THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR!

As my first academic year as dean comes to a close I wanted to take the time to thank each of you for a wonderful and highly productive year. We have much to celebrate! It’s been an amazing year overall and we’ve accomplished a lot in the classroom and beyond.

Our enrollment overall is up to 3113 majors. In the last year we have grown by 133 majors and increased SCH’s by 7% for a total of 66,778 SCH, which puts us in second place only behind the College of Arts and Sciences in total SCH generated. Our FTE’s have increased from 2571.3 in 2011 to 6377.5 in 2016. This is thanks to each of you for your recruitment efforts and work in the classroom with our students.

I am pleased to say the Dean’s Office was able to support faculty and students with over $60,000 in research funds plus $175,000 in equipment funds. Our faculty have received some prestigious awards such as the Rome Prize, a Fulbright, two Chancellor’s Innovation Scholar Awards, a Steelcase Active Learning Center Grant, the North Carolina Theatre Conference College/University Award and 2016 Career Achievement inductee to the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame, to mention a few.

Our student achievements have been outstanding as well...40 national and international awards! They have participated in numerous competitions and brought home prestigious honors: Team Sunergy placed 3rd in the Formula Sun Grand Prix and 6th in the American Solar Challenge, WASU FM Radio Station took several honors at the Intercollegiate Broadcast System awards ceremony, Team Appalachian [In]sight placed second in the “Suburban Single-Family Housing” category at the Race to Zero Competition, several took top honors at the Planning and Visual Education (PAVE) 2016 Design Competition, four students were honored at the International Phaistos Project, an undergraduate student was awarded a Fulbright, work was selected for the American College Dance Association Gala Concert and a team of five GAIT students took the top award at the Phoenix Challenge.

continued on page 2
ACCOLADES

Dr. Frank Aycock (Communication) presented the paper “Technology and the Changing Television Scene 2017–2025” at the 2017 Broadcast Education Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 25.


Dr. Brian Burke (Sustainable Development) published a book on rural cooperatives in Latin America, along with two researchers from the University of Arizona. The volume provides a unique contribution to research and action promoting rural development, equality and sustainability in Latin America. It brings together essays by researchers, cooperative managers and technical advisors to reflect on the lessons learned from experiences in Brazil, Columbia and Paraguay.

Andrew Caldwell’s (Art) work “Generational Sin” was chosen as a winner in the Communication Arts Photography annual competition. The image was created for an upcoming summer exhibition at the Promenades Photographiques de Vendôme in France, where he is a featured artist. The exhibition runs from June 24–September 3, and his work will also be published in the July / August issue of “Communication Arts.”

Dr. Jean DeHart (Communication) completed a four-year term as an officer in the Southern States Communication Association. During those four years, she served as Second Vice President, First Vice President, President and Immediate Past President. At this year’s conference in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8, she presented “Moving On from Folsom to New Orleans: The Communication of Emotion and Place Through Train Images in Country Music”; served as a respondent for a panel titled “Locating Rhetorical Invention in Southern Stereotypes: NASCAR, Appalachian Foodways, Small Town Museums, and Festivals”; participated as a panelist for a round table discussion on top communication theories; and served as chair and respondent for a panel in the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference.

Dr. Hessam Ghamari (Applied Design) along with undergraduate research assistants Eva Clauss and Courtney Sullivan presented his study “Beyond CIDA Standards: Observation of the Impact of Effective Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Design Studio” at the Interior Design Educators Council national conference in Chicago, Illinois March 9–12. Ghamari also presented “Wandering Eyes: Using Gaze-Tracking Technology to Capture Eye Fixation in Unfamiliar Indoor Healthcare Environments” at the conference. He was nominated and appointed as the judge of the 8th Annual Student Research Poster Competition at Appalachian on April 27 as well.

Dr. Jennifer Gray (Communication) presented a paper titled “Dramatic Convenient Loss: Miscarriage on Grey’s Anatomy” on the panel “Gender, Race, and Religion on Contemporary Television” at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8.

With innovation being high on our list we recently opened HOW Space in April (many thanks to the IDEXLab folks!) and collaborated with the Walker College of Business to initiate AppLab 3.0. In the Preliminary Design Studio course, students partnered with Ecovative Design to develop sustainable home and office accessories by using Ecovative’s Grow-it-Yourself Mushroom® materials. Additionally, we were able to fund six Innovation Interdisciplinary Proposals for the coming academic year.

