The Economics of Higher Education

Dr. Glenda Treadaway, Interim Dean

As the time came around for me to write this newsletter article, I began thinking about the budget situation. It seems to be the topic of conversation no matter where you go on campus. It is a major topic in every newspaper, magazine, and on every radio or television news show. It is hard to escape and/or ignore the discussion since it also is impacting each of us on a very personal level.

Clearly, we all need to think about the impact of the current economic situation on the nation, the state, Appalachian State University, your department, your students and you. Since the focus of this newsletter is on the college, I would like to ask you to consider what we can do to save money within the departments and college without sacrificing educational quality.

How can we provide students with the same quality educational programs and faculty with the same benefits and rewards for their hard work? I do not support the discontinuation of any educational programs within the college. I do not believe that we have any educational programs that are not of high quality or beneficial to the students that they serve. I also do not support the discontinuation of faculty lines in departments. I do not believe we are "over-staffed." Instead I believe in most instances we are understaffed and asking faculty to do more and more each year to make up for being understaffed. I do not support the freezing of staff positions in the departments or college. As with the faculty, staff members are asked to do more and more each year. Because of the high quality programs we offer in the college, staff have more and more students and faculty to work with and for each year. So where can we make some efficient cuts?

I believe the best way to do this is through planning. For example, one place to start is paying attention each semester to our class offerings in terms of which classes are serving the needs of the students. If a particular course consistently has three sections and only two of them are full and the other section has fewer than five, it might be more beneficial to cancel that one section and add two or three students to the other two sections. This benefits the student by placing them in a class with their peers and thus increasing the opportunities for learning from not only the instructor but their classmates as well. It benefits the faculty by providing them the opportunity to teach another course that they may wish to teach and at the same time does not overload the class to a point where the work related to the class is greatly increased. It benefits the department and in the long run each faculty member because it increases the student credit hours (SCHs) per faculty member (FTE), thus providing the department with a solid argument for a faculty position when one is available. These same SCHs are used to determine the amount of Equipment and Technology fee money each department receives as well. So by moving 5 students, benefits can be felt throughout the department.

This is only one idea that can be discussed and considered. Other ideas include looking at the distribution of release time, reassigned time and/or OCSAs in the department to make sure that this time is being used efficiently to benefit the students, faculty, and/or...
The Economics of Higher Education
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decision; looking at how often courses need to be offered (fall only, spring only or fall and spring); looking for and making connections with possible donors; looking at cost saving measures within the department office; and looking at many other possible cost efficient solutions. I encourage you to talk to each other and think of the many creative ways that we can continue to offer high quality programs that benefit students and reward faculty for their hard work through simple planning and efficiency. Here in the college office we are facing the same issues and are seeking ways to cut our spending so that it will not negatively affect departmental budgets and/or needs. We also are looking at ways to increase our fundraising so that we can help departments gain the funds that they need to operate their programs.

I know that cutting budgets is never viewed in a positive way and I am not asking you to do so. I just believe it is better to be proactive and find ways to become more efficient than to wait and be told by others how we must respond. Hopefully, this will be a short lived issue and budgets will return to "pre-reversion" status quickly. In the meantime, let's all work together to make this as painless as possible for all involved.

Dean’s Office welcomes new staff member

The Dean's Office is pleased to welcome Dee Pelliccio to the office staff. Dee comes from the Department of Art to fill the program assistant vacancy left by Linsey Ward. Linsey moved to Charlotte in early January. Please extend a warm welcome to Dee.

Fundraising Corner
Greg Langdon, Development Officer

Your Department’s Top 5 Fundraising Priorities - Are YOU the Missing Piece?

In spring 2008, I asked each Chair within the College to submit a list of their department's Top 5 Fundraising Priority Projects. Later in the summer, Dr. Treadaway and I met with the Chairs to discuss their respective Top 5 projects. We now have compiled these Top 5 into a list that will guide our fundraising efforts now and in the future. Chairs submitted projects which range from scholarship support, faculty/student travel funds, major equipment purchases, new faculty start-up funds to proposed new building requests. Many Chairs have shared their Department's Top 5 Projects with advisory/advancement boards for review. (Check with your Chair to see your Department's Top 5.)

This spring I asked the Chairs to then submit names of potential donors/contacts and to connect these with their Top 5 Projects. Most of the Chairs have responded to this request. I am currently in the process of reviewing these prospects/contacts to determine any Appalachian connections to increase the likelihood of obtaining private support. Please let your Chair or me know of any industry contacts that you have that will help us as we seek private financial support for your Department's Top 5 projects. Working together, we can locate and secure the funding that you need for your projects.

