

“It is my hope that this research, based on behavioral and brain science, will provide a developmental perspective that can be used to reform the juvenile justice system, and enable juveniles to make a successful transition to adulthood while being held accountable for their actions,” she said.

Casey is the Sackler Professor of Developmental Psychobiology and director of the institute. She is also renowned for her work pioneering functional magnetic resonance imaging (functional MRI), a non-invasive procedure that measures brain activity.

Her findings on the teenage brain have been featured in National Geographic, the Wall Street Journal, online publications Discovery News and Wired Science and on NPR’s “Talk of the Nation.”

A fascination with cause and effect

At the core of Casey’s research – and all her work – is a lifelong fascination with science and the interactions of cause and effect that began on the family farm in Eastern North Carolina.

“Farming is like an experiment. Every manipulation of sun, water, fertilizer and soil type impacts the yield,” said Casey, who left the farm and her rural community at the age of 16 to attend Appalachian State University’s early admissions program. There she received both her bachelor’s and master’s degree in psychology.

“My high school offered few advanced courses, so I came to Appalachian the summer before my senior year to get on with my education,” she said. “I’ve been on an amazing journey ever since.”

That journey has brought Casey to a pinnacle in the field of neuroscience, and to her work at Sackler Institute. She and her fellow researchers at Sackler have earned an international reputation for using techniques such as functional MRI, human genetics, electrophysiology and behavioral methods to shed light on the human brain and its development.

Asked how a young girl who observed the cause and effect of sunlight and water on growing plants arrived at this destination, Casey answered, “It’s not anything I worked toward. When you’re interested in science and you continually ask questions, you never know where it might lead you.”

Questioning the ‘why’ of human behavior

While at Appalachian, Casey became fascinated with making sense of why people do the things they do through examination of the brain. This became her path of inquiry, and psychology faculty members functioned as her guides along the way.

“They allowed me to grow and thrive in ways I might not have at another institution,” Casey said. “They were creative, supportive and encouraged me to think outside the box.”

Discussions with Dr. Joan Woodworth – now retired – about cross-cultural dream studies led Casey to the realization that “our brains are essentially a reflection of our experience. No two people have the same experience, even when they share the same events,” she said.

The process of inquiry and investigation she first experienced at Appalachian set the foundation for Casey to think critically about behavior, and became the impetus to pursue the next step in her education.

When she was pursuing postdoctoral research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NMIH), the first scientific paper was published suggesting magnetic resonance imaging could be used non-invasively to examine the human brain.

“This was a turning point in Casey’s career.

“To be able to view the living and developing human brain took us in completely new directions. Imaging can tell you what behavior alone cannot,” she said.

Casey received the first NMIH grant to use functional MRI to scan typically developing children. She identifies the two Ps – perseverance and passion – as critical characteristics for her success in pioneering this technique – and for all committed researchers and scientists.

“I’ve seen thousands of MRIs and I still get a thrill that we can literally walk through someone’s brain and see so much detail,” she said. “Perseverance and passion are what enable me to get excited about that next MRI.”

Preparing the next generation of scientists

As passionate as Casey is about research, she gets equally excited working with students.

“Graduate students get so jazzed when they’re figuring out their research question all they can talk about is science,” said Casey, who in addition to her other appointments is program director of the Neuroscience Ph.D. program at Weill Cornell Graduate School.

“I love helping to prepare the next generation of scientists,” she said.

Last fall break, Appalachian’s Chancellor’s Scholars traveled to New York. A few of them toured Casey’s lab and visited with students on her research team. Two of them have dreams of joining that next generation of scientists.

Corbin Ester, a freshman in the chemistry pre-professional and paramedical program, said the visit energized him. “I talked with a student who is studying to be an M.D./Ph.D. In addition to her medical education, she’s training to be a scientific researcher,” he said.

“She told me how you can be part of a research team that discovers a new drug, treatment or procedure, and then deliver that work as a doctor to patients in the real world. Our discussion inspired me to consider a career as an M.D./Ph.D.,” he said.

Freshman Jane Bowers, a pre-professional biology major, described the experience as "an excellent opportunity to see the inner workings of a first-class research lab.

"I am set on a medical career, and this visit taught me a lot about what that career looks like," she said. “It was like listening to myself talk about what I hope to be doing eight years from now.”

By the numbers

2,500 number of research grants Appalachian has awarded to undergraduate and graduate students since 2005

172 the record number of abstracts submitted to the 15th Annual Celebration of Research and Creative Endeavors held in April

30 the record number of students selected to present at the 2012 National Conference for Undergraduate Research

Source: Office of Student Research

www.today.appstate.edu 7
Graduate mentoring experience reaches from Mexico to Mars

By Mary Giunca

The Graduate Research Associate Mentor (GRAM) program gives talented graduate students at Appalachian State University an opportunity to focus on research, work closely with faculty mentors, and learn how to turn that research into material that gains attention for their schools. Two students in this year’s GRAM program had bonus adventures – one experienced a Mexico City earthquake firsthand; the other investigated miles of largely unexplored caves.

Steven Higley, a master’s degree candidate in the Department of History, worked with Dr. Jeffrey Bortz on his research into the Mexican labor movement after the 1910 Revolution. Mary Jane Carmichael, who is working toward a master’s degree in biology, worked with Dr. Suzanna Brauer, on her research into mineral deposits in caves.

“Having GRAM, for me, has been very nice. My whole focus has been on my research. A lot of students in the biology department are teaching three to four classes in addition to research,” Carmichael said. “Without this fellowship, there is no way I would have been as productive.”

GRAM offers 10 outstanding graduate students a chance to work with a professor on research projects for two years. Students receive a $10,000 stipend for working about 20 hours a week during the academic year.

Students in the program, which began in 2009-10, can end up making presentations at conferences, enhancing their own research or publishing as co-authors with their faculty mentors.

The advantages of the program go both ways, said Bräuer, an assistant biology professor.

“Mary Jane has been my rock,” she said. “Anything I need her to do, she will do it and she usually does it successfully on the first try.”

Not only did Carmichael help in gathering samples from caves, she co-authored a paper with Brauer and she mentored other graduate, undergraduate and high school students. Brauer said that allowed her to take on more undergraduate help and to have more projects going on in the lab.

Some of Carmichael’s earliest childhood memories date to a family visit to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, Carmichael said, and she was attracted to Brauer’s cave research in the upper Tennessee River Basin.

Carmichael often visited their main study site near Johnson City, Tenn., to bring back samples of microbial colonies on cave formations.

These cave systems, because of their concentration of such minerals as iron and manganese, are similar to some environments on Mars. When microbes interact with the geological formations within caves they create new biologically produced compounds. The structures of these compounds, compared to those produced chemically, can give scientists clues for how to detect life on Mars.

“Our study is really the first study that has addressed geomicrobiology in cave systems in this area,” Carmichael said. “Everything we’re learning is novel and it’s exciting.”

Revealing another Mexico

Higley said that working with Bortz also made him feel part of something new and exciting. Bortz is studying the rise of the labor movement in Mexico, which was ahead of its time in providing maternity leave and giving workers the right to organize.

He had a sense that Bortz is reclaiming lost history, Higley said, and helping correct misconceptions about America’s neighbor to the south.

“Latinos are becoming a bigger part of our culture,” he said. “We need to start studying their backgrounds to look for commonalities and differences. Only by doing that will we come to understand each other.”

Bortz said that Higley was a mature, hardworking, perceptive student who had a chance to sharpen his research abilities through his work.

GRAM is a perfect opportunity for aspiring historians to learn to work with primary sources in order to understand the larger story of a particular time and place, Bortz said.

“There’s nothing more important in graduate school than training students to do archival work,” he said. “It was an extremely important first step.”

In helping organize Bortz’s research, Higley became aware of a new source of primary documents for his own thesis on Mexico in the 1930s. That led him to Mexico City to a special collection in the Archivo General de la Nacion, which contained documents from a government agency that collected information on political threats. The collection has only been open to the public since 1999.

“It’s an archive that a lot of people haven’t gotten into yet,” Higley said. While he was in the archives, Higley heard an alarm go off. He assumed it was a fire drill and stayed put. When he heard rattling sounds, he and his wife went outside.

“I felt kind of drunk. The ground was moving from side to side and we were having trouble standing up straight,” he said.

The earthquake was over in about 90 seconds, and Higley had an exciting story to tell when he returned home.

As he pursues a career in academia, Higley said his experience with GRAM has helped him understand what lies ahead.

“It’s given me great insights into what faculty do outside the classroom,” he said. “It’s not just that you’re teaching the lesson plan and grading papers. The other side is the work the professors do in their field to keep both them and the institution they’re working for relevant.”
Graduate student Mary Jane Carmichael holds a sample of microbial colonies gathered from cave formations in Tennessee. Studying the colonies may give scientists clues about how to detect life on Mars.
Record number of students selected to present their work at national event

By Linda Coutant

This year, 30 student abstracts – the most ever from Appalachian State University – were selected for presentation at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR), held at Utah’s Weber State University in late March.

The students’ research and creative endeavors were chosen from among 3,500 abstracts submitted by students from across the United States, each demonstrating “a unique contribution to your field of study,” the acceptance letters said.

The Appalachian students represented nine academic disciplines: chemistry, music, psychology, biology, physics, economics, history, math, and health, leisure and exercise science. These students later presented at the university’s 15th Annual Celebration of Research and Creative Endeavors, which received a record 172 abstract submissions this year.

Dr. Alan Utter, director of Appalachian’s Office of Student Research (OSR), said these accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication of the faculty. “We can’t mentor all 15,000 undergraduate students, but we can give every student who wants to get involved an opportunity. I’ve never had a student say they wanted to do research but couldn’t find a faculty member to mentor them,” Utter said.

His office provides limited research and travel grants to students – a competitive process that gives students a taste of how to apply for grants in their professional careers. To support their participation in NCUR, OSR provided each student a $750 stipend for flight, hotel and registration, without which many of them could not attend.

In addition to NCUR, undergraduates also frequently showcase their work at professional conferences, which are considered critical opportunities to a student’s success in pursuing graduate school or careers in today’s marketplace.

“Our department is focused on undergraduate research, beginning as early as the sophomore year, because it is so important in preparing our students for graduate programs, making them more competitive for the best jobs and developing strong critical thinking, written and oral skills,” said Dr. Claudia Cartaya-Marin, chair of the A.R. Smith Department of Chemistry.

Music performance major Duncan Boatright expressed gratitude for the university’s financial and scholarly support to attend NCUR. “It’s rare to get this big a platform to speak,” he said. “There are people from all over the country attending NCUR and who knows how many spectators and how much coverage in academic papers. The ones they talk about could be you.”

Why undergraduate research matters

The benefits of student research, scholarship and creative endeavors to students’ learning include:

- Close working relationship with a faculty mentor
- A better understanding of research methods
- The opportunity to apply knowledge from class
- The opportunity for co-authorship on publications and presentations
- Increased chance for success in research-based graduate programs
- Elevated self-confidence and empowerment
- The ability to think and work like a scientist
- Clarification/confirmation of career plans

Source: Office of Student Research

The Office of Student Research (OSR) was established in 2005 to expand opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research and mentored scholarship at Appalachian State University. OSR supports and promotes learning through mentored research experiences with Appalachian faculty, as well as with other national and international scholars and professionals. A guiding principle of the OSR is that special collaborative relationships are among the most rewarding experiences for both faculty members and students.

On April 19, OSR presented the 15th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors, which showcased 172 abstracts presented by students, including 110 undergraduate and 62 graduate students representing 26 different academic departments and 102 faculty mentors.

Pictured are (left to right) Dr. Libby Puckett, senior chemistry majors Ellie McCabe and Nicole Reilly, and Dr. Claudia Cartaya-Marin.
Many Appalachian graduates call undergraduate research opportunities – and the faculty mentoring relationships that come with them – their most memorable, important and influencing academic experiences. Meet six students who represented Appalachian at this spring’s National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

From left, Ryland Bradley, Margo Pray and Dr. Sue Edwards.

Margo Pray, pre-med, and Ryland Bradley, exercise science

Dr. Sue Edwards uses “brilliant” and “stellar” to describe research students Margo Pray and Ryland Bradley who’ve taken a lead role in working on her molecular biology research funded by the National Science Foundation.

“I could not do my work without them. They’re incredibly diligent and conscientious,” said the biology professor, who studies the molecular evolution of metabolic waste removal. She currently supervises seven undergraduates and two graduate students to help with this project and others in her lab.

“Appalachian is known at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for its quality training of undergraduate researchers, and the NSF follows up with me on how our undergraduates are doing,” Edwards said.

At NCUR, Pray presented research on the activity of a particular protein found in both hagfish and humans. Bradley presented on her work on proteins found during the various life cycles of lamprey, a vertebrate relative of the more primitive hagfish.

“It’s a great opportunity to do research as an undergraduate. I think it sets me apart. I’ve learned a lot and these skills will be transferrable,” said Bradley, an exercise science major from Fayetteville. She graduates in August.

“We’re learning from each other in the lab, as well as from Dr. Edwards,” said Pray, a pre-med major from Greensboro who graduates in 2013. “With research you have to problem solve, take initiative – it’s active learning. The result is I can understand molecular biology so much better because of what I’m doing in her lab.”

Both Honors College students, Bradley and Pray will study abroad in South Africa this summer for a clinical internship. As soon as they return, they’ll spend a month in Maine conducting hagfish research with Edwards at the internationally recognized Mount Desert Island Biological Lab.