Over the past year, I’ve learned so much about our departments, faculty and students but I have more to discover and look forward to continuing my “listening tour” during the summer and into next fall. FAA is truly an innovative and unique college and I feel very fortunate and honored to be your dean. I hope each of you find time over the summer to rejuvenate yourselves and relax a bit. Again, thank you all for your continuous efforts, productivity and outstanding dedication.

— Phellis
ShanShan Lou (Communication) was recently awarded the Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award at the Southern States Communication Association convention April 4–8 in Greenville, South Carolina. At the same convention, she presented “Explore Search Engine Ethics: A Case Study of Baidu” with co-author Dr. Jiangxue (Ashley) Han (Communication). Lou’s article “Applying Data Analytics to Social Media Advertising” will be published this month in the Journal of Advertising Education.

Martha Marking (Theatre and Dance) received the Faculty Plemons Leadership Medallion on Friday, April 21. The award was created to recognize the time, energy, skills and commitment of students, faculty, student development educators and staff who exceed their peers in providing leadership that enriches the quality of student life and advances the education of students. During the ceremony, Marking was commended for her teaching, scholarship and compassion in advocating for students during her nearly 30-year tenure at Appalachian.

Jeanne Mercer-Ballard (Applied Design) has been awarded the 2017-2018 Study Abroad International faculty fellowship in design. The award includes travel to and from Milan and an apartment from mid-June through mid-July. As part of the fellowship, Mercer-Ballard will be meeting with faculty from Nuova Accademia de Belle Arti’s interior design program and lecturing at the school. She will also be touring top Italian lighting designers and manufacturers while researching culture in design. She plans to visit the LdM Institute in Florence to continue the department’s relationship with the school, and the University of Lincoln in the UK to begin a relationship with their program. Additionally, Mercer-Ballard’s interior and lighting design for Legion Brewing in Charlotte was accepted and presented for the Creative Scholarship competition at the 2017 Annual Interior Design Educator’s Council conference in Chicago, Illinois March 8–12.
Edison Midgett (Art) had his feature film, “MONOLOGUE” accepted into the Martinique International Film Festival in March 2017, The Chhatrapati Shivaji International Film Festival in Pune Maharashtra, India and The Mediterranean International Film Festival in Fontane Bianche, Italy in December 2016. The movie tracks the lives of 17 New York City actors over a 14-year period and examines what drives people to create. “MONOLOGUE” is Midgett’s first feature-length work, and documents what it takes to become a working actor and what motivates people to make art in the first place.

Dr. Nina-Jo Moore (Communication) presented on a panel titled “Transitioning Between Roles of Faculty and Administration” and on a panel titled “The Need for Innovation in Crafting Educational Responses to Terror Strikes” at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8.

Dr. Newly Paul (Communication) co-wrote an article with Mingxiao Sui that has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Intercultural Communication Research focusing on Latino portrayals in local news media, including underrepresentation, negative stereotypes and institutional predictors of coverage.

Dr. Thomas Mueller (Communication) presented “There’s No ‘I’ in Team: The Role of Communication in Sports and Volunteerism: Development and testing of the NASCAR Fan Motivation Model” at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8.

Dr. Chris Patti (Communication) was a respondent on a panel, Writing Evocative Autoethnography: Writing Lives, Telling Stories, at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8. He also served as a member of the resolutions committee and presented the report for that committee.

Dr. Brian Raichle (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) has been named chair of the department effective March 2017.


Mary Ray (Applied Design) designed a jacket using the ancient Japanese mending technique called “Boro,” which was accepted to the Wearable Expressions 7th International Juried Exhibition at the Palos Verdes Art Center in southern California this spring. A stitched and beaded handbag she created was also accepted.

Dr. David Spiceland (Communication) presented “Switching Tracks: Navigating Nature and Media in the Transformation of Tweetsie Railroad from Commercial Train to Amusement Park” at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8.

Tricia Treacy (Art) has been awarded the 2017 Rome Prize through the American Academy in Rome. The six-month fellowship, beginning in September 2017, will include a stipend, room and board and individual work space at the eleven-acre campus in Rome.