In subsequent newsletter editions, I plan to report successful collaborations between faculty connections, private support and important departmental projects. As I have outlined earlier, an engaged, active advancement/advisory board is crucial for us as we work together to fund your special projects. Help me to help you "find the missing pieces" for your special project fundraising needs.

Three candidates selected in Dean search

The search for the Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts is underway. Three candidates will visit campus:

Dr. Michael Tick, Chair of Theatre at Louisiana State University, Feb. 23 and 24.

Dr. Glenda Treadaway, Interim Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Appalachian, Feb. 25-27.

Dr. Katherine Hawkins, Chair of Communication Studies at Clemson University, March 2 and 3.

Detailed schedules will be announced.

HLES opens lab at NC Research Campus

The Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science opened its Human Performance Laboratory in January at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

The lab has a staff of four -- Andy Shanely and Amy Knab, tenure track Assistant Professors; Margaret Downs-West, laboratory manager; and Fuxia Jin (chemistry) will join the team later this semester. The department is in the process of purchasing equipment for the lab.

Health Promotion degree goes online

The Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science launched its Health Promotion online degree program at the start of the Spring semester. Health Program Planning and Evaluation I, taught by Susan Perry, is the first course offered online. Two more HP courses will be offered during the Summer I session.

What’s happening in F&AA?

Make www.faa.appstate.edu a daily stop to see what else is happening with the College and fellow departments. Click on “News” to read the latest.
Faculty News

**Eli Bentor's (ART) article "Masquerade Politics in Contemporary Southeastern Nigeria" was published in the Winter 2008 issue (Vol. 41 No. 4) of the journal African Arts. He also presented a paper titled "In Search of History in Ekpe Ukara Cloth" as part of a symposium "Threads: New Research on African Textiles" held at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Nov. 15.**

**Scott Ludwig (ART) will be traveling to Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2009, where he has been invited as an Artist-in-Residence at Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey. He will be assisting faculty with the set-up of a printmaking program and directing a workshop in "hi-tech/low-tech" printmaking applications.**

Ludwig also will travel to Beatty, Nevada, where he was awarded an Artist-in-Residence at Goldwell Open Air Museum to conduct creative research in Death Valley in April. He also was selected as the North Carolina State Representative in the May 2009 exhibition, "20/20 Vision," Second Edition - The Art of Contemporary University Printmaking at Firehouse Gallery, Louisville, GA. Ludwig will be exhibiting work along with Art Department alumna, Kimberly Anderson.

**Norman Clark (COM) has joined the Appalachian & the Community Together (ACT) team. In addition to his teaching responsibilities in the Department of Communication, Clark will serve as the Faculty Coordinator for Service-Learning and the Public Service Research Program (PSRP), assisting Shari Galiardi, Director of Service-Learning, and Todd Mortensen, Associate Director for ACT Community Partnerships. Clark's new responsibilities include the development and coordination of the ACT Faculty Fellows Program, the Advanced Service-Learning & Community-Based Research Workshops, the semi-annual service-learning syllabus review process, and the annual Designated Service-Learning Faculty Program. In addition, he will continue to coordinate and serve as the lead instructor for the Public Service Research Program.**

**Dan "Vallie" Hill (COM) was quoted in the January 26 edition of "Taylor On Radio-Info" in response to a previously published article about radio industry members taking responsibility for training future radio pros: "Consultant Dan Vallie drops me a note responding to last week's stories about whether radio's doing an adequate training of salespeople and sales execs. He says 'that can be remedied by the same management and ownership that say we should be doing it. It's a matter of prioritizing time, money and commitments' - and Dan puts in a plug for the annual Kellar... continued next page**

**Theatre and Dance continues collaboration with Blowing Rock Stage Company**

The Department of Theatre and Dance has continued its alliance with the Blowing Rock Stage Company (BRSC), participating in a series of projects including "The Tempest" at BRSC this past October and "The Heidi Chronicles" in the Valborg Theatre at Appalachian in February.

Theatre and Dance's Derek Gagnier worked with BRSC's Producing Artistic Director, Kenneth Kay, to facilitate the exchange of actors, students, directors and resources to support these two projects. "The Tempest" was BRSC's first Shakespearean production in its more than 20 year history. The play was an opportune project for Theatre and Dance. Kay and Gagnier discussed the project in the summer of 2008 while working on "Peter Pan." At the time, more than 15 Theatre and Dance students were participating in the BRSC internship program, and so discussions began about involving them in "The Tempest."