Bradley approached Edwards about joining her research team after taking Edwards’ physiology course. Having worked alongside Edwards for two years now, she said she has “gained a mentor and a friend. She’s really busy but she still makes time for us.”

Pray got to know Edwards during a study abroad program to Australia the summer after her freshman year. “My experience proves one of the best things about Appalachian: that you can have close, personal relationships with professors and that really benefits your education,” she said.
When Duncan Boatright plays music, he’s not moved so much by the artistry of sound, but rather the mechanics behind each chord. “I’ve always had an interest in computers and math, and music theory is like that – it’s the mechanical side of music. It makes it cooler in my mind to see a chord and analyze it, to understand how it works rather than to just play the notes,” said Boatright, a music performance major from Charlotte. He graduated in May.

A percussionist, Boatright researched whether music theory could be taught just as well using the steel drum as it can with the most predominant instrument used in music theory instruction, the piano. He experimented with students on campus who did not know how to play either instrument. “To my knowledge, there’s not a lot of work in this area,” he said.

Before this project, Boatright thought his talents were as a composer. He even performed compositions at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. However, the opportunity to tackle deeper research under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass changed his career path. He now wants to be a music theorist and teach at the college level.

“I wouldn’t have gone anywhere else for music school,” he said. “Appalachian is such a progressively academic campus that it’s hard not to learn here, and the faculty are so interwoven with the students that it’s easy to find someone to be a mentor for your research.”

Snodgrass said Boatright’s research topic grew from conversations they had in class. “My motto is ‘empower the undergraduate,’” Snodgrass said. “When a student comes to me and says, ‘I always was curious as to why...’ I help them to form that into a research idea. It is imperative to let students know that you believe they can handle it, that you believe they can excel, that they can discover something new.”
Tim Hines and Dr. Mark Zrull in a psychology laboratory inside Rankin Science Building.

**Tim Hines, psychology**

Tim Hines will start a doctoral program in biomedical sciences this fall at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. His two years of presenting at NCUR – an honor not many students achieve – have made him more confident in talking about his research and its significance, he said.

“I want to get my Ph.D. and do research as my career, so these experiences help quite a bit,” the psychology major from Fayetteville said. “I love learning. The research helps me understand the material better because you have to think critically and know how things interact with each other.”

During his junior and senior years, Hines worked with Dr. Mark Zrull toward understanding how enrichment can help in seizure therapy of rats. His most recent research project compared the exploratory behavior of two groups: rats whose lives were enriched by toys and the company of other rats, and those kept alone except for five minutes of handling by students.

“The enriched rats show more exploratory behavior, which shows certain parts of the medial prefrontal cortex are activated. So, we’re thinking that that area of the brain is related to fear response. The rats enriched by other rats and toys have less fear,” he said.

Hines said the undergraduate research experiences helped him “appreciate the course material better because the professor is a person with common interests and not just some person lecturing to me.”

“I like to get students started on a project and then set them free to explore,” Zrull said of his mentoring style. One of Appalachian's earliest advocates of undergraduate research, Zrull pushed to have Appalachian adopt undergraduate research as an institution-wide focus.

In addition to twice presenting at NCUR, Hines also presented research at the Symposium for Young Neuroscientists and Professors of the Southeast (SYNAPSE) conference at Wake Forest University in Spring 2011.
Jenna Cantrell with Dr. Eric Marland, left, and Dr. John Whitehead.

Jenna Cantrell, math and economics

As of April, senior Jenna Cantrell had already been accepted into seven graduate programs with promised funding, including N.C. State’s Ph.D. program in economics.

“She’s motivated and qualified to do Ph.D. level work,” said Dr. Eric Marland, one of two professors mentoring Cantrell, a double major in economics and math.

The May graduate was selected by NCUR for two research projects, one in each discipline. Her math research, mentored by Marland, focused on managing the cost of carbon emissions. The economics project, mentored by Dr. John Whitehead, included a benefit-cost analysis based on surveys she conducted of people who use Boone’s greenway trail and their perceived usage if the trail were extended.

Her faculty mentors “are very passionate about what they do and that’s rubbed off on me, in my classes and in my research,” Cantrell said.

As an Honors College student, Cantrell must complete a senior thesis. She combined her majors for a thesis that explores the optimal rotation time for managed forests. “This topic is very practical, especially in the future as states adopt policy related to carbon emissions,” she said.

“Many people perceive advanced math as difficult, but it’s so applicable to practical uses. You’d lose perspective of why math is needed if you didn’t do research like this,” she said.

Marland said undergraduate research and independent study are critical for top students who want to differentiate themselves from their peers. “By their senior year, students need two good letters of recommendation from their professors, and they can’t get that by just doing well in class,” he said.

“You get out of education what you put into it,” said Cantrell, who is from Beech Mountain. “There are opportunities at Appalachian for people to get involved in that fully prepare them for graduate school or whatever they want to do.”
Alicia Woock and Dr. Jennifer Cecile in Appalachian’s Microscopy Lab.

Alicia Woock, chemistry

After graduation this May, Alicia Woock will begin a prestigious two-year internship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. She credits her research opportunities in Appalachian’s chemistry labs for getting her there.

“It’s a direct result of this opportunity,” said Woock. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Cecile, she studied the intestines of a roundworm called Caenorhabditis elegans to see how certain proteins help the worm expel xenobiotics and other negative substances. This new knowledge can help scientists better understand how certain proteins can prolong the presence of pharmaceuticals in the human body.

Her experiences in Cecile’s lab, which included teamwork and leadership development as she mentored younger students, have prepared her well for medical school, she said.

“I knew I wanted to major in chemistry, and I knew Appalachian was small enough to let me work with professors. In my sophomore year, I asked Dr. Cecile if I could work with her in her lab and it’s been the best decision I’ve made in college. I’ve learned a lot more about biochemistry in this research lab than I would have just in the classroom.”

“One of the reasons Alicia was picked for the NIH internship was because she did a lot of microscopy work here at Appalachian. The equipment she will use at NIH will be different, but the techniques will be similar,” Cecile said.

“I don’t know why anyone would want to go to a school that doesn’t offer the opportunities that Appalachian does. You can do anything with the academics here,” said Woock, who is from New Bern.

During her junior year, Woock won the first-ever outstanding interdisciplinary research award presented by Appalachian’s campus chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.

Other presenters at NCUR were junior Alexander Alberti, music; junior Meredith Anderson, music; senior Curtis Blaser, chemistry; senior Darren Brady, chemistry; senior Emily Brown, health, leisure and exercise science; senior Marcus Collins, psychology; senior Alexis Dale, chemistry; junior Rawley Eichorst, psychology; senior Kate Estridge, chemistry; junior Christopher Eubanks, chemistry; senior Zachary Gilbert, chemistry; junior Amber Harold, chemistry; senior Jared Harris, chemistry; senior Stacey Hughes, chemistry; junior Brannon Kling, music; junior Emily Long, history; senior Ellie McCabe, chemistry; sophomore Shawn Milloway, music; senior Alyssa Nance, music; senior Christina Naylor, music; senior Alex Reidinger, music; senior Nicole Reilly, chemistry; senior Luke Robertson, physics, and Lindsey Vickers ’11, music.

Learn more at osr.appstate.edu
Research and scholarship fuel the academic life of university professors Davison, Robertson and Stewart

By Jane Nicholson

Research and scholarship is a critical component in the life of any faculty member. Faculty members who have taught a minimum of four years at Appalachian State University can apply for a semester or yearlong off-campus scholarly assignment (OCSA) to conduct research. Preference is given to tenured faculty. Support of research for tenure-track faculty often comes in the form of college or university grants or awards, or external grants.

Dr. Karen Robertson from the Hayes School of Music and Dr. Beth Davison from the Department of Sociology and University Documentary Film Services are among the more than 75 faculty members who benefited from OCSAs in support of their scholarship during the past three years. Dr. Bruce Stewart from the Department of History is among faculty whose research has been supported by awards from their college or school.

Professor Beth Davison, Department of Sociology/University Documentary Film Services

Dr. Beth Davison’s interest in creating documentaries has led to a quarter-time position as co-director of University Documentary Film Services, through which she teaches workshops for faculty and students interested in producing short documentary films.

“It’s important for students to be able to communicate content from their academic field into a multimedia format. I think that is just as important as cultivating their writing skills while they are at Appalachian. Those are skills employers are going to be looking for,” Davison said. “And the more experience I get in creating films like this and being out in the field, the more I can pass on to others.”

Davison holds a certificate in documentary arts from the Duke Center for Documentary Studies. A Faculty Fellows grant awarded to Davison in fall 2010 allowed her to attend an additional workshop on writing and structuring historical documentaries. She also received an off-campus scholarly assignment in spring 2011 to begin research for a socio-historical documentary on the Moses Cone family and North Carolina’s industrial revolution.

“I have always been interested in this topic,” said Davison, a Lenoir native who has lived in western North Carolina most of her life. “The Cone name is on the landscape across North Carolina and especially in Watauga County. A lot of people are familiar with the Cone name but lack knowledge of the history behind the name.”

Moses and his brother Caesar Cone founded Cone Mills in Greensboro and became leaders in textile manufacturing, not only in North Carolina but worldwide.

The documentary’s working title is “From Immigrants to Industrials.” It will cover important historical issues – how the state transformed from an agrarian to an industrialized economy, labor issues among the mill workers, including paternalism of the Cones toward their workers, mill village life, the workers’ pride in being part of world’s largest supplier of denim; and how, in just two generations as European immigrants, the Cones opened the textile mills,” Davison said of her documentary.

Davison visited seven different archives across the state, something that would not have been possible without the OCSA. Davison had access to documents and letters from the late 1800s in archives at UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Chapel Hill, Greensboro Historical Museum, the National Parks Service and in Jonesborough, Tenn. She was assisted in her research by students in a public history class taught in the Department of History.

The finished project, targeted to run 50 minutes, will include photographs and archived interviews of...
former mill workers. In addition to showing it on campus and at venues across the state, she also hopes to interest local public television stations in her project.

Professor Karen Robertson, Hayes School of Music

A curiosity about the experiences of U.S.-trained horn players who are members of German orchestras has led Dr. Karen Robertson to change the way she teaches her students and how she performs.

She received an OCSA in fall 2009 to interview 31 horn musicians and listen to their rehearsals. Her research was further supported by an Appalachian State University Faculty Fellows grant as well as an International Scholarly Assignment Grant from the Office of International Education and Development.

“We devote ourselves to learning and to learning new things,” Robertson said about the life of a professor. “As researchers and scholarly people, we always need to be expanding our horizons. I’m not going to be a good teacher if I am not expanding my own views and trying to learn new things.”

Robertson traveled to 26 cities in Germany for her research, the fruits of which include three published articles in The Horn Call, the journal of the International Horn Society, and presentations at workshops.

“Hearing these musicians perform was important to my research because I wanted to hear and see if there were any differences in sound, musical style and technique between U.S.- and German-trained horn players, and learn what a young U.S. horn player would need in order to get a job in a German orchestra,” she said.

While common in the past, U.S. musicians no longer have an automatic edge over German musicians when auditioning for openings in German orchestras. One reason for the change, according to Robertson, is that as Germany and its orchestras rebuilt following the two world wars, the country’s music programs and musician talent expanded as well. Today, auditioning musicians need not only talent, but also a command of the German language and preferably schooling in a “Hochschule,” or German music conservatory.

The sound of U.S. horn ensembles or orchestras is sometimes described as dark or muffled, Robertson said, and she observed the subtle changes in technique that make German hornists sound more “bright” – such as the way a musician holds the horn off the knee rather than resting on the knee, and how he or she releases air through the mouthpiece.

She now teaches these and other techniques to her students, which she believes will become more commonplace as U.S. brass musicians adopt the European-style of playing.

“As much as I enjoy what I do, the opportunity to do something different made me love teaching and performing so much more, because I had the chance to step away from it, regroup and rethink about where I was heading with my studio and my personal career and development as a musician and as a professor,” Robertson said.

“It opened my eyes again and allowed me to take a look at my past, my present and my future and figure out what I want the next 10 years to look like.”

Assistant Professor Bruce Stewart, Department of History

Herman Husband was a rebel, something that may seem diametrically opposite of the teachings of his adopted Quaker faith. But the early leader of the Regulator Movement in North Carolina fought against what he viewed as economic injustices in the late 18th century.

Dr. Bruce Stewart is writing Husband’s story, focusing on his activism in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Stewart first learned about Husband when he was an undergraduate at UNC-Greensboro. Teaching a course in N.C. history as part of his work at Appalachian rekindled interest in the Quaker, who moved to the state in the 1760s.

“Husband lived right before the American Revolutionary War, during and after the war. A new theme in the history of the American Revolution is looking at how ordinary people viewed the American Revolutionary War and its outcomes,” Stewart said. “Like a large number of people, he viewed the U.S. Constitution as benefiting those called moneyed men – the elite.”

After moving to North Carolina to participate in the Regulator Movement, considered a catalyst of the American Revolutionary War, Husband fled the state to participate in the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania in the 1790s.

Stewart’s research for his book on Husband has been supported by the College of Arts and Sciences’ 2011-12 William C. Strickland Outstanding Young Faculty Award, which provides funds to aid the research of non-tenured faculty in tenure-track positions, and funds from the Department of History.

He used the funds to travel to archives in Pennsylvania to begin research on the book about Husband, an important figure in N.C. and U.S. history.

“The Strickland Award has allowed me to get a head start on my second project, which I hope ultimately will allow me to achieve the rank of full professor,” Stewart said.

