



AN APPALACHIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2007 SEASON

An Appalachian Summer Festival will celebrate its 23rd season July 6 - 28, with a summer of music, dance, theatre and visual arts events that rivals the artistic menus of major cities.

Music events range from world-renowned classical soloists to the exceptional Broyhill Chamber Ensemble to jazz legend Ellis Marsalis, to Emmy Award-winner Bruce Hornsby.

Dance offerings include the incomparable Mark Morris Dance Group and the dramatic Shen Wei Dance Arts.

The festival is proud to present two fine regional theatre companies, welcoming Triad Stage to Boone to perform their original production *Brother Wolf*, and showcasing the university's own Appalachian Young People's Theatre performing a family matinee of *Rapunzel*.

Visual arts programming, which is presented by An Appalachian Summer Festival in collaboration with the Turchin Center, will include the Halpert Biennial and 21st Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition

and a broad offering of visual arts workshops for children and adults of all skill levels.

Educational lectures and seminars include "A Day with Some of Appalachian's Rock Stars," presented by the Appalachian Retired Family, and the Belk Distinguished Lecture Series, featuring Gloria Houston, author of *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*.

Rounding it all out is the much-anticipated outdoor fireworks finale concert, featuring country music legend Wynonna.

Tickets will be on sale April 2! For further information or to request a season brochure, call 262-4046 or visit www.appsummer.org. Payroll deduction is available for any ticket purchase of \$100 or more (only \$8.33/month).



TURCHIN CENTER EXHIBITIONS
April 13 Deadline for Halpert Biennial '07 Entries
July 6 Reception for Turchin Center Exhibitions

Fundraising Follow-up

ASU Staff Council hosted the "Tiny Doubles" photographic fundraiser on November 18, and netted approximately \$ 500.00 for the Staff Council Scholarship funds, designated for ASU staff and dependents who are pursuing higher education. The event was coordinated by Sali Gill-Johnson and Janice Voss; who, on behalf of Staff Council, wish to thank the Grace Lutheran Church for use of the fellowship hall, and to everyone who supported this event.

For more information on the scholarship program, please contact Shelly Wainscott-Wallin at 262-3025, or see <http://www.staffcouncil.appstate.edu/fundRaising/scholarshipfund.html>

MLK Challenge Recap



"Life's most persistent and urgent questions is, 'What are you doing for others?'" (Martin Luther King, Jr.) Two hundred participants can now answer that question, based on their experience at the 8th annual MLK Challenge. This year's event was another huge success, thanks to the students, faculty, and staff members who showed up to work hard all day long in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 15th, volunteers took their day off and made it a "day on" by working at such local organizations as the Hospitality House, Western Youth Network, Legal Aid of North Carolina (Boone Office), Hospice, Mountain Alliance, and more. With 200 energetic volunteers, an awful lot of good things can happen in the community! This event is student coordinated, and sponsored out of the ACT office, with support from University Highlands. Thank you to everyone who participated and gave of their time and energy to make this day a success!

March/April

2007

STAFF UPDATE

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

www.staffcouncil.appstate.edu

Announcements



Please join us for the next Staff Council meeting April 12, 2007 at 1:30pm, Room 224 IG Greer. We will be electing new officers at this meeting, please plan to attend. Every vote counts!

Annual enrollment for health benefits is going on now! Check the Q&A section in this Update and make your choice today. If you have any questions, contact the HR Benefits Department, Angie Miller (262-6769, millerad@appstate.edu) or Vicky Greene (262-6616, greenevb@appstate.edu).

Mark your calendars now to attend the Staff Appreciation Event at the Holmes Convocation Center, April 19, 2007. The theme this year is "Mountaineer Round-up". A Silent Auction will also be held from 11am-2pm. Come enjoy the fun, food and fellowship at this annual event!

All Appalachian State University identification cards, which are also known as AppCards, must be replaced. This means that all faculty and staff members, all students (except those graduating in May 2007), all retirees, and all dependents, who have AppCards, must receive new cards. Why? The law now prohibits social security numbers from being used as identification numbers. Your Banner id number will now be encoded on the new id cards. In order to receive your new AppCard, you must come to the AppCard Office in Trivette Hall during a SPECIFIC time period. Faculty, staff, retirees, and dependents will have their cards made beginning April 23 - May 4. Specific days have also been identified based on an alphabetical listing of last names. Each faculty and staff member, retiree and dependent needs to consult the schedule in order to find out the specific day he or she should come to the AppCard Office. This schedule is available on the following web page: <http://www.busaf.appstate.edu/food/fsschedule.html>. The AppCard Office is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bring your old card with you or you will have to pay the normal replacement cost, which is \$15. The picture that now appears on your AppCard will be transferred to the new AppCard, unless you wish a new picture to be made. When you receive your new AppCard, you will turn in your old one. These old cards will be shredded. You do not have to know your Banner id number; it will already be in the system. If you do not receive a new AppCard, the card you now have will work only through June 30, 2007. If you have questions regarding this announcement, please contact the AppCard Office at 262-6141.