"Seen by the general public and hundreds of area high school and elementary school students, the highly successful production enhanced the skills of ASU student actors and broadened the minds of young people in our region," said Gagnier.

The involvement of Theatre and Dance students in the production was particularly important as they worked side-by-side with several professional actors, including Gagnier himself. Students were exposed not only to the challenges of performing Shakespeare's language, but also to the rigors of professional rehearsals under Actors Equity Association guidelines, according to Gagnier.

Kay directed the piece, which also featured Gagnier working as text coach and playing the role of Alonso, King of Naples. Theatre and Dance Professor, Ray Miller, and Costume Shop Supervisor, Alice Neff, also provided support for the production.

In February, Theatre and Dance will present Wendy Wasserstein's "The Heidi Chronicles." Kay, who directed Theatre and Dance's production of "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" in 2004, will once again be guest director or the production. The project will once again allow student actors, designers and technicians to work with Kay in a creative environment. Kay is also teaching a senior project/advanced audition class for senior acting students this semester.

"The continuing alliance between Theatre and Dance and BRSC provides the opportunity for educational experiences for students in all disciplines of theatre, and provides a 'foot in the door' for the beginning of their professional theatre careers," stated Gagnier.

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Two new photography exhibitions are on display at the Catherine J. Smith Gallery. "Joe's Junkyard" and "Growth: The Garden" will be on view through March 4.

"Joe's Junkyard" is a photographic study by Lisa Kereszi of a junkyard that was owned by her family. "Growth: The Garden" includes photographs by Taj Forer and members of Anathoth Community Garden. The garden images were produced during a residency organized by the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh. Both exhibitions are curated by Jody Servon, assistant professor and director of the Catherine J. Smith Gallery.

"The photographs and recordings made for 'Growth: The Garden' and 'Joe's Junkyard' invite us to rethink our relationships with other people and with the environments we inhabit," said Servon. "We are fortunate to have the opportunity to see works by and hear both of these talented and accomplished photographers: Lisa Kereszi and Taj Forer. I believe their visits to campus will be valuable learning experiences for our students and community members."

Public Events:

February 10
Reception for student photography exhibition:
Food and Hunger in North Carolina
Looking Glass Gallery and Multicultural Center, Plemmons Student Union
5:30-7 pm

February 12
Screening of King Corn
Greenbriar Theater, Plemmons Student Union, 7 pm

March 4
Screening of A Steady Grind
Belk Library and Information Commons, Room 114, 7 pm
Q&A with filmmaker Victoria Kereszi
Support for the program provided by University Documentary Services

For more information, visit www.art.appstate.edu/cjs or call 828-262-7338.
Assistant Professor of Dance, Emily Daughtridge's collaborations with renowned dance photographer, Steve Clarke, are increasing the visibility of Appalachian's Dance program and providing opportunities for students to present their work in galleries and on stage statewide as emerging artists.

In the late 1990's Clarke retired from his position as a professor of law at UNC-Chapel Hill to pursue a growing passion for photography and performing arts full time and the collaboration between Daughtridge and Clarke began. As a professional dancer, Daughtridge's initial role was that of improvising live action for Clarke's camera. While working as a part-time public relations and web designer for the UNC-Greensboro dance program, Daughtridge also connected Clarke with appropriate spaces, other dancers, and venues for displaying his works. Through their collaborations Clarke and Daughtridge have explored the objectives and aesthetic values of both disciplines as well as the physical possibilities of the body and the camera.

As an extension of Clarke's enthusiasm and support of dance artists, he produces curated concerts to showcase works by North Carolina-based choreographers and performers. Daughtridge has been invited to show her choreography on several such concerts, and took the opportunity to showcase a cast of Appalachian student dancers in the performance of her work. Since then growing numbers of Appalachian student choreographers and dancers have been privileged to collaborate with Clarke and have been featured in his concerts and exhibitions.

In conjunction with hosting the North Carolina Dance Alliance conference and the annual presentation of the North Carolina Dance Festival, the Department of Theatre and Dance has featured exhibitions of Clarke's dance photography in the Valborg Theatre for the past two years.

Reports prepared on behalf of local communities in conjunction with seniors in the Recreation Management program:


The Thomas W. Reese Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology program in the Department of Technology recently received the DT-6646 3-D Samplemaker Cutting Table from Gerber Scientific Products.