Stewart’s first book, “Moonshiners and Prohibitionists: The Battle over Alcohol in Southern Appalachia,” is the result of his dissertation while a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia.

“To be a good teacher you also have to be a researcher. That means staying on top of current literature and the latest trends in what the interpretation of a particular event is,” Stewart said.

“This particular research will help me teach N.C. history better as I have been able to dig deeper into Herman Husband and the Regulator Movement. And when I teach U.S. history, I can talk about American political discourse and how the American population, contrary to the rhetoric you hear today, has always been divided;” he said. “There has always been one side promoting an industrial capitalized free market system, and then there is this other discourse that Herman Husband represents that promotes economic justice and a government that ensures that people can have the opportunity to live the American dream. Those two ideals have always been part of American society and always in competition. It’s not anything that’s new.”
New program celebrates students with diverse abilities

By Jane Nicholson

Independence.

That’s something every college student seeks, whether it’s freedom from their parents while enrolled, or self-reliance after college to start and succeed in their career.

Courtney Bell is no different in that regard. What is different for Bell is that instead of earning a four-year degree from Appalachian State University, she will complete a two-year program in 2013 as the first participant in the university’s Scholars with Diverse Abilities (SDAP) program, a new initiative designed for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

“I need to be more independent,” she said of her reason for enrolling in the SDAP program. “I need to get a good job.” When she completes her program requirements, Bell will receive a Collegiate Achievement Award from the university.

Appalachian is one of nearly 200 post-secondary institutions that are providing students with intellectual abilities access to a two-year college education. Appalachian’s SDAP program is directed by Dr. Melody Schwantes, an adjunct faculty member in the Hayes School of Music’s music therapy program. It was developed by Dr. Cathy McKinney, coordinator of the music therapy program; Dr. Kate T. Brinko, director of Hubbard Programs for Faculty Excellence; Dr. Sharon M. Richter from the Reich College of Education, and Dr. Mandy B. Harrison from the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science.

The 2011-12 academic year is the pilot year. The program is made possible by a five-year, $150,000 Transition and Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered through Western Carolina University. The funds support graduate assistants and 20-plus volunteers working in the program, a portion of Schwantes’ salary, travel to conferences and promotional materials. SDAP students pay the same college costs as their four-year counterparts.

“The term intellectual disability replaced terms such as mentally handicapped some five to 10 years ago,” Schwantes said. “These are students who wouldn’t be able to get into college normally and handle the course workload.”

Bell’s mother, Nancy Bell, pitched the idea for Appalachian’s SDAP program based on a program at Western Carolina University (WCU) that was piloted in 2007. “Two years ago, when we started looking into postsecondary opportunities for Courtney, we discovered Western Carolina’s University Participant (UP) program. WCU had established a great program there that started with one student and has eight participants this year,” Bell said. “We were impressed with how happy the participants were as well as how accepted they were by the student body there.”

Part of WCU’s program’s initiative was to help create other postsecondary programs in the state through the Federal TPSID grant. “We brought this idea to Appalachian and helped with the grant application to establish a similar program in Boone since we live here and Courtney will ultimately find a job and build her life here,” Bell said.

Schwantes and faculty members developed a contract of expectations appropriate for Courtney Bell, based on her capabilities, and with expectations that will challenge her. For instance, while a typical student might be required to write a five- or six-page paper, diverse scholars would be required to write a one- or two-page paper. “It’s still the same assignment but with the student’s capabilities in mind,” Schwantes said.

Students are expected to actively participate in class, and develop or strengthen personal, social and career development skills.

New opportunities through student life

Bell is taking courses that will help her live independently, perhaps securing work in tourism or a trade- or hospitality-focused business in the area. Her courses include Appalachian music and hospitality management. A foods and nutrition course is teaching her the importance of reading and understanding nutrition information on food labels. Physical education courses will augment recreational opportunities for Bell, who is a Watauga County Special Olympics athlete. She plans to live in a residence hall for her final year in the program.

When she is not in class, Bell likes to spend time in the Plemmons Student Union coffee shop. She works part time for Sanford Commons, located in Central Dining Hall.

This fall, Schwantes expects to enroll two new students in the program. “College campuses, such as Appalachian, are known for student populations that represent racial as well as international diversity. The goal of SDAP is to have as many as 16 students enrolled by 2014, which would represent the percent of persons with intellectual disabilities in the general population (.01 percent),” she said.

Prospective students learn about Appalachian’s SDAP and similar programs through the ThinkCollege website, which serves as a clearinghouse of all post-secondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

“People know about Appalachian and when they see what we have to offer, they want their child to be a part of it,” Schwantes said. “Parents of 15- and 16-year-olds are already planning for the idea of their child coming to college. Five or 10 years ago, that was never an option for them.”

Schwantes has fielded inquiries from parents from New York to Florida.

SDAP’s value to campus and participants

The program benefits traditional students, too. Those majoring in special education, social work or psychology volunteer to shadow the diverse scholar, helping with note taking and making sure assignments are turned in on time. Each course also has a group of tutors who help the scholar with homework assignments. “Our goal is to create no additional work whatsoever for the professors,” Schwantes said.
The volunteers take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it to working with the diverse scholar. “Understanding what an intellectual disability is from a textbook point of view is very different than actually working with someone with an intellectual disability and seeing how it is different for everybody,” Schwantes said.

Allison Rayburn is a graduate assistant for the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program. “I think it’s an amazing opportunity for continued support of people with differences,” she said of the program. “It provides a good transition between the high school experience and the real world. It seems like a rite of passage that should be available to everybody.”

Rayburn is double majoring in music therapy and marriage and family therapy. “I have experience working with people with varying degrees of special needs and find it to be amazingly rewarding,” she said.

Enrolling diverse scholars can enrich the college experience for everyone, Schwantes explained.

“It’s about broadening everyone else’s experiences about what the general population looks like,” she said. “A lot of the students who graduate from Appalachian will work with people with intellectual disabilities in the community, and the SDAP program incorporates people with intellectual disabilities into our everyday lives. Part of Appalachian’s mission statement is to increase the diversity of campus. This is a type of diversity that we haven’t had on our campus.”

The program benefits the scholar, too. Students who participate in post-secondary programs like Appalachian’s earn about 70 percent more than their peers who do not participate in similar programs.

“They are able to live independently because they have the financial resources and skills to take care of themselves,” Schwantes. “Some are able to get off public assistance because they earn enough money to take care of their needs. And it challenges them and allows them to live to their fullest potential, because they aren’t always doing the bare minimum or what someone thinks they are only capable of doing.”

“Courtney loves going to Appalachian,” Nancy Bell said. “Everyone has been very supportive and kind. She is learning great life lessons as she faces new challenges every day. She’s a great ambassador for the program, telling all the special Olympians she meets about going to college. Hopefully this program will be around for many years to come.”

Learn more at www.sdap.appstate.edu.
Civic Engagement

In 2012, Appalachian’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program engaged 322 faculty, staff and students in service opportunities in 18 U.S. locations, as well as in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru and Jamaica. These students chose to dedicate their spring break to service rather than having a traditional spring break experience, and in doing so, created deeper connections between their classroom work and the communities of the world.

ASB began at Appalachian in 1988, and has expanded to become the Alternative Service Experience program that takes place every fall, winter and spring break. Each program provides the opportunity for a life-changing and one-of-a-kind learning and service experience. Leadership teams, comprised of two undergraduate student peer leaders and one faculty or staff learning partner, work together to develop each program. The peer leaders complete extensive training and work with the learning partners to organize meaningful, co-curricular learning experiences for their participants. Since 2011, all Alternative Service Experience programs have been carbon neutral.

In March 2012, students took their education beyond the walls of the classroom, exploring a variety of social issues while working shoulder to shoulder with communities in a variety of locations in and out of the United States. To see these students in action, visit today.appstate.edu/asb or use your smartphone to scan this QR code.

At Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary in Woodstock, N.Y., students get their hands dirty cleaning stalls and maintaining the guest house, while spending some quality time with rescued farm animals.
In Atlanta, Ga., students spent time at Wilderness Works, engaging and reaching out to homeless and disadvantaged children through experiential education and enrichment programs.

Just north of Atlanta in Comer, Ga., Jubilee Partners provides a residential program to newly-arrived refugees. Here, Appalachian students assisted residents with everything from weekly shopping trips to obtaining Social Security cards.
At Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, students worked on maintenance and preservation projects off the coast of South Carolina.
Civic Engagement

At 180 Degree Farm in Sharpsburg, Ga., the mission is to provide the local community with healthy, fresh grown vegetables, eggs and meats. Students spent early spring prepping vegetable beds for planting (with a little time for fun, “American Gothic” style.)

In Bronx, N.Y., students served and spent time with community members at Part of the Solution (POTS), an organization that provides nutritious meals and a variety of assistance programs in a safe, warm community.
Scholarship, research, engagement and leadership are important aspects of the successful undergraduate at Appalachian State University, so much so that the newest complex on campus focuses on supporting all of these pursuits.

The Honors and Engagement Village located adjacent to Plemmons Student Union on Locust Street, is comprised of Summit Hall, a 333-bed, 10-story residence hall scheduled to open in August; the recently remodeled Cone Hall, and the three-story Honors and Engagement Hall containing classrooms, a large lounge area, and offices for the Honors College and University Housing. All are steps away from a 58,000-square-foot addition to the student union. The new wing and student union addition should be completed late in the fall semester.

About one-third of the 800 Honors College students will live in the Honors and Engagement Village. Honors upperclass students, Diversity Scholars, Plemmons Fellows, international students and upperclass students in other leadership and engagement programs will reside in Summit Hall; freshman students, including most of those in the Honors College, will reside in Cone Hall.

Benefits of the village

“It’s important that freshmen see and understand what’s ahead of them in the honors program,” said Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones, director of the Honors College. Activities and programming offered in the Honors and Engagement Village will give freshmen the opportunity to interact with upperclass students who are enrolled in the honors curriculum.

Honors students have special expectations regarding their GPA, study abroad participation and undergraduate research, and the upperclass honors students often serve as mentors to first-year students by sharing academic choices and experiences.

Students say they also value the camaraderie of other high-achieving students. “For the freshmen especially, this is a crucial time to build relationships with people and learn how to cope with the adjustments of school,” said Allison Crook, a second semester honors student. “It has been so helpful having allies who are going through the same things.”

“Living in the Honors College while it was in East Hall provided me with a wonderful and unique academic experience,” said senior Laura Taylor about her freshman experience. “I felt I was part of a community of learners, like-minded individuals who were there to get the most out of their education.”

The Honors and Engagement Village will bring upperclass and freshman honors students together through classes, special programs and social activities. They will have ID card-swipe access to each residence hall for easy participation in activities within each facility, and upperclass honors students will be hired as peer mentors for the honors First Year Seminar.

Inside the village

Research regarding honors communities shows meeting spaces promote interactions through peer mentoring and study group activities, Jones said. Consequently, Summit Hall was designed with a large lounge on the ground floor, and small study rooms and a windowed lounge on each residence floor. Cone also has study and meeting rooms on each floor.

The village – built to accommodate 8 to 10 percent of the undergraduate population – also will include classrooms, library/meeting space, offices for the Honors College and administrative offices for University Housing, including a “24-hour desk” where students residing on east campus can receive packages shipped by UPS or FedEx and gain access to their room if they are accidentally locked out.

“The Honors College allows the student to have a nurtured, small school experience that will take the academic superstar and really catapult them into the future,” Jones said.

“We tell students who attend open houses they will receive a great education at Appalachian whether they are enrolled in the Honors College or not. But those who are will be pushed to take more challenging courses and engage in co-curricular experiences that will make their graduate school application the most competitive it can be,” Jones said.

Two other new or refurbished facilities that will positively influence the Appalachian Experience:

- Beasley Media Complex, located at the intersection of Rivers Street and Depot Street, will open in 2013. Once completed, this fully-equipped radio and television broadcasting center will give communication students the most technologically advanced opportunities in the field, as well as new classrooms and faculty office space. The campus’ 24-hour, student-managed radio station WASU will be housed here as well. The facility is named for George G. Beasley ’58, founder, chairman and CEO of Beasley Broadcast Group Inc. in Naples, Fla.
- Beginning later this summer, Farthing Auditorium will be refurbished to address issues of safety, accessibility, and enhancement of the performance experience. It will become The Schafer Center for the Performing Arts, named for donors Bonnie and Jamie Schafer. Improvements to the 1,734-seat venue, originally built in 1976, should be complete by July 2013.
Taking the leap

By Megan Hayes

Tyler Branch wishes more students would take risks. Not the kind of risks one might immediately think of when considering risk-taking behavior and college, but the kind that pay off—big time—like winning not one but two of New York City’s most coveted television internships.

Branch went from an internship at “Late Show with David Letterman” to a coveted internship position with what many consider the holy grail of production experience—“Saturday Night Live” (SNL). In many ways, his is an American-dream fairy tale—at least the college version.

Originally from the small town of Sawmills, not far from Boone, Branch was the first male in his family to graduate from college. He began his studies at Caldwell Community College in nearby Hudson, and transferred to Appalachian, where he discovered broadcast journalism and immediately began to take advantage of every opportunity the university offered.

“A lot of broadcast journalism majors are preparing themselves for local or regional news stations, because they can stay in their comfort zone, and news stations can offer a lot of career opportunities,” said Branch. “You can move up and really do well in local news.” All the same, he wishes more students would take advantage of what Appalachian has to offer in the Big Apple. Branch personally benefitted from two established scholarships and inexpensive living at the Appalachian Loft in New York City.