A memorial scholarship fund that was set up for Fran Wilson's (Broyhill Inn) granddaughter has been able to purchase a digital LCD projector for the FFA classroom. Fran wishes to thank the community for their donations and support. Donations can still be made at any Wachovia branch or mail them to Fran Wilson, 1387 West Brushy Fork Road, Creston, NC 28615. Please make checks payable to the Tiffany Rhodes Memorial Fund or in memory of Tiffany Rhodes.



Staff Profile

by Michelle Merski

This edition of the Staff Profile features Mrs. Nikki Crees, Assistant Director of Orientation and an Academic Advisor. This position is housed in the Office of General Studies. Nikki has been employed by Appalachian since 2002. She earned her Masters degree from ASU and is taking several classes towards her EDS degree in Higher Education Administration.

Nikki is a resident of Boone and lives with her husband Alan, and their new daughter Charlotte Grace. The family has two boxer bulldogs, Buddy and Greta. Nikki's hobbies include hiking and camping, but she doesn't have much time for either with a new baby! When she finds extra time in her schedule, she enjoys reading and being a member of a book club with several other women at ASU.

When asked what she would like to see change at the University, she replied "I would like to see another doctoral program or an expansion of the one currently existing in the College of Education". I also asked her what she likes best about the University. She said she loves the people, the four seasons and the "community" culture. The thing she least likes is the cold winters. I believe there are many of us who would agree!!

Nikki hopes to still be at Appalachian in six to ten years because "I love working at ASU". In twenty years she hopes to be retired and owning a small engineering consulting company with her husband in Boone.

Thank you Nikki for all you do for ASU and our students.

Staff Happenings

Congratulations to:

Susan Musilli (LRE) for receiving the Women of Influence Staff award at the Women's Conference March 3, 2007 and for becoming a member of the Prestigious Scholars Honors Program.

Condolences to:

Kathy Howell (Admissions) on the death of her son.
Eric Hart (LAP) on the death of his sister.

On June 3, 2007 Bob Charlebois (Conference Services Manager, Broyhill Inn) will be running the San Diego Rock n Roll Marathon as part of the Leukemia Society's Team in Training. In addition to training, he is also trying to raise \$4400 for the Leukemia Society. To make a donation, please visit: www.active.com/donate/tntwnc/tntwncRCharle. With questions, email Bob at charleboisrj@appstate.edu.

FAQs about Annual Enrollment

Q: When is annual enrollment?

A: Annual enrollment will run from March 1, 2007 – March 31, 2007. All forms must be turned into the Human Resource office no later than March 31, 2007.

Q: When will I receive new ID cards if I am making a change?

A: New ID cards will be mailed to your home address prior to 7-1-07

Q: What are the key differences between the Indemnity Plan and the NC Smartchoice PPO Plans?

A: With the PPO Plans, State members save on their medical costs by avoiding deductibles and coinsurance for in-network non-hospital based physician office visits. The PPO plan provides choice. State members have three PPO plan options, with varying levels of coverage from which to choose.

With the PPO plans, State members have the option of covering themselves and their spouses. On the indemnity plan, you have to pay for family coverage when only covering your spouse. The PPO plans offer reduced premiums for dependent coverage unless you pick the SmartChoice Plus plan.

On the Indemnity Plan members have to choose where to use their \$150 preventative benefit. As a result, members have to choose what to cover under their preventative benefit. For the PPO plans, such choices are unnecessary.

Costs are less because members only pay a copay when receiving in-network non-hospital based preventative services. On the PPO plans, members pay a copay for both an annual physical and mammogram when provided in-network.

Q: Is it true that the prescription benefits on the PPO plans are the same as the current indemnity plan?

A: The pharmacy benefit on the PPO plans is the same benefit as on the indemnity plan, except for diabetic supplies. Under the PPO plans, diabetic supplies such as syringes, lancets and test strips can be purchased for a copay at participating pharmacies under the pharmacy benefit.

Q: I noticed on the online PPO provider directory that some providers have a yellow circle or a red square. What do the symbols mean?

A: If a provider has a yellow circle on the directory, it means the doctor MAY bill for services as outpatient services, subject to the deductible and coinsurance.