The table was purchased from a grant provided by the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF). Richard Flaherty, president of ICPF, awarded the grant to Appalachian through the efforts of Technology faculty Robin Williams, Garner Dewey, and Kevin Howell. The cutting table, valued at $80,000, was installed in the Harper Flexographic Laboratory in Katherine Harper Hall.

"The inclusion of the cutting table in the GAIT Curriculum provides new "hands-on" opportunities for our students to acquire in order become more competitive in the Graphic Communications Industries," said John Craft, coordinator of the GAIT program.

Faculty News continued

Jim Gossett of Gerber, demonstrates to students the use of the Gerber 3D Cutting table for cutting objects such as storage containers from drawings produced using CAD files.

GAIT program receives cutting table

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Faculty News continued


Donald Corey (TEC) was instrumental in connecting design students with Irwin Tools, a division of Newell Rubbermaid to come up with solutions to actual problems faced by the company. Corey and Irwin management are looking at ways to continue working together thanks to the success of this project.

David Domermuth (TEC) designed and built a materials testing machine for Kincaid Furniture. Kincaid needed to test the breaking strength of a material change for bed rails. The rail connects the head board to the foot board, and Kincaid currently uses a plywood core with a hardwood laminate. The alternative core will be chipboard composite. Kincaid is planning the change to comply with a California regulation limiting formaldehyde off gassing. The custom made test machine applies force to the center of the rails until they break. A load cell measures the breaking force. Domermuth and various students broke a series of rails to measure the effects of three design variables. Marvin Oliver, vice president for purchasing at Kincaid, was very pleased with the results. He presented them to the company for validation of the material change. Kincaid furniture is a good friend of the Appalachian family. Steve Kincaid has served on the Furniture Design advisory board for many years. The test machine and technology will be used in Domermuth's Material Science class to teach beam bending/breaking theory as laboratory exercise.

Banks Talley (TEC) coordinated a student project for Bosch and Siemens...
Technology to host Furniture Society Conference

The Furniture Design program in the Department of Technology has been selected to host the 2009 Furniture Society Annual Conference June 10-13.

Titled "Industrious: The Design, Craft & Commerce of Furniture Making," the conference will celebrate and bridge the two sides of North Carolina's furniture history - industry in the state and Appalachian's contributions -- as well as discover a new future.

Appalachian faculty serving on the local host committee are Kern Maass, chair, and Charlie Sutton, Banks Talley, and Eric Reichard, co-chairs. For more information about the conference, visit www.tec.appstate.edu.

Faculty News continued

(BSH) Home Appliances in New Bern. Bosch asked senior studio students to work on concepts for new ways to wash and dry clothes. BSH contributed $15,000 to sponsor the studio class to offset the cost of student travel to their New Bern facility and for materials the students used for the project. A team from BSH then traveled to Appalachian for the unveiling of the new products.


Jeff Tiller (TEC) received a $250,000 contract from the U.S. Department of Energy to evaluate the potential to increase the efficiency requirements of North Carolina's State Energy Code. Working with the Appalachian State Energy Center and the Department of Technology, Tiller also completed the North Carolina State Energy Plan and will be organizing and holding public hearings in March.

Jeff Ramsdell (TEC) visited South Africa with other Appalachian faculty and staff to explore areas of common interest. He will be going to Brazil in March to look into collaborative possibilities for research in biofuels.

Valerie Midgett (TD) was awarded the North Carolina Arts Council Artist's Fellowship for Choreography. The fellowship is awarded for a history and body of work over time. It provides an opportunity for artists to devote time and energy to their creative process. Midgett's current work for five women, "Opening to Grace," is touring with the North Carolina Dance Festival.

Second Power of Design addresses ‘Activism through Design’


The Power of Design brings together students, faculty and members of the professional community in all design disciplines such as interior design, graphic design, industrial design, architectural design, theater design and photography. Storr Office Environments, a Steelcase dealership in Greensboro, sponsored the event.

"The second annual Power of Design event was a great success," said Martha Marking, professor and coordinator of design/technology for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Appalachian. "This is a fabulous opportunity for the design students and faculty from across campus to come together! There were 250+ students and other design enthusiasts that left thinking of ways to enhance design in their communities."

Bryan Bell of Design Corps and co-author of "Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism" was the guest speaker. A panel discussion was held with Katie Wakeford of Design Corps, Seth Hendler of Asheville City Parks and Recreation Department, and Barbara Wilson, co-founder of the Austin Community Design and Development Center.

For more information, visit http://www.faa.appstate.edu/powerofdesign/index2.html or contact Jeanne Mercer-Ballard at mercerja@appstate.edu.
Your Tech Support Team would like to help this semester go as smoothly as possible for you. Our job is to make technology work for you. We need your help for this to happen.