“Sometimes it’s best to set your sights on the absolute top, and if you fail, at least you tried,” Branch reflected. “Even if you don’t...
want to live in New York,” he encouraged current students, “come for a while, and experience a whole different level of production and expectations.”

Branch’s enthusiasm for New York is boundless. “Coming to New York has allowed me to explore some really exciting opportunities, and make connections that are already opening doors for me,” he explained.

It’s not easy to get an interview with the Letterman show, Branch said. The first time he applied, he was rejected. So he reviewed his résumé and decided to beef up his hands-on experience. He found a media production internship on campus, where he gained on-the-job experience shooting video footage, running sound, interviewing subjects and editing video projects. With a few months of experience, he re-applied to Letterman, and was invited to an interview in New York. After a grueling interview process, he got the call to let him know he was in. “It was an unpaid internship,” said Branch, “but to me, it was a chance to take the skills I learned at Appalachian, and go out in the real world and really put them to use. It was also a great way to measure how I was doing against the expectations of top professionals in the field, and make some really important connections.”

Those connections, along with his hard work and dedication to soaking up every opportunity he could learn from everyone around him, paid off. At the end of the fall 2011 semester, Branch prepared to pack up, head home and complete his senior year on campus. Then he was offered a full-time internship position at SNL. It was an incredible opportunity, but he still had a semester left at Appalachian and had not planned for another semester in New York. Conflicted, he worried that if he turned down SNL, he might close a door to huge learning and career opportunities. “But not graduating was a deal breaker,” he explained. “I was going to be the first male in my family to graduate from college.”

So, he called Dr. Janice Pope, chair of the Department of Communication, and asked her to help him think through his options. “She completely understood and did so much to help me so that I could have these opportunities in New York and still graduate.”

“Rarely does a student have this kind of opportunity,” Pope explained. “He worked with a major media company, and his exceptional skills and abilities were recognized by another huge media company. He did not have the luxury of staying at Appalachian for an extra semester, and this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so I said, ‘We’ll make it work.’”

And make it work, they did. He completed his coursework with two independent study courses. “He had to couch surf some,” Pope noted, when the bunks filled up at the loft – he had not booked space for the last semester – but Branch embraced his opportunities. According to Pope, he made cramming in coursework while keeping a 40-hour work schedule that often ran into the wee hours of the morning look like fun – because for him, it was.

“There are people at SNL that don’t have to work, but they choose to, because it’s that cool, to be at ‘Saturday Night Live,’” he said, and his enthusiasm is evident. “I remember watching Will Ferrell, Tim Meadows and Molly Shannon on SNL every Saturday night and loving it. Now I understand everything that goes into making the live show happen – the writing, blocking, lighting, re-writes and everything else. Having the opportunity to see how that happens every week is completely unbelievable.”

While this might sound like a dream come true, Branch faced significant challenges. “Living in New York is incredibly expensive,” he said. “I was so excited to get the Letterman and SNL internships, but I had no idea how I was going to be able to afford to live in New York and work for no pay.” Support came in the form of two scholarships – from the Broyhill Family Foundation and the George G. Beasley Family Endowed Scholarship for Business and Broadcasting – and safe, comfortable lodging at the Appalachian Loft, where he lived, dormitory-style, with other Appalachian students and recent graduates. “Financial aid and these scholarships, along with being able to stay at the App Loft, allowed me the ability to live and eat, while working full time, unpaid.”

A few weeks ago, Branch fulfilled another dream – to walk across the stage and receive his undergraduate degree from Appalachian.

When asked, “What’s next for Tyler Branch?” he is not sure. He loves production work. “It would be great to get a paid position at a place like Letterman or SNL,” he said. With a degree from Appalachian, combined with the skills he has honed in these prestigious, professional environments, he feels prepared for the future, and his optimism is boundless. “I feel like there is a whole mountain of opportunities in front of me,” he said.

Branch is not the only one who thinks his future is promising. “Tyler will not only succeed, he will be at the forefront of change,” predicted Pope. “His desire to continue to learn and improve his skill set, combined with his interpersonal skills made him a model student, and he has become a perfect example of the kind of young professional we love to create here at Appalachian.”

Branch is as proud of Appalachian as Appalachian is of him. “On the first day for interns at SNL, we were all asked to say who we were and what college we came from,” he recalled. “As we went around the room, everybody was saying, ‘I’m from NYU,’ or ‘I’m from Columbia, or Dartmouth.’ I said, ‘I’m from THE Appalachian State University.’ Truthfully, there weren’t many football fans in the room, so I don’t think they really got it, but I can say proudly that my education at App prepared me as well as the Ivy League schools. I got a lot more hands-on training at Appalachian and was able to hit the ground running. We have a great communication program at App, and if you put your mind to it, anyone from Appalachian can come up here and succeed against any competition.”

Spend only a few minutes with Branch, and you are inspired to truly believe that hard work and perseverance, and the willingness to seek out opportunities and make the best of them make all the difference. American dream? Perhaps. But Branch would call it the Appalachian way.
A street in the city of Hoi An, an international commercial port about 20 miles from Duy Tan University, which is a base for Appalachian student trips to Vietnam. Photo courtesy of Michael Pournaras.
Southeast Asia is among university’s newest destinations

Appalachian makes a point to create international partnerships and opportunities in atypical or emerging parts of the world. Southeast Asia is among these destinations.

This summer presents the fifth study abroad program in Vietnam for biology students, and the second in Vietnam for business students, with this year’s program to also include Thailand. The university has also developed a 2+2 articulation agreement with Duy Tan University (DTU) in central Vietnam that will become a model for partnerships with other institutions, including Thailand’s Burapha University International College.

“There are many reasons why it is important for Appalachian to have a presence in Vietnam,” said Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, associate vice chancellor for international education and development. “Many experts have noted that Vietnam is the new economic hot spot with the same potential for economic growth and development that China has had.”

Vietnam also has “staggering” biodiversity, which presents certain conservation issues as the country’s population grows, according to biologist Dr. Gary Walker. “It has a rich natural history and amazing national park systems,” he said. Also, he said there are many species in Southeast Asia that have close relatives in the Southern Appalachians.

Walker said he and Dr. Wayne Van Devender began taking students to Vietnam to explore its biodiversity after Van Devender had participated in herpetological surveys in Cat Tien National Park. They take students to a series of national parks and preserves along the Vietnamese coast, including Van Long preserve, a karst and wetland area that protects the rare Delacour’s langur monkey population.

The Walker College of Business developed a relationship with DTU with the help of its business advisory council. Member Bob Darst put Appalachian in touch with businesswoman Ann Milam, who had set up textile mills in Vietnam for a North Carolina company and had connections at DTU, Dean Randy Edwards said.

In late 2010, Appalachian and DTU signed an agreement for student and faculty exchanges. Dr. Heather Dixon-Fowler and fellow management professor Dr. Ben Powell took the first group of business students to Vietnam for a month in summer 2011 to study entrepreneurship skills. She and Powell will lead a five-week trip this summer which will include time in Thailand. Powell spent last summer teaching at Appalachian’s partner university which, according to Dixon-Fowler, has helped facilitate the expanded trip this year.

The universities expanded their agreement with the 2+2 articulation agreement in early 2012 that allows Vietnamese students to study for two years at DTU, transfer to Appalachian for their last two years of education and graduate with two degrees.

“Southeast Asia is really booming right now,” Dixon-Fowler said. “The economies of both Vietnam and Thailand are growing really fast, and North Carolina companies have connections there through the textile and furniture industries, as well as with agriculture. Our students who went on the first study abroad there say they’re finding employers are impressed by their Southeast Asia experience, making them stand out from other candidates.”

Undergrad students work with the founder of Reaching Out Handicrafts, a social enterprise which provides training and jobs for people with disabilities, in Hoi An. Appalachian students develop marketing strategies, promotional videos, and more for Reaching Out.

Cat Tien National Park is one of the Department of Biology’s educational destinations in Vietnam.

Photo courtesy of Wayne Van Devender
Third in the nation
- Appalachian State University’s ranking among master’s-degree granting institutions for the number of students who study abroad on short-term faculty-led programs. The university ranked fourth when also counting semester and year-long programs.

60 programs in 30 countries
- number of short-term faculty-led programs during the 2011-12 academic year.

Source: Appalachian’s Office of International Education and Development

Cuba
Appalachian resumed taking students to Cuba in 2011-12, thanks to President Obama’s reinstatement of short-term educational permits to the communist nation. Fourteen students participated in two study abroad programs earlier this academic year:
• Walker College of Business program for six M.B.A. students who spent a week in October 2011 focusing on sustainability and the effects of the U.S. embargo in Cuba;
• and, a technical photography program in early January during which eight students worked with prominent Cuban photographers and attended workshops at La Fototeca, Cuba’s national photography archive.

Two additional programs were being planned for May and June: a three-week program focused on photography and printmaking/mixed-media at renowned studios in Old Town Havana, the cultural center of the capital city; and a two-week program in comparative politics and contemporary Cuba.

Mexico
Appalachian’s first-ever dual degree program begins in fall 2012. The Appalachian State University-Universidad de las Américas Puebla (UDLAP) Dual-Degree Program allows students to earn a B.S. degree in one of Appalachian’s communication majors (advertising, broadcasting, communication studies, journalism or public relations) and a bachelor’s degree in communication from UDLAP, located in Puebla, Mexico. Benefits of the dual degree include access to new, professional television studios at UDLAP, proficiency in two languages, and a unique combination of professional communication skills. This fall one Appalachian student, Shannon Trudeau of Carthage, will be in Mexico and three Mexican students will be at Appalachian.

United Arab Emirates
United Arab Emirates University in Abu Dhabi sought help from Appalachian’s successful First Year Seminar program in developing its own course for introducing first-year students to the academic rigors of college. Dr. Michael L. Krenn, faculty coordinator for First Year Seminar, was invited to spend a week at the Persian Gulf university presenting workshops on design, delivery and assessment of programs for first-year students. Appalachian’s program is considered a model by other universities for improving critical and creative thinking and communication skills.
ALL scholars share the love of learning

For those who love to learn, education doesn’t end with high school, an undergraduate degree or even an advanced degree.

Supporters of the university’s Appalachian Lifelong Learning (ALL) program identify the scholar’s journey as a lifelong endeavor – and it’s a journey they enjoy immensely.

“From my perspective, once you stop educating yourself you begin to age mentally,” said Mike Leach, a retired systems manager with AT&T. When he retired in 2008 at age 56, he picked up the author’s pen and began a new life. His debut novel, “Lords of Circumstance,” was published in 2010. He and his wife Gail, a retired high school math teacher, split their time between Florida and Foscoe.

“Being involved in Appalachian’s Lifelong Learning program has been great for us,” said Gail Leach. “When we’re here we attend most of the lectures, cultural events and the hikes and nature walks.”

Her husband describes ALL participants as “engaging... most are college graduates,” he said. “Like us, they continue to seek opportunities for intellectual stimulation.”

Appalachian Lifelong Learning supports the university’s mission by building a larger community of adult learners in the region. ALL lectures, courses, special events and field trips follow the university’s three-semester system, and are designed to promote intellectual growth, establish and reinforce community bonds, and promote the health and well being of its members. Membership dues support the program, and provide participants with other campus benefits and privileges.

“This is a very successful outreach effort for the university,” said ALL director Mike Duus ’08. “Program participation has doubled over the past two summers, leading to the expansion of our programming.”

“We’re getting more people involved, and not just with ALL but with the university as a whole,” he said. “Our participants enjoy what we have to offer, so they’re spreading the word about us and attending other campus-wide events and activities.”

Longtime ALL participants Keith and Leota Cloyed ’73 got involved with the fledgling program when they retired to Boone in 1987. They’d been spending summers in the area since the early 1970s, and Cloyed got her master’s in library science at Appalachian.

“When we moved here we heard about the program – then it was known as the Institute for Senior Scholars. We decided to become members because it was a good way to get involved in the community,” said Cloyed.

Attending ALL lectures on politics and other countries, reading great literature, taking trips to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, walking the trails of the Blue Ridge Parkway and engaging in lively discussion with other participants helped the couple acclimate to their new home.

“The programming has been intellectually and socially stimulating,” said Keith Cloyed, a retired engineer with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. “It’s provided us with opportunities for extended learning – keeping us mentally fit – and for meeting people with similar interests.”

Learn more at all.appstate.edu

kudos

Dr. Martial Frindéthéi, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, spent the 2011-12 academic year lecturing and conducting research at the University of Mauritius as a Fulbright Scholar. The university is located on an island off the southeast coast of Africa.

Dr. Andy Heckert, Department of Geology, received the Outstanding Earth Science Educator Award from the N.C. Geological Survey.

Dr. Dan Jones, director and chief psychologist of the Counseling and Psychological Services Center, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD). The award honors AUCCCD members who have provided outstanding service to AUCCCD and exemplary leadership in the field of college and university counseling centers.

Dr. Tim Ludwig, Department of Psychology, is listed among 101 leaders in the field of industrial/environmental health and safety in the journal Industrial Safety & Hygiene News.

Dr. Charles Oswald, Walker College of Business, has been named an inaugural member of the North Carolina Bar Association Pro Bono Honor Roll for providing legal services to those in the community who are unable to pay.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock has been elected to a three-year term on the 38-member American Council on Education’s Board of Directors.

Dr. Elaine O’Quinn, Department of English, has received the Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. She is one of 17 faculty members from the multi-campus University of North Carolina to receive the honor, which includes a bronze medallion and a $7,500 cash prize.