If the provider has a red square, services WILL be billed as outpatient services; subject to the deductible and coinsurance.

If the services are provided by a facility that is hospital-owned, the covered member should inquire as to whether or not the deductible and coinsurance will apply to the visit. Many providers practice at more than one location and there are exceptions to how services are billed. When making provider selections, be sure to visit the online directory. Click on the yellow circle or red square for details on how services are billed for that specific provider.

Q: What if I need more than one eye exam per year. For example, a diabetic may require more than one eye exam.

A: The PPO plan allows for more than one exam when deemed medically necessary. Non-routine eye exams are covered with a specialist copay when seen by an in-network provider.

Q: I am a diabetic and I understand that supplies are covered differently under the PPO plan.

A: Diabetic supplies, including test strips, lancets, and syringes are covered by the pharmacy benefit copay. Preferred brand diabetic supplies are covered with a \$10 copay. Nonpreferred brand diabetic supplies are covered with a \$25 copay. There is a limit of 150 test strips if insulin dependent and a limit of 50 test strips if non-insulin dependent per 34 day supply. If the member needs more than the supplied monthly amount of a diabetic supply they can order more and file the claim under their medical supply benefit, which will then be subject to deductible and coinsurance.

Q: What are the rates for 2007/2008 benefit year?

A: The rates for the 2007/2008 benefit year have not been established and will be determined during this year's legislative session. Based on the market trends, it is likely that all plan options will experience a rate increase. The potential rate increase should not change the premium structure between plans, therefore the 70/30 plan will still most likely have the lowest premium for dependent coverage and the 90/10 plan will most likely have the highest premium for dependent coverage. Unfortunately the actual rates and benefits for both the PPO plans and the Indemnity plan will not be made available until after annual enrollment. If there is a rate change, the State Health Plan will evaluate the rates when they are approved by the legislature. All rate changes will become effective October 1, 2007 and be deducted from the September 2007 paycheck.

Q: What changes can be made during annual enrollment?

A: Enroll in one of the PPO plans or the indemnity plan if not a current member; Switch plans if already enrolled; Choose another PPO option; Move from Indemnity to one of the PPO options; Move from one of the PPO plans to the Indemnity plan; Update personal information: Name, address, phone number, birth date; Add/Remove dependents (pre-existing waiting periods could apply); All changes made during annual enrollment will become effective 7-1-07.

Spring is in the Air (and on the ground!)

Last fall ASU's Landscape Services were busy planting thousands of bulbs, trees, shrubs and perennials to make sure that we all would enjoy the beauty that spring has to offer. Here is just a sample of the new additions to be on the lookout for:

A mixture of hardy native ferns was planted around the Student Union and D.D. Dougherty and will bloom from April – September. 10,000 giant yellow daffodils were planted around Walker, Trivette and Raley Halls as well as the Student Union and the Convocation Center. Look for these to bloom from March to April. 2,000 Darwin hybrid tulip bulbs were planted around the Administration Building and 300 double peony tulips were planted around the CAP building which will be blooming from April to May. Enjoy!

Now the task at hand is "spring clean-up" which is well underway. Among many other things, landscape staff will be raking lawns, cleaning drains and curbs, picking up limbs and fertilizing rhododendrons and other evergreens. It's this kind of work that makes a walk around campus such a pleasure for all. The first signs of spring will be showing up soon (if not already) all around campus with existing bulbs in addition to the daffodils and tulips that were planted last fall. Also be on the lookout for the quince, forsythia, rhododendron 'P.J.M.' variety, flame azaleas, serviceberry, redbuds, Bradford pear and Star Magnolias. These are some of the first spring bloomers that indicate the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Homeowners please keep in mind that you can contact the Watauga County Cooperative Extension office at 264-3061 for information on free soil testing. With the proper information (and a little luck) your property might look as good as Durham Park! Thanks to Jim Bryan and Eddie Hyle from Landscape Services for providing this information.

The Sixth Annual DIVERSITY Celebration April 14-21, 2007



The 6th Annual Diversity Celebration at ASU is coming! Major events include the Unity Festival on April 14th, an international soccer tournament at Kidd Brewer Stadium on April 15th, and the official Diversity Day on April 17th.