Dr. Matthew VanDyke (Communication) and Emily Blevins, a senior public relations major, presented “Mentorship in Service Learning” on a panel, Innovative Mentoring Practices, at the Southern States Communication Association convention and conference held in Greenville, South Carolina April 4–8.

Joel Williams (Theatre and Dance) has been named chair of Region 4 of the National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Region 4 includes Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. As chair, he will serve on the national committee with seven other regional chairs and will be responsible for planning and coordinating a regional festival that is typically attended by 800 students representing over 100 colleges and universities in Region 4.

The Goodnight Family Department of Sustainable Development has partnered with the Office of Sustainability to create a new sustainable garden on Howard Street (next to the Lucy Brock Child Development Laboratory). The garden will host social events and class meetings while engaging the community. It will also highlight solar energy, and possibly include a commissioned art piece.

The Department of Theatre and Dance presented the world premiere of “Flight from the Mahabharath” by noted South African author Dr. Muthal Naidoo. Naidoo, of Indian descent, traveled to Boone for the premiere of her play. The work was directed by Dr. Ray Miller, with costume and makeup design by Martha Marking (who traveled to India to conduct research) and set and lighting design by John Marty.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS

John Barton, a junior industrial design major, was awarded the Celia Moh Scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year. This prestigious annual scholarship is awarded to just five students nationally and includes full tuition, room, board, books and fees for his senior year.

Senior graphic arts and imaging technology major Morgan Batley has been named “Best of the Best” by the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF) for her award-winning tailgate party pack. Batley advanced to the final competition after winning first place in the graphic design category for her design in October.

Ben Bridges, a junior industrial design major, took home top honors in the 2017 Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Design Competition for his chair “Solum.”

Anna Bundy, a senior communication studies major, presented her paper “Communication as a First Lady: Anticipating the Style of Melania Trump” at the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors conference April 4-8 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Senior advertising and graphic design double major Sean Burgess was recently honored for his work “Genomics” in the international Phaistos Project competition hosted by Forty Five Symbols, a collaborative research group exploring visual language. Participants from all over the world submitted their symbol designs depicting current global issues for a panel review by six international design experts, and Burgess was awarded top
honors. Three additional Appalachian students, senior graphic design majors Cole Finch, Andrea Gilbert and Kellee Morgado, received honorable mentions for their works “Changing Cities,” “Changing Animals” and “Gender Expressions,” respectively.

Jessica Chaplain, a junior English major taking Dr. Scott Welsh’s (Communication) class presented her paper “Obama and American Exceptionalism: The Shaping of an American Identity” at the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors conference April 4–8 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Monica Crawford, a junior journalism major, presented “Social Media: The Use of Social Media in Social Justice Movements” at the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors conference April 4–8 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Morgan DePue, a senior sustainable development major, was the winner of this year’s Sherry Pruitt Poetry Contest. DePue’s poem, “Continuum: A River Prayer,” was an assignment for her creative writing class but was centered around the concept of river continuum.

Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment student Ryan Gillespie won first place in Appalachian’s Transportation Insight Center for Entrepreneurship 2017 Big Idea Pitch competition. The annual competition challenges students to pitch an original, innovative idea in just three minutes. He bested the competition and received $1,000 to build a solar powered electric bike frame from plant-based materials including bamboo and hemp. He’ll compete in a solar bike challenge in Europe this summer with his finished product.

Junior dance studies and graphic design double major Juliet Irving had her piece “From Here I Saw What Happened and I Cried” selected for the American College Dance Association (ACDA) regional conference’s gala concert after adjudication. Of the 36 works adjudicated, just 10 were selected for the concert. The conference, held March 15–18 in Charlotte, culminated with the gala concert.

Nina Mastandrea, a 2015 journalism graduate, won second place in the North Carolina Press Association (NCPA) Best News Feature 2016 contest. She was recognized in a ceremony on March 9 at NCPA’s Raleigh headquarters. Mastandrea’s winning feature focused on a homeless man and the relationship he built with members of Statesville’s First Baptist Church and several good Samaritans throughout his adult life.

Jessica Minch, a senior electronic media/broadcasting major, was named as a finalist for best campus news, best news cast and best spot news at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards ceremony in New York City this March.

Katie Mathewson, a senior communication studies major, presented her paper “Defining Physical Fitness Politically: A Discussion of Image and a Rhetorical Analysis of Political Discourse” at the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors conference April 4–8 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Katie Price, a senior communication studies major, was awarded best promo at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards ceremony in New York City this March.