Board of Trustees appointees

Retired newspaper publisher Frank A. Daniels Jr. of Raleigh has been appointed to Appalachian’s Board of Trustees by Gov. Bev Perdue. He will serve a four-year term.

The governor also reappointed trustee Avery B. Hall Sr. ’93 of Kernersville to a second four-year term. Asheville businesswoman Helen Powers, who recently completed a four-year term on the board, was honored with trustee emeritus status. (see Powers profile, page 4)
Students win Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity Bowl

Emily Crane, a graduate student in Appalachian’s Department of Social Work, was part of a nine-member team that won the inaugural Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (MACHE) Bowl in late March.

Two other master of social work students from Appalachian, Erin Casner and Carrie Richardson, also competed in the event.

The MACHE Bowl was sponsored by Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. It featured three interdisciplinary teams, each comprised of a graduate student from Appalachian, UNC Greensboro’s Department of Public Health Education, Winston-Salem State University’s Division of Nursing, and Wake Forest University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, School of Law, School of Business, School of Divinity, School of Medicine and Center for Bioethics, Health and Society.

Their task was to attempt to solve a hypothetical health-disparities case developed by faculty members from each of the participating schools. Student teams were judged on the quality and clarity of their responses and their use of interdisciplinary approaches. The event encouraged collaboration among various fields of study as a way to begin solving complex health disparity problems.

“In medical social work, that’s the way decisions are made. Multidiscipline teams meet to discuss difficult or complex patient issues,” said Dr. Gail Leedy, chair of Appalachian’s Department of Social Work.

Fishing line chair wins design competition

Two Appalachian students took honors in the 7th Annual Chair Design Competition that included 18 entries from students at Appalachian, UNC Greensboro, N.C. State, University of Virginia, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Western Piedmont Community College.

Eugene Duclos’ metal frame chair featuring rows of fishing line wrapped around the seat, back and arms won the competition’s $3,000 first price. Duclos of Cary is an Appalachian junior majoring in industrial design. Judges praised his design for its combination of classic roots, modern form and creativity.

Second place and $2,000 was awarded to Keaton Monroe, a senior furniture and industrial design major from Savannah College of Art and Design, for his multipurpose “Modular Seating System.” Third place winner was Appalachian’s Michael DeMarco, also a junior industrial design major, for his “Cornette Chair,” which combined metal and fabric. He received $1,000.

The competition was sponsored by the Broyhill Family Foundation in recognition of Faye Arnold Broyhill and co-sponsored by Philmark. It was organized by Appalachian’s Department of Technology and Environmental Design.

“The evolution of the (furniture design) program at Appalachian and the evolution of this contest itself has changed so dramatically every year. It energizes me,” said judge Todd Campbell, design director for Bernhardt Design.

“The talent, the quality level and the attention to what’s actually current in today’s world makes you much better designers with so many more opportunities once you leave the world of academics,” he told the student designers.

Camp Broadstone now part of University Recreation

The university’s Camp Broadstone, which for 50 years operated as an outdoor adventure center with summer camp programs for youth, is now part of the Office of Student Development and its University Recreation division.

The shift allows the 55-acre center in Vallec Crucis to serve a greater number of Appalachian students both academically and recreationally.

The facility will continue to be used by Outdoor Programs for challenge courses with the climbing tower and ropes course. In addition, the university will use the property for expanded freshmen orientation and leadership programs, retreats for campus clubs and organizations, and outdoor learning labs for the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science and other academic departments.

Appalachian also plans to add camp sites on the property so students can enjoy the outdoors in a safe setting, closer to campus.

“Camp Broadstone will allow us to gear programming toward students who like the outdoors but who don’t have much experience,” said Joe Carter, director of University Recreation.

The camp had been operated by the university’s Office of Conference and Camp Services under Academic Affairs. A reduction in state funds led to the new operational model.

Appalachian friend dies

Ron Harper, a good friend and benefactor of Appalachian, died April 14. He was 79. He and his wife Katherine provided financial support to the Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology program in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. As a result a portion of the technology building was named Katherine Harper Hall. The couple worked in the printing industry for nearly 40 years and founded Harper Corporation, a global leader in the printing roller industry. The company has factories in Charlotte, Wisconsin, Germany and Thailand.
LGBT efforts recognized

Appalachian’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) group was recognized in February by the non-profit Atticus Circle for its “Gay? Fine By Me,” campaign last fall dedicated to educating and mobilizing straight people to advance equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender partners, parents and their children.

Appalachian was one of 200 schools to organize a “Gay? Fine by me.” program in their community. Students set up a day of awareness with flyers, buttons and T-shirt give-aways to those who signed a pledge to speak out against homophobia and support full equality of the LGBT community. A total of 223 signatures were gathered.

In addition, graduate assistant Mark Rasdorf, who helped lead the campaign and other service events with Appalachian’s LGBT Center, was honored in March with a graduate student award from the Association for LGBT Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC).

Mountaineer Hall receives LEED® gold certification

Mountaineer Hall, Appalachian’s modular-constructed residence hall, has received LEED® gold certification based on energy-saving criteria established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

Located along Poplar Grove Road and Bodenheimer Drive behind the Student Recreation Center, Mountaineer Hall houses 459 undergraduate students in hotel-style rooms. The building’s features include energy-efficient lighting with motion sensors, solar panels for hot water, and low-flow showerheads and toilets.

LEED-certified homes complete a technically rigorous process to verify that the home is built to be energy and water efficient, environmentally sound, and is a healthier place to live. This is the second residence facility on campus to received LEED gold certification. The first was Frank Hall, renovated in 2009 and certified in 2010.

WASU radio station voted best in the nation

WASU 90.5 won the mtvU College Radio Woodie Award in March, listing it as the best college radio station in the country based on listener votes.

This was one of two national honors the station received in 2012, its 40th year of operation. WASU also joined Clear Channel’s iHeartRadio free digital radio service.

“It was amazing how the entire university seemed to come together in support of this effort,” senior Courtney Armstrong, WASU’s promotions director, said about the Woodie Award.

“Clubs and organizations on campus banded together in support of WASU and in the voting process. Last year we came in second in the country and we were determined to win this year, and we did.”

WASU has been nominated for this award every year since 2009. In 2011, it won the Shoulda Coulda Woodie Award by coming in second place.

Other finalists in this year’s competition were college radio stations at Ohio University, Humboldt University, University of Alaska Fairbanks, DePaul University, University of Washington, SUNY Potsdam, Loyola University Maryland, University of Pittsburgh and Marywood University.

In January, WASU joined Clear Channel’s iHeartRadio free digital radio service, becoming the service’s only college radio station in North Carolina and one of only 14 nationwide. iHeartRadio offers more than 800 broadcast radio and commercial-free digital-only stations from 150 cities, plus the ability for listeners to create custom radio stations.

Awards

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A record year for service

Two major service events had record participation this year, demonstrating Appalachian students’ commitment to creating a better world.

The annual Dance Marathon in February – one of the largest student-run fundraisers held on campus – drew more than double the number of participants as last year’s event. More than 300 students danced for 15 hours and raised more than $25,000 for Western Youth Network, Parent to Parent, and Children’s Miracle Network.

Since the Dance Marathon began in 2003, students have raised more than $160,000 for children in Western North Carolina.

The 13th Annual MLK Challenge in January had a record-breaking 238 students, faculty and staff participate in community service activities with 20 corresponding agencies. Participants split into groups of 10 to 12 participants and were randomly assigned to a service project for the day.

In addition, the university added an alternative winter break to meet the growing demand from students for opportunities to give service during university breaks. Alternative Service Experience programs immerse students in a service experience in local domestic and international communities. A total of 332 students participated in alternative fall, winter and spring break programs for the 2011-12 academic year.

Tuition and fees to go up

The UNC Board of Governors has approved Appalachian’s request for an increase in tuition and fees for the 2012-13 academic year.

The cost for an in-state undergraduate to attend the university will be $12,429 next year, compared to $11,688 in 2011-12.

This amount includes increases in room and board and other charges approved by Appalachian’s Board of Trustees in December 2011 that did not require Board of Governors approval. Similar increases were approved for out-of-state students and graduate students.

The increases were made to address state budget cuts. Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock said that while the increase in tuition and fees will generate about $6 million in revenue for the university’s academic budget, it “doesn’t scratch the surface of the $22.8 million cut in state funding” the university experienced last fall.

No. 1 in the nation – for the number of alumni who became National Board Certified teachers in 2011.

Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

accolades

The university’s Solar Decathlon Team earned Appalachian the Green School of the Year Award from the N.C. Triangle Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Appalachian’s writing programs have received the Conference on College Composition and Communication’s (CCCC) Writing Program Certificate of Excellence. Since 2004, only 30 schools have received this honor.

The National Weather Service has named Appalachian a StormReady® University for its proactive approach to preparing for and reacting to hazardous weather conditions.

The N.C. Energy Efficiency Alliance, a partnership between Appalachian and three other agencies, has received the U.S. Environmental Agency’s Energy Star Award for Excellence in ENERGY STAR® Promotion.

Appalachian’s composting program has received the Outstanding Composting or Organics Program Award from the Carolina Recycling Association. Learn what we do with all that compost at today.appstate.edu

ANGLIM RECEIVES N.C. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD: Junior Annemarie “A.J.” Anglim, center, received North Carolina Campus Compact’s Community Impact Student Award. She was one of 19 statewide college students who received the award for making significant, innovative contributions to their campus’s efforts to address local community needs. Anglim has been instrumental in Appalachian’s annual Dance Marathon, Homecoming 1,000 Pints Blood Drive, Don’t Throw it Away collections and The BIG Sale. Pictured with her are North Carolina Campus Compact Executive Director Lisa Keyne and John H. Barnhill, N.C. Campus Compact’s founding executive director.

students volunteer at the Community Care Clinic during the 2012 MLK Challenge.

Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

Photo submitted

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ARHS pledges land to support health sciences

Contingent on the university securing funds from the state of North Carolina to construct a permanent building for the College of Health Sciences, Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (ARHS) has pledged to Appalachian and its real estate foundation a nine-acre tract of land on the corners of State Farm and Deerfield roads. State funding would have to be obtained by the end of the university’s $200-million comprehensive fundraising campaign, the Campaign for Appalachian, which is scheduled to conclude Dec. 31, 2014.

“As Appalachian Regional Healthcare System looked to the future and asked the question how do we make sure that quality healthcare services remain available, the answer was clear. We must form a strong partnership with Appalachian State University,” said Richard Sparks, ARHS president and CEO.

“This special relationship brings together Appalachian State University’s commitment to excellence in health sciences educational opportunities and our promise to help find the most appropriate site for the future College of Health Sciences facility.”

ARHS originally purchased the property in 2006 for future development, including a site for Appalachian’s growing nursing program. When plans to establish a College of Health Sciences were approved by the UNC Board of Governors in 2008, ARHS expanded its partnership role to support a permanent site for the college’s academic home.

University officials envision building a 200,000-square-foot facility to house the college’s 16 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, approximately 2,000 student majors, 115 faculty and staff, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Institute for Health and Human Services.

Appalachian Energy Summit will address reducing energy costs in the UNC system

The UNC system spends $226 million on energy each year, according to the North Carolina State Energy Office — or about $1,000 per student per year. That amount is only likely to increase over time with rising costs of fossil fuels and growth within the university system.

To reduce the state’s expenditure, Appalachian is taking a leadership role by hosting the Appalachian Energy Summit July 9-11 for leaders at all UNC institutions, the UNC Hospital system, as well as leaders from Duke University, Catawba College, Warren Wilson College, Wake Forest University and Davidson College.

The event, funded by private giving, will feature experts from the Rocky Mountain Institute including its chairman and chief scientist, Amory Lovins. The author of 29 books, Lovins has been named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine and one of the 100 top global thinkers by Foreign Policy magazine. His 2011 book “Reinventing Fire” offers a detailed strategic plan for eliminating U.S. oil and coal use by 2050.

The summit will include keynote addresses, educational workshops and planning discussions. It is the first event in a multi-year, system-wide initiative to reduce energy costs and protect the environment, said Appalachian Sustainability Director Ged Moody.

“’We have lots of expertise within the UNC system in both academics and operations,’” Moody said. “This will be an opportunity to come together with an industry visionary to create common education goals and action plans to reduce energy consumption. Those activities can then be measured over time.”

The UNC system has a sustainability policy toward achieving climate neutrality by 2050. At current levels, Moody said, a 25 percent reduction in energy usage would yield a 20-year savings in excess of $1 billion.

Learn more at sustain.appstate.edu.
Graduating senior Bobbie Jo Swinson, pictured with wetland plants, led a group project to develop an artificial wetland to clean gray water. The project recently won Phase II funding from the EPA’s P3 competition.

Gray water research wins $90,000 EPA People, Prosperity and Planet (P3) award

No one wants to pour money down the drain, but when it comes to gray water, that’s what many businesses do.

Gray water is water from sinks, showers, bathtubs and washing machines that has not come in contact with water from toilets. And it has nowhere to go except into a town’s or city’s waste water treatment system for those who don’t have a septic system.

An artificial wetland system designed by Appalachian students to help small businesses reclaim gray water for use in irrigation or flushing of toilets has received $90,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for further development. Appalachian was one of 15 universities sharing more than $1 million in awards presented as part of the EPA’s People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition for Sustainability, held in late April.

Teams are awarded the grants to further develop the design, apply it to real world applications or move it to the marketplace, according to the EPA.

The Appalachian team will receive an additional $1,000 from the Chemical Engineers Society and has been invited to give a presentation at their annual conference.