Communication is key. Our new service request system is online and available at http://support.appstate.edu/help/ (Note: Every request warrants placement of an incident ticket through this system. Even the dean has to use this system). This new system will integrate into various existing databases on campus such as Banner. It will provide better communication between you and your support teams. The new service request system is very specific about where it routes your requests. This new work flow will speed resolution delivery and improve overall communication. If this new system is confusing in any way, feel free to call us and we will guide you through it (contact information below). All previous Rightnow requests that have not been resolved will be completed as soon as possible. There is no need to place a new request on the new system.

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**GRANTS**

**November, December and January**

*Awarded:*

**Janet Montgomery (ART)** was awarded a Regional Artist Grant through the Watauga Arts Council for a two-week study of encaustic methods at Penland School of Crafts in the summer.

**Jeffrey McBride and Alan Utter (HLES)** received a $37,115 New Investigations Grant from the North Carolina Space Grant Program for "Efficacy of resistive whole body vibration exercise as a countermeasure to microgravity induced changes in neuromuscular function, body composition and bone mineral density."

*Submitted:*


**Kern Maass (TEC)** submitted a proposal for $30,161 to the International Woodworking Fair for "International Woodworking Fair (IWF) Grant."

**Alan Utter (HLES)** submitted a proposal to Carolina Medical Center CMC-Union for a Clinical Education Affiliation Agreement.

**David Domermuth and Jack Martin (TEC)** submitted a proposal for $9,991 to the US Environmental Protection Agency 5th Annual P3 Awards: People, Prosperity and the Planet Student Design Competition for Sustainability for "Biomass Gasification."

**Jeremy Ferrell and Jeff Ramsdell (TEC, Energy Center)** and Martin Meznar (Management) submitted a $60,743 proposal to the USDA International Science and Education Grants for "Closed Loop Biodiesel Technology Transfer; from Appalachia to the Nordeste Phase I."

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**Technology Support**

**Tony Grant and Joshua Hodges, Computer Consultants**

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**Graduate School accepting nominations for faculty awards**

The Cratis D. Williams Graduate School is accepting nominations for its annual outstanding faculty awards in the areas of scholarly activity and graduate education. Department chairs and faculty are encouraged to nominate colleagues for these prestigious awards before May 15.

The awards are:

**100 Scholars Research Award** - This award was established to recognize exemplary research or creative activities of a tenured faculty member. The award winner should be a senior faculty member (associate or full professor), performing well above the standard level of faculty research.

**Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award** - This award was established to honor a graduate faculty member whose contribution to graduate education is truly exemplary in teaching, research and service.

**Wachovia Award** - This fund was established to recognize and award faculty and/or graduate students for studies related to environmental concerns for the region served by the University.

**Transforming North Carolina Faculty Award** - This award is given to "Appalachian faculty making a difference in the North Carolina..." and recognizes tenured or tenure-track faculty research and scholarship contribution to the economic transformation and future of North Carolina.

In addition, the Graduate School is accepting nominations from the deans of each college for the **Deans' Award for Excellence in Graduate Education.** This award was established to recognize a truly outstanding graduate program.

For more information about these awards and nomination criteria, visit http://www.graduate.appstate.edu/facultystaff/awards/DeansAward.html.
Criteria for a Graduation Audit

One of the many duties of the student records area in the dean's office is to process graduation audits for our students. Each semester, especially during the early registration period, we receive a tremendous number of audit requests. Audits will be processed for students who meet the following criteria:

- Must have a minimum of 90 semester hours earned and be within one or two semesters of graduating
- Memos on all substitutions/waivers must be in the student's file
- If the minor requires a contract, a copy of the contract must be in the student's file
- Student needs to know the checksheet year she/he is following

Students completing an internship or student teaching for Spring 2010 are an exception to the criteria listed above. Since these students are not on campus for their last semester, they need to make sure all other course requirements will be met by the fall semester.

Audits will be processed on a first-come/first-serve basis.

Please be aware that once we receive graduation applications for the current semester, processing of graduation audits will be suspended in order to notify currently graduating students of their status. Normally, this process will take six to eight weeks.

If you have any questions or need information on a student, please call the dean's office at 262-7129 and ask for Beth, Mark, or Dee.

DATEN AND DEADLINES

For a complete listing of all campus events, visit www.appstate.edu.

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Call us at: 262-7129
Check the College of Fine and Applied Arts website for all the latest news at: www.faa.appstate.edu.