Ryan Hellenbrand, a senior sustainable development and global studies double major was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship in March. The program, which officially begins in October 2017 and runs through June of 2018, will take him to the capital city of Innsbruck in Tyrol, Austria. While there, he will teach English at a local high school, attend classes at the University of Innsbruck and work with the Center for Migrants.

John McNair, a senior communication studies major, presented “Apocalypse to Innovation: Detecting a Shift in Climate Change Rhetoric” at the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors conference April 4–8 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Senior industrial design student Paul Slagle has been hired for a year-long paid internship at GE’s Louisville, Kentucky headquarters. During the
Morgan Wagstaff, a 2015 apparel design and merchandising graduate, launched her own sustainable fashion line in 2017, Two Fold Clothing. She exceeded her Kickstarter goal to fund her line, which is based in Charlotte.

Brent Weatherly, a senior graphic arts and imaging technology major, received Best in Category for packaging design at the Printing Industries of the Carolinas collegiate competition and was one of four finalists for the overall collegiate competition win.

Alicia Van Winkle, a senior electronic media / broadcasting major, was named music director of the year at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards ceremony in New York City this March. She was also named as one of Ria’s ‘Rising Stars,’ an award given to just three students. She was recognized at the Worldwide Radio Summit May 3–5 in Hollywood, California.

A team of students majoring in graphic arts and imaging technology won first place in the 2017 Phoenix Challenge for their work designing innovative packaging solutions for a local business. Team members included seniors Erin Donohue, Grant Murray and Sunny Turner along with juniors Savannah Cyzick and Lorna Galloway.

internship, he will work with multiple product divisions within GE.

The Appalachian State University Pershing Rifles (Military Science and Leadership) participated in the national conference and competition in Jacksonville, Florida on March 9. The team walked away with a second place trophy in platoon regulation, commanded by Benjamin Ramirez, and a third place trophy in squad regulation, commanded by Brett Aldridge. Two individuals were also recognized at the awards ceremony. Troy Jones received the Bronze Achievement Medal, and Sam Boyles received the Silver Achievement Medal. The team was also recognized for Best Company, while Phillip Wagner received the Gold Achievement Medal and Jeremy Tuggle received a scholarship for $2,000.

WASU Radio (Communication) was named as a finalist for best college radio station at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards ceremony in New York City this March. Bre Davis, a senior electronic media / broadcasting major, was also honored for her work on the WASU website, which was named as a finalist for best college radio station website.

A group of communication students from two electronic media / broadcasting classes worked together on a video production that received an Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association.

Appalachian State University ROTC Mountaineer Battalion took top honors in the Full Heavy Marathon event at the 2017 Mountain Man Memorial March. The team consisted of juniors Jack Simpson and Jacob Best, as well as sophomores James Gehret, Jeremy Tuggle and Matt Hodges.

Team Appalachian [In]sight, composed of seven students in the Department of Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment, placed second in the design category at the Department of Energy’s Race to Zero Competition in Golden, Colorado April 22–23. This international design competition challenges 40 student teams to compete by creating highly energy efficient, healthy and comfortable residential building designs that will generate as much energy as they consume. Team members included Hazel Chang, Ethan Gooch, Rowan Parris, Abe Somers, Ricky Bohlen, Bahar Shirkhanloo and Andrew Mackenzie.

Appalachian State University Pershing Rifles (Military Science and Leadership) participated in the national conference and competition in Jacksonville, Florida on March 9. The team
FINE AND APPLIED ARTS INNOVATION SCHOLARS

Dr. Anne Fanatico (Sustainable Development) and Dr. Jeremy Ferrell (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) propose to develop full-circle technologies in urban agriculture to extend year-round local food production in the Sustainable Development Civic Garden and to further nutrient reclamation of organic waste. Elements of the project — greenhouse optimization for cold-hardy crops, thermal inputs, community food donations, consultation with area farmers and black solded fly larva research — will support sustainability initiatives and provide opportunities for interdisciplinary work, student research and outreach as well as university organic waste management.