Hairstylist job inspires project

Bobbie Jo Swinson, an appropriate technology major who graduated in May, led the student design team using a $14,988 Phase I grant she received from the EPA at the start of her senior year to begin the project.

Her job as a hair stylist in Boone inspired her to apply her coursework in sustainable water and wastewater management to an issue she observed at work each day.

“I really began to notice how much water we were using in the salon as well as the chemicals and hair products we were pouring down the drain,” Swinson said.

The research salon for Swinson’s project was Haircut 101 located in downtown Boone. Her interdisciplinary research team spent the spring semester collecting water from the salon’s shampoo bowls and analyzing the chemicals and amount of water entering the waste stream. Then, they ran the salon’s gray water through a living wetland system to purify the water. Toxicology studies on the plants allowed the team to determine at what point the vegetation was negatively affected.

Students from chemistry, appropriate technology and interior design helped with her project. Faculty advisors were Dr. Jim Houser and Dr. Jack Martin from the Department of Technology and Environmental Design, and Dr. Michael Hambourger from the Department of Chemistry.

“This project is motivated by the fact that maintaining freshwater is really important,” Houser said. “One of the key problems the world is starting to confront is running out of fresh water and the price to clean water.”

Under current law, all water that comes from a building is mixed with the sewage from the building and it all has to be cleaned at a wastewater treatment plant, Houser explained. “It may be wise in the future to try and start thinking about separating gray water from sewage,” he said.

Recently, the Town of Boone amended its Water and Sewer Ordinance to permit the use of gray water as a conservation method.

The start of a possible career

Swinson said she hopes to turn what she learned from the gray water project into a full-time career.

“Living technology utilizes biological processes from plants, soils and substrates to clean water and make it available for reuse,” Swinson said.

“I would like to get involved in water quality management, creating artificial wetlands and promoting their use in small businesses and homes. It’s not the path I envisioned when I started studying appropriate technology, but I realize now that water is a very important resource that we can no longer use and abuse. We must take care of this finite resource by recycling as much as we can.”
History professor helps well-known actor trace his roots

An actor’s quest to learn about his ancestors took him to La Coruña, a port city in northern Spain, where Dr. Edward Behrend-Martinez’s expertise in Spanish trials helped provide the dramatic conclusion in the television program “Who Do You Think You Are?”

The series follows celebrities – from sport figures and actors to musicians – who visit archives, libraries and other sites as they trace their family tree as far as records allow, all with the help of historians.

Behrend-Martinez is an associate professor and assistant chair in Appalachian’s Department of History. He said he had never watched the television program before being called by producers to provide historic insight regarding an 18th-century trial that Sheen’s great-great-great-grandfather presided over.

“This is the kind of history that I do,” Behrend-Martinez said. His research focuses on the everyday lives of early modern Spain, Basques and Spaniards, such as marriage trials and family trials. He also has published the book “Unfit for Marriage: Impotent Husbands and Wives on Trial in the Basque Region of Spain 1650-1750.”

Behrend-Martinez’s research revealed a surprise connection between Sheen, his great-great-great-grandfather, and the young woman on trial for allegedly having an abortion – a secular and ecclesiastical crime in Spain at the time.

Watch the TV episode at www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are

Students collaborate with Fortune 500 company on new product

Appalachian’s furniture design students got first-hand experience working with an innovative product made by Eastman Chemical Company, with 12 displaying their final products at the world’s largest furnishing industry trade show.

The Perennial Wood Appalachian State Design Studio 2012 involved more than 20 students. Eastman, based in Kingsport, Tenn., gave students a supply of Perennial Wood™ and related supplies for use during spring semester, as well as access to technical support and product experts to answer questions and provide guidance.

Students completed their furniture design projects in March. Twelve finalists were chosen to display their work at High Point Market Week in late April, which annually attracts about 80,000 attendees. Finalists also had their work displayed at the International Contemporary Furniture Show May 19-22 in New York City.

A panel of expert judges awarded the design studio’s Grand Prize to Michael DeMarco of Charlotte for his piece titled the Strangler Floor Lamp. A People’s Choice award was presented to Derek Elliott of Cary for his Patio Chaise, based on online voting.

“This project presents the best design scenario for a student,” said Richard Prisco, a professor in Appalachian’s Department of Technology and Environmental Design. “Not only are they helping to introduce a new material to the consumer market, but they are doing it by pushing the boundaries of outdoor furniture, and in so doing, creating really unique products.”

View students’ work at www.perennialwood.com/AboutUs/CurrentPromotions

In Short

■ Noted Latin American scholar Dr. Timothy J. Smith, assistant professor of anthropology, has received a visiting fellowship in Princeton University’s Program in Latin American Studies. He will be a visiting research scholar and visiting assistant professor for fall 2012. Smith expects to teach a course on environmental citizenship and indigenous identity in Latin America. The rest of his time at Princeton will be devoted to research and completing a book project on that topic.

■ Twenty students in a First Year Seminar class titled “Art, Religion and Society” had their artwork exploring these themes exhibited at Boone United Methodist Church in February. The exhibit “Strange Light, Unexpected Friends” consisted of photography, pencil and ink drawings, paintings and collage. Their professor, Lillian Goudas, gave a presentation on their collaboration with the church at the International Art Movement, a non-profit organization based in New York City.

■ A highly successful program that provides in-school behavioral health services to students with high-risk behavior at Watauga High School is being expanded to schools in Ashe, Alleghany and Caldwell counties. Watauga High School’s Assessment Support and Counseling (ASC) Center has received a $247,093 contract for 2011-12 to expand its services through a Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Kurt Michael in Appalachian’s Department of Psychology will administer activities. The goal, Michael said, is to help remove barriers to learning.

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Appalachian State University has fielded a baseball team for 109 of the school’s 113 years in existence, and only two of those teams have boasted a better start to a campaign than the 2012 Mountaineers. This season has seen Head Coach Chris Pollard’s Mountaineers rack up multiple accolades, including the team’s first-ever national ranking and recognition as National Team of the Week by www.collegebaseballinsider.com.

With a perfect 15-0 record at home and a 22-5 record to start the year, no series victory stands out as much as the Feb. 24-26 besting of No. 7 Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. It marks only the second time since 1982 the Apps have beaten a nationally ranked opponent, and Appalachian has never taken a three-game series from a Bowl Series Championship conference (LSU plays in the Southeastern Conference).

So what is the key to this team’s success? According to Pollard, now in his eighth year at the helm of the program, it is experience and by-proxy mentoring. “We have strong leadership from our seniors,” he said.

The diamond Apps are a mixture of veteran talent and promising newcomers, and in no area is it as apparent as on the mound, where a trio of pitchers have been searing the competition. According to Pollard, “Our upperclassmen have been doing this for years; they have a lot of mileage to give them confidence, and (pitching coach) Craig Sheffler is doing a great job of blending our talented younger guys into the mix and giving them confidence.”

Seniors Seth Grant and Ryan Arrowood have each been honored as the Southern Conference’s (SoCon) Pitcher of the Week; Arrowood for his pitching against LSU, for which he was also named the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association National Pitcher of the Week, and Grant for his complete game shutout of Elon in March. Joining the seasoned hurlers is freshman Jamie Nunn, who won his first career start with six shutout innings against Duke.

Another driving force for the team this season is senior Daniel Kassouf, who is making a run at the SoCon’s triple crown of highest batting average, most home runs and most RBIs.

A multi-sport athlete in high school, Kassouf chose to follow his parents and brother to Appalachian (his brother Adam is a former punter for the football team), and transferred from Belmont Abbey after a breakout sophomore season. Kassouf is consistently nationally ranked in several top-25 categories.

The team is not afraid of hard work on the field or in the classroom, where they are consistently one of the top-performing academic squads. Jean Roberts, director of the learning assistance program, praised the work ethic of the team, saying, “They handle academics like baseball, and they take care of business. With the size of their roster and their practice and game schedule, to have a strong GPA is a testament to their dedication.” Twenty-one of 38 players on the roster made a 3.0 or higher GPA, and two seniors, Zack Briggs and Seth Grant, turned in perfect 4.0s. Graduate student and player David Port also made a 4.0 last semester.

“Baseball players have more of an opportunity to play at the next level than any other athletes we have, but the timing of the draft means they don’t have the chance to graduate like other students,” said Roberts. “Every one of our players who has the chance of being drafted this year has already made plans to return and finish his degree. That’s how important to them an education is.”

With the spotlight shining on the Mountaineers, Pollard said it’s challenging not to let the pressure of success and the attention of a national audience distract the team as the season winds down. “Baseball is a game that if you aren’t humble, it’ll humble you fast, so we concentrate hard on taking things one day at a time. Our veteran guys keep us focused and hungry.”
NFL draft 2012

Wide receiver Brian Quick became the highest selection in Appalachian history April 27, when the St. Louis Rams in the 2012 NFL draft, held at New York City’s Radio Music Hall, selected him. The first pick of the second round (No. 33 overall) the 6-foot-5, 220-pound Quick is one of the most highly touted NFL-bound players in Appalachian history, and is the program’s all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards, and touchdown catches. A record 26 teams sent scouts to Appalachian’s Pro Day on March 19 to evaluate him.

Two other Mountaineers, multiple-position players Travaris Cadet ’11 and DeAndre Presley ’12, signed free agent contracts with the New Orleans Saints and San Diego Chargers, respectively. Cadet, a 6-foot-1, 210-pound player who spent time on the field everywhere from quarterback to running back, was named all-conference as a return specialist, and is fifth in school history for kickoff return yardage. The 5-foot-11, 180-pound Presley was one of the Mountaineers’ most versatile playmakers in the past few seasons, splitting time at quarterback, wide receiver, corner back and kickoff and punt returner. In 2010, he finished third in the voting for the top NCAA Division I FCS Honor, the Walter Payton Award.

This trio brings the number of Mountaineers in the NFL to 10. They join former Apps Jason Hunter (Denver Broncos), Dexter Jackson (New York Jets), Corey Lynch ’08 (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), Armanti Edwards ’09 (Carolina Panthers), Daniel Kilgore ’11 (San Francisco 49ers), Mark Legree ’12 (San Francisco 49ers), and D.J. Smith ’11 (Green Bay Packers).

NFL combine - Quick and Presley

The National Football League invited two former Mountaineer standouts, wide receiver Brian Quick and defensive back/wide receiver/return specialist DeAndre Presley ’12, to participate in the NFL Combine in Indianapolis. In all, six Apps have been invited to the event in the past three years, including eventual NFL Draft picks Armanti Edwards ’09, Daniel Kilgore ’11, Mark Legree ’12, and D.J. Smith ’11.

What to look for

This fall, students and alumni will be sporting a retro look, as Appalachian brings back an old favorite. The 1970s version of Yosef will make a comeback on T-shirts and other retail items this August, so Mountaineers can stock up just in time for football season.

Find these items at GoASU.com, the University Bookstore and in many retail outlets in the Boone area.
These pages include portions of alumni notes received from Sept. 9, 2011 through March 19, 2012.

**2000s**

**John Divine ’11** has accepted a position as a loan documentation analyst with Grandbridge Real Estate Capital in Charlotte.

**Benjamin Boyd ’10 and Amanda McGaha ’10** of Washington, N.C., were married Oct. 15, 2011.

**MacGregor Mcgee ’08 and Katherine (Tate) Mcgee ’08** were married Nov. 12, 2011.


**Courtney Cooper ’07** has accepted a position as a graphic designer at Beson4 Media Group in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Bradley McMillan ’07** has been promoted to territory manager at US Foods, Charlotte.

**Megan Drake ’07** received a master’s in health administration from Georgia Southern University on July 29, 2011.

**Alice Everett ’05** and Chad Gryder announce the birth of Mary Eccles, Sept. 30, 2011.

**Ronald Snyder ’05** and Rebecca Snyder announce the birth of Aden Lee, March 24, 2011.

**Chip Lance ’04** and wife Jill announce the birth of Reagan Ashleigh, April 9, 2011.

**Justin Gomez ’04** has accepted a position as a marketing director at Winston-Salem Journal in Winston-Salem.

**Thomas Lance ’04** has accepted a position as a telecommunications engineer at UC Synergistic in Asheville.

**Brian Merritt ’04** received a doctorate in higher education from Walden University in February 2012.

**Tina Glendenning Norris ’03** and husband Buddy announce the adoption of Savannah Grace, born March 2, 2011. Savannah was adopted at the age of 10 months.

**Eric Church ’00** was nominated for Best Country Album at the 54th annual Grammy Awards for his album “Chief.” Also, he was nominated for two 2012 Academy of Country Music Awards: Album of the Year for “Chief” and Video of the Year for “Homeboy.” Church was named iTunes’ 2011 Country Breakthrough Artist of the Year, and NPR placed his album “Chief” as one of its top 50 albums of the year for 2011.

**Erin (McPherson) Frisky ’03** and Jeff Frisky announce the birth of Ronon Everett, Aug. 26, 2011.


**Joshua Smith ’03** and Becky Smith announce the birth of Caden Jacob, Aug. 17, 2011.

**Jim Rabon ’03** has been promoted to manager of web development/marketing operations at NetApp Inc., Research Triangle Park.