The Diversity Celebration features an extravagant array of performing arts, craft workshops, educational and experiential activities and exhibits, and ethnic foods. The overall theme "The More You Know, The More You Grow - Water the Garden" has been retained for the event which provides a safe environment for learning about others, while encouraging a deeper exploration of differences. In addition, those of all ages who are curious about different cultures are invited to take a "Cultural Safari." Family friendly activities at the Unity Festival include Safari Hats, Peace Dove Tattoos, Diversity Poetry Collage, Mask Making, Unity Weave, Mountain Heritage, Mexican Paper Flowers, Latino Cultures, a Touch of Japan, Learn to Use Chopsticks, Mehendi Henna Painting, Tai Chi, the Children of Jordan, African Tribal Necklaces, and Native American Animal Stories. Returning favorites include The Healing

Force with African stories and songs, Mi Tierra Mariachi band, Native American story-teller Lloyd Arneach, Appalachian fiddler Meade Richter, the ASU Gospel Choir, Appalachian Jack Tales with Orville Hicks, Gospel music with the Reverend Morris Hatton, jazz with the Todd Wright Ensemble, and the Caribbean rhythms of the Steely Pan Band. Confirmed new acts include the Red Herring Puppet Theater, traditional Japanese music from the duo Circle in the Round, a theatrical performance of "The Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King" by Theatre IV of Richmond, Virginia, Mestre Doutor Capoeira, champion whistler Phyllis Heil, North Carolina poet laureate Kay Byer, and a weaving demonstration by Martha Hill of the Crossnore Weaving Room.

Complementing the line-up of performances, presentations, and exhibits are other outstanding events. These include a panel discussion, "Contemporary African Issues," featuring ten ASU faculty members from ten different African countries, "In Our Own Voice," a workshop led by individuals living successfully with mental illnesses, an international film festival, readings from their works by four local authors, and a suicide prevention candlelight vigil, to name just a few.

Sponsored in part by the Watauga County Arts Council, the North Carolina Arts Council and the ASU Parents Association, the Diversity Celebration is a wonderful collaboration between the university and the greater community and an evolving force that underscores the commitment to honor diversity in all of its aspects.

All events and activities are free of charge and everyone is invited. It is a splendid opportunity for family friendly fun. For more information, call 262-2144 or 262-6252, or email diversity@appstate.edu. For a complete schedule of events and locations, visit the web site at www.celebration.appstate.edu.

Staff Corner

Name Change

Kathryn Stevens
Sarah Summers
Sara Wallace

Student Research
Health Services
Bake Shop

New Hire

Norma Bouchard
William Corley
Patricia Cornett
Justin Dodson
T. Michelle Eldredh
Micah Eller
Teresa Emory
Darrel Farrow
Wanda Hamilton
Sheri Hoyle
Jimmy Isaacs
Martha Jones
Oliver Julien
Li Li
Virgie Mahala
Kerry McGuire
John McNeal
Sandra Moretz
Lindley Myers
Lester Nagle
Orville Osborne
Christopher Presnell
Greg Snodgrass
Stanley Steury
James Strickland

LRE-Parent to Parent
ASU Police
Research & Graduate Studies
Appalachian Fund
CI
Landscape
LRE-Parent to Parent
Building Services
Learning Assistance Program
Appalachian Family Innovations
Building Services
Appalachian Family Innovations
Comp Info Systems
Information Technology Services
Information Technology Services
Food Service Administration
C&I/Camp Broadstone
Student Accounts
App Family Innovations
University Police
Building Services
Arts & Sciences
Conferences & Institutes
Research & Grad Studies
University Police

Teresa Hollars
Tina Parlier
Betty Ramsey
Paula Ransom
Bradley Safrit
Sandra Sanders
Thomas Van Gilder
Michael Waters

Career Development
Registrar's Office
Library
Academic Computing Services
Information Technology Servs.
Academic Affairs
Information Technology Servs.
Academic Computing Services

Resignations

Nadia Alamo
John Cook
Billy Harbinson
Stephanie Helmers
Bryan Johnson
Gary Miller
Brett Phelan
James Risset
Kathryn Sanders
David Walls

Housing & Residence Life
Parking & Traffic
Academic Computing Services
Residence Life
College of Education
Food Court
Athletics
Broyhill Inn & Conf. Center
Athletics
New River Light & Power

Retirement

Karen Callahan
Phyllis Cameron
Shelby Eggers
Richard Parrott
James Rice
Wayne South
Trulla Thompson
Perry Wilson
Mary Winebarger

Academic Computing Services
Academic Affairs
Building Services
Continuing Education
Recycling
Recycling
Institutional Research
New River Light & Power
Building Services

New Department

Russell Abee
Diana Barbee
Russell Cato
Ruth Cook

Small Business & Tech. Dev. Cntr.
Human Dev. & Psych.Counseling
Student Programs
College of Arts & Sciences



Appalachian State University
Staff Council
Your Support, Your Voice, Your Growth

Q&A issues are always welcome. Please send your questions to a Staff Update committee member.

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