Kevin Gamble’s (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) project is designed to gather data around food waste management. Using national averages, food waste generation in Watauga County is estimated to be 5,800 tons per year. Gamble plans to develop a database of local businesses’ food recovery and food waste management practices to inform community food waste diversion strategies and their associated business models. His collaborators are Hei-Young Kim, research assistant, and Grace Plummer, program specialist, both in the Appalachian Energy Center.

Dr. Anna Ward (Theatre and Dance) and Erich Schlenker (Transportation Insight Center for Entrepreneurship) will work toward creating micro business opportunities for students and alumni with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Specifically, the Scholars with Diverse Abilities program (SDAP), the Walker College of Business and students from the Association of Student Entrepreneurs (ASE) will collaborate to launch Creative Unbound, an e-commerce platform to showcase artists with diverse abilities from SDAP, reproduce their artwork on various products and sell the products online. The goal is to have the project up and running in spring 2017 and self-sufficient by 2018.

Dr. Ok-Youn Yu and Dr. Jeremy Ferrell (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment), along with research assistant Hei-Young Kim in the Appalachian Energy Center, plan to build on research around an existing affordable biomass heating system for greenhouses developed by the Biomass Energy Research team, Nexus, currently under study on two local farms. They propose to test a root zone heat distribution system considered to be more energy efficient than space heating. Research around the biomass-heated greenhouses was initiated in 2015 to address the demand for local food that exceeds the supply due to shorter growing seasons in the area’s rough mountainous terrain and often-frigid winter weather. The root zone distribution system will enhance the efficiency with measurable benefits to the farmers in terms of longer growing season, the community in terms of increased local food supply, and the local environment in terms of fewer fossil fuel emissions.

GRANTS

Richard Elaver (Applied Design) and Dr. Mark Lewis (College of Business) have been awarded a $65,000 Active Learning Center Grant by Steelcase Education to support AppLab. The grant will cover the cost of furniture, design, installation, on-site training and pre- and post-occupancy measurement tools for the lab, which will be housed in HOW Space beginning in fall 2017. Senior interior design major Courtney Sullivan was also part of the grant-writing process. She created the renderings for the grant application using her expertise in Steelcase products obtained during a recent studio course.

Dr. Jeff Ramsdell (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) will collaborate with UNC Charlotte and use his planning grant of nearly $50,000 to launch the North Carolina Integrated Electric Utility Research Laboratory (NCIEURlab). The grant funds will be used to develop methodologies for managing the research platform, engage targeted funding sponsors and host a UNC system-wide workshop.

Dr. Rick Rheingans (Sustainable Development) has received nearly $100,000 to fund his research on heterogeneity and the impacts of rotovirus vaccinations in Asia.

Dr. Jamie Russell (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) was awarded $5,000 to develop a more efficient roof installation method for Ply Gem, LLC.

Brent Summerville (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) has been awarded an additional $20,000 for his “Wind for Schools” project, which brings turbines to K-12 schools in the region.
Dr. Anna Ward (Theatre and Dance) has received additional funding of more than $215,000 for her Scholars with Diverse Abilities program.

Dr. Valerie Wieskamp (Communication), along with Co-PIs Clark Maddux (Watauga Residential College) and Lynn Seafoss (English) have been awarded almost $100,000 to conduct their project Blurred Boundaries: The Experience of War and its Aftermath, with veterans and service members in the region.

CONGRATS, GRADS!

The college is proud to graduate just over 400 students this May, including 13 Military Science and Leadership students, who will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants on May 12.

Ian M. Berry, who will work in aviation
Maria L. Bienhoff, who will work in military intelligence
Dylan A. Coveney, who will join the infantry
Bradley N. Greene, who will join the infantry
Nelson J. Guillory, who will join the infantry
Jacob D. Harrington, who will work in the cyber division
Justin Hawkins, who will join the infantry
Terell J. Hurdle, who will join the infantry
Marissa Krzysko, who will work in military intelligence
Dominic M. Minor, who will join field artillery
Natasha E. Peting, who will work in military intelligence
Parker R. Scaggs, who will be an engineer
McCarthy M. Shelton, who will work in finance

FALL 2017: SAVE THE DATES

August 18: College welcome back meeting
August 21: Black and Gold Convocation
August 22: First day of classes
August 25: University-wide faculty and staff meeting
October 12-13: Fall Break
November 23-24: Thanksgiving Break
December 6: Last day of classes
December 16: Commencement