**Sarah (Byerley) Long ’02 and Matthew Long ’00** announce the birth of Levi Capehart, Oct. 1, 2011.

**Sara (Searcy) Thompson ’02** and Paul Thompson announce the birth of Walker Sage, Nov. 29, 2011.

**Amanda (Potter) Janouskovec ’01 and Nicholas Janouskovec ’02** announce the birth of William Victor, July 27, 2011.

**Nicole (Roberts) Young ’01** and James Young announce the birth of Samuel Armand, Sept. 3, 2011.

**Angela Burris ’01** and Jason Boyd of Albemarle were married June 4, 2011.

**Shelli McGinnis ’01 and Jeff Johnson ’01** were married Oct. 2011.

**Jamie Coffey ’00 and Crystal (Keller) Coffey ’01** announce the birth of Nora Wright, April 28, 2011.

**Robert Clary ’00** has been promoted to partner with McDermott Will & Emery LLP’s tax practice in Chicago.

**Mindy Harmon ’11, Oct. 14, 2011.**

**Riley Martin ’10, Feb. 12, 2012.**
From intern to White House employee, Michael McSwain helps prepare, plan and execute events for the president

By Darsee Pille ’12

Michael McSwain ’10 believes that with the combination of hard work, taking chances and the luck of good timing, you can accomplish things you may have never imagined for yourself. McSwain finds this true as he is now employed at the White House after working there as an intern.

“I applied twice for the White House internship before I was offered the opportunity,” McSwain said. Six months after completing his internship with the White House, he was offered his full-time position as associate director for scheduling correspondence.

“When I applied for the White House internship, I did not know anyone who had worked at the White House and knew nothing more than what I found on the website,” McSwain said. “Students should apply for even the most challenging internships. Do not take the rejection as a never, but as a chance to go and make yourself better before trying again.”

The White House internship is a hands-on program designed to mentor and cultivate young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the departments in the Executive Office and prepare them for future public service opportunities.

By showing the quality of the students at Appalachian and the support network they have, McSwain has opened the door for other students. Appalachian was among 38 schools from 12 states invited by the White House to participate in “Path to the White House” in January, an event providing a firsthand introduction to the White House Internship Program to help recruit additional students and young alumni. Since then, graduating senior Tommy Ratliff has been accepted as a summer intern.

“Internships are opportunities to gain real world experience and skills, build a network of people who are in a field in which you are interested, and to prove your value outside of the classroom,” McSwain said.

McSwain completed his internship in December 2010 and began working full time in June 2011. Because the White House receives various event invitations on a daily basis and the president’s schedule does not allow him to attend them all, McSwain’s main responsibility is to help ensure that everyone who asks for the president’s time receives a timely response. He also helps prepare, plan and execute events for the president in Washington and around the country.

This is not an opportunity that McSwain thought would happen for someone like him. “Working at the White House seemed like one of those things other people did, not necessarily what a country kid from small-town North Carolina did,” McSwain said.

Opportunities outside the classroom shaped who he is today, he said. “Working with organizations like the Appalachian Student Ambassadors, Holland Fellows, Walker Fellows, and Club Council helped me build leadership, communication and organizational skills,” he said. “Jobs I held on campus taught me practical skills. These experiences, in addition to my education, prepared me to go out and be competitive.”
James Brooks inducted into National Teachers Hall of Fame

West Wilkes High School teacher and Appalachian alumnus James A. Brooks ’85 ’97 ’11 is being inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan., in June. Brooks teaches senior English and photojournalism. He is the second hall of fame inductee from North Carolina.

Brooks earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from Appalachian. He has taught at West Wilkes since 1985.

His past honors include being named a High School Teacher of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English, Outstanding North Carolina English Teacher, West Wilkes High School Teacher of the Year, Wilkes County Teacher of the Year and Northwest North Carolina Teacher of the Year. He also has received the National Council of Teachers of English Award for Media Literacy, the National Education Association Award for Teaching Excellence and the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce Education Hero Award.

Brooks was one of five teachers from the U.S. who were honored in May at the National Education Association headquarters in Washington, D.C. The National Teachers Hall of Fame gallery was founded in 1989. Since, 100 teachers from 36 states have been inducted into the hall of fame.

SHAWN CHARLES ’06, Oct. 23, 2011.
RYAN HILLER ’06, Jan. 21, 2012.
TRACY TURPEN ’06, Jan. 15, 2012.

1990s
JENNIFER (RUGGIERI) HAMMOND ’99 and Josh Hammond announce the birth of William Joseph, Nov. 11, 2011.
PAMELA FORMYDVAL ’99 was recently awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Department of Justice. She was also awarded the Raleigh Police Department’s CIT Officer of the Year, and named the Wake County CIT Officer of the Year.
JEFFREY DAVENPORT ’98 and CORI (MERRICK) DAVENPORT ’97 announce the birth of Grant Wayne, March 11, 2012.
PENNI (CAMP) GRANT ’98 and Kevin Grant announce the birth of Adelaide, May 24, 2011.
RICHARD STROUPE ’98 has been selected as an entrepreneur in residence at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business.
EDWIN WORSLEY ’97 and Amy Worley announce the adoption of Samuel Gaston. He was born Jan. 23, 2011, and was adopted at the age of 2 weeks. Edwin recently accepted a position as deputy county manager with Durham County in Durham.
WILLIAM TODD POOLE ’97 ’02 and Marcela Poole announce the birth of Jacob Thomas, born in Sept. 2011.
 GEORGE VANN ’97 announces the birth of George Marshall, Nov. 12, 2011.
ALISON (CROOKHAM) DAVIS ’96 and Ethan Davis announce the birth of Bennett Stephen, Feb. 15, 2011.
MICHAEL O’NEIL ’96 and KATHRYN (O’BRIEN) O’NEIL ’00 of Minneapolis, Minn., were married Nov. 11, 2011.
P AULA (KNAKAL) WALTERS ’95 and JOHNNY WALTERS ’94, owners/directors of the Raleigh-based caroling group The Victorian Carolers, performed for guests at the White House Dec. 6, 2011.
DANYA DAYSON ’94 was sworn in as a District of Columbia Superior Court judge in Washington, D.C. in May. Dyson was nominated by President Barack Obama in July 2011 and confirmed by the Senate in November. She is a Chapel Hill native and received a law degree from Georgetown University in 1998. She has practiced criminal and family law in Washington and is also an adjunct professor at the George Washington School of Law.
CANDACE (BURLESON) KAUFMAN ’94 recently accepted a position as brand manager for Jerezes, Spalding and Russell Athletics at Renfro Corporation, Mount Airy, N.C.
ALEXANDER KEOWN ’92 and Julie Keown announce the birth of Andrew James, Sept. 4, 2011.
JOHN KETNE ’92 has been promoted to ECM partner at Edwards, Church & Muse Inc. in Charlotte, and recently achieved the Certified Risk Manager professional designation.
DARRIN HARTNESS ’91 recently accepted a position as superintendent for Davie County Schools in Mocksville.
JEFF MCPHERSON ’90 recently accepted the position of chief operating officer at the YWCA in Winston-Salem.

deaths
DALE THOMAS TAYLOR ’98 died in a helicopter accident Feb. 28, 2012 while on active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard in Mobile, Ala. He was 36. After graduating from Appalachian, Taylor entered the Coast Guard and ultimately served as an MH-65 pilot and instructor. “Lt. Cdr. Taylor was a hero to those of us he worked with, and a savior to those he rescued,” said Lt. J.G. Ryan Windham ’03, an HC-144 pilot with the Coast Guard and a fellow Mountaineer.
ROY WALKER ’95, Sept. 7, 2011.
CHARLES COLEY ’92, March 7, 2012.

1980s
KIMBERLY (BRANHAM) BUTLER ’89 recently accepted a position as internal insurance sales specialist at LPL Financial in Charlotte.
SHERRY (CONRAD) FYRE ’88 recently held her first multimedia art show at the Holly Springs Cultural Center in Holly Springs. The show consisted of 32 pieces, including photographs, cross stitch and hand-painted clothing.
RICK BATSON ’87 was selected as the speech writer for the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.
JIM PEARSON ’84 and Margaret Denny have released a collaborative effort and his 10th album, “The Journey to Bodhi.”
JIMMY BARNES ’84 was named 2011 Commercial Realtor of the Year for the Triangle Region by the Triangle Commercial Association of Realtors.
GEORGE BALDWIN ’83, managing director of government relations and sustainability for Piedmont Natural Gas in Charlotte, has been recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as a 2012 Energy Business Leader Award recipient.
JEFF SHERRILL ’83 has been selected by Special Olympics to serve as a member of their Project UNIFY National Education Leaders Network 2012-14.
CAROLE (HOFFMAN) HOWELL ’81 is working as an independent writer and editor with consumer magazines and other clients in Lincoln, Neb.
MARY MCCULLEY ’81 recently accepted a position as lead nurse practitioner, PCU, at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles in Los Angeles.
DAVID WEINBERG ’81 received an award in the 2011 Pro Football Writer’s Association national contest.
JOY (FORKNER) JOYNER ’80 retired in October 2011 from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as park manager at Providence Canyon State Conservation Park.

deaths
Fostering an interest in birds and migration that took root at Appalachian, Emily Cohen ’96 is working with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute as a postdoctoral fellow.

Cohen has a two-year research position with the Migratory Connectivity Project, an initiative to conduct comprehensive life cycle analyses for migratory wildlife.

The goal of the project, Cohen said, “is to develop an atlas of migratory connectivity for North American birds to help understand the geographic linkage of populations between stages of an animal’s life cycle. The rapid changes in resource availability, air space, and climate due to unprecedented human activity may be inflating the risks associated with occupying disparate breeding and wintering areas.”

“I am excited to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with an exceptional group of scientists doing research that is timely and important for the conservation of migratory birds,” she added.

A Nashville, Tenn., native, Cohen graduated from Appalachian with a bachelor’s degree in ecology and environmental biology with a minor in sustainable development. She has a master’s degree in zoology from Michigan State University and finished her Ph.D. from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2011.

Her interest in birds and a love for the outdoors found root at Appalachian. “I have lived in many places, but I always find myself loving the mountains the most,” Cohen said. “I have always been interested in the natural world and really fell in love with birds while working at a nature center during the summers when I was in college.”

Thinking back on her time at Appalachian, Cohen recalled the opportunities given to her. “I enjoyed the field-based lab courses. They were engaging and got me excited about science,” Cohen said. “I also benefited from the class sizes at Appalachian. They were small enough [that I was] able to interact with the professors.”

Alumna studies migratory wildlife for the Smithsonian

By Darsee Pille ’12
1970s

DAVID TOBIN ’79 has been promoted to executive vice president/chief credit officer at New Century Bank in Dunn, N.C.

DEBORAH BRADSHAW ’79 received The Excellence in Directing Award from The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, 2011.

CATHY (MAULDIN) ARMSTRONG ’78, recently retired from 30 years of teaching in North Carolina schools, has accepted a position teaching the 4-year-old class at the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church preschool in Charlotte.

JAYSON DUNCAN ’73, the 2011 Rutirian National President, was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Beverly Perdue during opening ceremonies of the Rutirian National Convention in Raleigh, Jan. 21, 2012.

DARLA (MORGAN) JOHNSON ’73 co-authored a photo-history book titled “Images of America: Lewisville, N.C.” It was published in February 2010 by Arcadia Publishing Company.

1960s

SCOTT PADGETT ’69, mayor of Concord, was recently elected vice chairman of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition. In addition, Padgett was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Jan. 27 at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce annual meeting in a videotaped presentation with Gov. Beverly Perdue. Padgett was on stage receiving the chamber’s Lifetime Achievement Award when the presentation was made.

1950 - 30s

deaths

TERRY CRAFER ’68, Jan. 21, 2011.
JOYCE AIKEN ’67, Nov. 9, 2011.
ROBERT WILLIAMS ’67, March 6, 2012.
ELVIN FISHER ’65, Oct. 8, 2011.
THOMAS MCMINTOSH ’65, Sept. 21, 2011.
GAIL FANNON ’64, Oct. 18, 2011.
JOHN KICKLIGHTER ’64, Feb. 6, 2012.
JOSEPH STAUB ’64, Dec. 26, 2011.
JERRY HAAS ’60, Feb. 17, 2012.
BILL HARVEY ’60, Feb. 29, 2012.
NANCY HINSON ’60, Nov. 20, 2011.
AVA ROBERTSON ’60, Oct. 28, 2011.

Pennell posthumously honored

The late Sharon Smith Pennell ’70 ’79 who taught in the Department of Communication for 24 years was inducted posthumously into the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor in March. She died in May 2010.

The Hall of Honor recognizes graduates and former students of Caldwell County Schools who have made significant contributions to their profession and/or community, and who have maintained exemplary character. Pennell was a graduate of Hudson High School.

“Sharon did outstanding work not only in academia but through her public service activities as well,” said longtime friend Jim Broyhill, a former member of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees and former U.S. Senator.

Pennell served as a member of the Caldwell County Board of Education for 24 years, including 10 years as chair of the board and four years as vice chair. She also served on the N.C. School Boards Association.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in education from Appalachian State University, and a doctorate degree from Walden University.
Faculty deaths

DR. JAMES MONROE “JIM” COLE died March 12, 2012. He was 89. Cole joined Appalachian in 1963, and served in the College of Education until 1984. He retired a professor emeritus. Cole served in the U.S. Army and the Army Air Corps during World War II, and in 1984 he was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

DR. BOYD “MAX” DOWELL died Dec. 13, 2011. He was 77. Dowell joined Appalachian in 1967, and taught for 32 years in the Department of Psychology. He retired with professor emeritus status in 1999. Dowell and his wife Shirley founded the Alliance Bible Fellowship in Boone in 1979.

DR. EUGENE CHRISTOPHER DROZDOWSKI died Dec. 29, 2011. He was 87. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific from 1943-46, and a recipient of the Purple Heart. He joined the Department of History in 1961, and retired as professor emeritus in 1986.

DR. GAYE WAGONER GOLDS ’57 ’63 ’73 died Sept. 8, 2011. She was 85. Golds was the librarian at West Wilkes High School from 1957-63. She joined Appalachian in 1963, and worked in a variety of positions at the library for 35 years. In 1987 she became Belk Library’s film librarian. She retired in 1998 as professor emeritus.

DR. WINSTON L. KINSEY, a former Watauga County commissioner and Appalachian professor emeritus, died Jan. 9, 2012. He was 68. Kinsey joined the Department of History in 1969, and served as a professor for 35 years. He retired in 2004. He served for six years on Watauga County’s Board of Commissioners.

DR. MARY ROWENA MOORE died Sept. 21, 2011. She was 91. She joined Appalachian’s Department of English in 1967, and retired as professor emeritus in 1989. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Daniel Boone Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

DR. WARREN B. NATION died Jan. 4, 2012. He was 88. He joined Appalachian’s marketing program in 1988, and retired in 1996. Prior to coming to Appalachian, Nation taught marketing, economics and business courses at Florida State University.

GRACE J. ROHRER-HUFF died Oct. 13, 2011. She was 87. She served in the Republican Party in a variety of roles from 1960-87. Appointed secretary of administration by Gov. James G. Martin in 1985, she was the first woman to hold a cabinet post in North Carolina. She resigned from that post to take a position in Appalachian’s humanities program in 1988. She retired in 1996.

Staff deaths

JUANITA E. M. FARTHING died Feb. 22, 2012. She was 92. She came to Appalachian in 1965 and served in both the laundry department and at the student center. She retired in 1981.

HOWARD D. HAYES died Sept. 6, 2011. He was 75. He served at the physical plant for 20 years. His career in gospel music lasted over 55 years: he founded the Goodwill Quartet and The Daniel Boone Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

JAN S. HAYES died Sept. 7, 2011. She was 92. She served as a secretary in Appalachian’s admissions office for 25 years.

JOAN MORGAN MEIXELL died Dec. 27, 2011. She was 64. She joined the staff of Belk Library in 1997, and served most recently as a library specialist in the music library. Meixell was a silk-screen artist for over 30 years, and a member of the Hands Gallery crafts cooperative in Boone.

SHAUN PENDLETON. Appalachian’s men’s soccer coach, died Oct. 3, 2011. He was 49. A Sheffield, England native, he compiled a 27-20-4 record during his four seasons at Appalachian, and led the Mountaineers to second-place finishes in the Southern Conference in 2008 and 2010. He held the record for the highest winning percentage in Division II history.

WAYNE J. SOUTH died Jan. 5, 2012. He was 66. South served as Appalachian’s labor crew leader and with the recycling department until he retired in 2008.

Working the Magic

By Elisabeth Wall

Sammy Cortino’s ‘11 magic show may be full of illusions, but he is as focused and strategic as a Wall Street mogul.

Known as Magic’s Royal Duke – he has direct lineage to 15th-century Italian aristocracy – it’s been said he performed his first trick at age 2 when he hid a quarter from his mom during a restaurant dinner. Fact or fiction? “True, not a myth,” he said. “Hey, wouldn’t it be cool if that restaurant had a chair with my name on it?” Now that’s a man with his eye on the prize.

Cortino was still working the angles at age 12 when, on a family trip to Las Vegas, he sought out renowned magician Lance Burton and wrangled a backstage interview with magicians Siegfried & Roy – all of whom later endorsed his membership into the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

He was focused when he chose Appalachian for his close-by college of choice. (He grew up 32 miles away in Granite Falls, N.C.) An electronic media major and theatre minor, he knew instinctively the size of the school would afford him hands-on experience and access to the faculty brain trust.

“There’s no question how to promote myself and work in that world,” he said. Technically he also learned how to shoot, light and design sets – skills he says have saved him money and enhanced his show.

Cortino’s recent move to Nashville was another strategic decision. “I’ve made this entertainment city my new base. I’m where I need to be to reach the people that can make a decision. I’ve recently signed with two new agents and am in the midst of booking a tour,” he said.

World-class magician or businessman? His title on Facebook is CEO. “Absolutely, I’m a businessman,” he said. “I intentionally chose my course of studies at App because I knew it would help me with my career.”

Inside the “suit,” however, resides a true artist. “Magic is an art,” Cortino said, “and art is a form of communication. Magic is a theatrical form, its essence is theater. I perform magic tricks but I have a lot of dance, drama, romance.”

Cortino is careful to weave messages and melodrama into his magic show. “Anyone can learn tricks,” he said, “but not everyone can create a presentation, an inspiring message. It’s a challenge to come up with ways to connect with our culture and to be different and unique.”

For sure, Cortino, suit or sorcerer, dares to dream – that’s his answer. And that’s no illusion.

www.sammycortino.com
Neighbors helping neighbors

F.A.R.M. Cafe builds community

It takes a village... That’s what has transpired with F.A.R.M. Cafe, a pay-what-you-can community cafe to help relieve hunger in the High Country. It opened May 1 in the former soda fountain at Boone Drug.

A small group that included Appalachian alumni and sustainable development faculty pursued the idea of bringing this business concept to Boone. Their vision quickly sparked community-wide involvement, including significant support from the Appalachian campus.

Before the cafe’s doors even opened, five service-learning courses – in non-profit management, public relations, fundraising, entrepreneurship and interior design – gave time and expertise. Clubs and organizations held fundraisers. Others helped get the Boone Drug space ready or signed up to volunteer once the F.A.R.M. Cafe opened.

“I believe the students at Appalachian are attracted to the community kitchen movement and F.A.R.M. Cafe because it gives them a chance to be a part of their community. Volunteering with F.A.R.M. Cafe allows students to use their own personal expertise and skills to pay it forward and help out their fellow neighbors,” said senior public relations major Rachel Sain, who joined F.A.R.M. Cafe’s board of directors.

F.A.R.M. stands for Feed All Regardless of Means and allows patrons to pay a suggested donation, help others by paying a little more, or pay what they can. The restaurant operates almost exclusively with volunteers, features local food whenever possible and composts its food waste.

Food bank satisfies more than hunger

For Bill Bolling ’73, running a food bank in one of the nation’s largest cities is more than distributing wares. It’s about serving the whole person and building community.

“I’ve always understood food was a tool for transforming lives. It’s basic, there’s plenty of it and everyone deserves to eat,” said Bolling, who was named Georgia Trend magazine’s 2012 Georgian of the Year for his work as founder and executive director of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank, which Bolling started in a church basement in 1979, distributes about 34 million pounds of food each year to more than 700 partner agencies in 38 counties in the metro Atlanta and north Georgia areas. More than 1,000 volunteers help out each month.

But there is much more to the Food Bank’s work: youth leadership programs, 150 community gardens, two full-time nutrition educators, and a store that offers free school supplies. The Food Bank also operates 40 tax-service centers staffed by volunteers, which last year helped the working poor get back $22 million in tax returns.

All these activities exemplify the Food Bank’s mission: to engage, educate and empower the community to fight hunger. It’s a mission that grew from Bolling’s spiritual journey and what he described as his desire to put into practice the teachings of life’s sacredness and humanity’s interdependence.

“Having a background in education and psychology, I knew people hunger not just physically but psychologically, they hunger spiritually, they hunger for meaning and sense of purpose. When you’re working with the destitute, whose every support system has failed, then you realize that when someone comes to your church pantry and says they need food, that should be the beginning of the relationship not the end,” he said.

Q & A with N.C. Rep. Nelson Dollar

Nelson Dollar ’83 ’85 is in his fourth term as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives serving House District 36. The Cary resident also is the founder of J.N. Dollar and Associates, a media and public relations consulting firm.

Q: What sparked your interest in public service and politics?

My interest in politics and public policy came at an early age. My family had very robust discussions in terms of political issues of the day. My family owned a small business and we followed decisions at the national and state level very closely because they often impacted our business. I brought that passion to Appalachian where it was encouraged by Dr. Ed Allen and Dr. David Sutton in what was the Department of Political Science at the time. They were mentors of mine and very instrumental in helping me acquire internships, experiences in Washington, D.C., and in Raleigh, which greatly benefited not only my educational academic understanding of government and the world of politics but helped me make very important connections with political leaders and other public servants that I carry to this day.

Q: How did the classroom experience contribute to your political career?

Dr. Allen, who taught political theory, was such an engaging professor and one of the more brilliant thinkers I have encountered throughout my life. He really made me think. I enjoyed going to his class. You exercised your brain in ways you didn’t think possible and he opened his students to broader avenues of considerations of questions we hadn’t even thought of. He really made you want
to think and consider, on a much broader plain, political theories, political issues and their application to the real world.

Q: What are your committee assignments in the N.C. House?

I am a full chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, co-chair of Health and Human Services Committee and co-chair of the Redistricting Committee. The House Appropriations Committee has five chairmen who meet to guide and direct the committee. We generally meet with the three co-chairs of the Senate’s Appropriation Committee. The eight of us meet quite often to review issues surrounding the budget and appropriations. In the House, we have areas of responsibility we work on. Principally, I work in the area of health and human services. I generally take the lead on major issues related to that area.

Q: What are some highlights from your time in office?

Passage of our health and human services budget in 2011 in which we began the process of working toward a more stabilized Medicaid system in the state. We preserved all of the mental health and other treatment beds in the state. We preserved all 23 of the optional Medicaid services, and we began the process of better managing the utilization of services and achieved the overwhelming majority of our reductions in the area of health and human services through better management of our health care dollars. I was also the sponsor of legislation that reforms the state’s annexation laws, giving citizens a greater voice in the process of involuntary annexation. Another bill I sponsored related to much-needed reforms in the areas of workers’ compensation.

Q: Describe the budget picture for the state.

The budget picture will remain challenging. We are working on plans for adjustments that will need to be made in the second year of the biennium. The institutions in the state should be congratulated for the efforts that they have made and the challenges they have helped us meet. We will continue to look for better ways to manage the state’s funds, to maximize our ability to get the most educational outcome and student achievement for the dollar we spend. To me, the most important measure in education is student achievement. That is where we ultimately want to focus our attention on graduation rates, retention and the time it takes students to graduate.
YOU'RE ON THE AIR:
On April 14, 1972, Appalachian launched WASU, a mono FM station, which broadcast from the third floor of Chapell-Wilson Hall. The first song on the air, spun by David Wright ’73 (pictured above), was “Beginnings” by Chicago. (The band will be performing on campus this summer during An Appalachian Summer Festival). Wright’s popular morning show, “The Great Awakenings,” guided students and locals alike through their morning routines. Today the station provides a hands-on learning lab for more than 80 on-air student DJs, a tradition that has afforded students precious air-time for more than 40 years.

(Photo from The Appalachian student newspaper)

Find out more about WASU and its 40th anniversary at wasuradio.com or scan this code with your smartphone.

Did you know?
The Appalachian Fund is:
Vital: Your gifts meet immediate needs.
Diverse: It currently supports 71 different areas on campus.
Effective: A gift of any size makes a difference for students.

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Join us for this campus tradition

Network online
Gold Book
Find former classmates, personalize your alumni profile and update us on your accomplishments
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Follow the alumni blog
APPdate
Stay informed with the alumni e-newsletter
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Crib Sheet
Appalachian news packaged with real world content

Making a Difference – A Family Legacy

When chemistry professor A.R. Smith passed away in 1983, the students now benefitting from his generosity had not been born. Smith, who taught from 1921 to 1958, was one of Appalachian’s first chemistry professors, and one of the people for whom Smith-Wright Hall was named. Before his death, Smith established the A.R. Smith Scholarship in Chemistry, which funds 10 scholarships each academic year.

In honor of their parents, the Smith daughters Margaret Smith Johnson and Katherine Smith Cheek also contributed to Appalachian through a combination of gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and bequests, which increased their income in exchange for their gifts.

The Smith family’s planned giving has made a real and powerful difference in the lives of scores of students. Chemistry majors and athletes have benefitted from scholarships, equipment purchases, travel grants and recognition ceremonies— all funded through the Smiths’ generosity. Their gifts also reach far beyond the Appalachian campus. The recent implementation of a math enrichment camp for inner city Charlotte youth, a partnership between Appalachian and Discovery Place, also was made possible with funding provided by the Smith family’s legacy.

To learn more about how to become a member of the 1899 Legacy Society, please call Geoff Graham at 828-262-4023, or visit www.give.appstate.edu/giftplanning.

Katherine Smith Cheek in 1997 with a portrait of her father, esteemed professor A.R. Smith. The Smith family legacy is still making scholarships possible for Appalachian students.

(Photos by Mike Rominger)
June 30  An Evening with Bill Cosby

July 6  Turchin Center for the Visual Arts Summer Exhibition Celebration

July 7  Outdoor Fireworks Concert: Creedence Clearwater Revisited with special guest Lee Brice

July 9  Amory Lovins Keynote Address for the Appalachian Energy Summit

July 13  Carolina Ballet

July 14  Solas

July 15 & 22  Eastern Festival Orchestra

July 20  Linda Eder: Songbirds

July 21  The Travelin’ McCourys with Sierra Hull and Highway 111

July 25  Chicago and The Doobie Brothers

July 28  26th Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Walk and much more!

An Appalachian Summer Festival
appsummer.org • 800-841-ARTS

Visual arts exhibitions & workshops, chamber music, film series, lectures and more!