

PERSPECTIVES

Volume V Issue 3
February 2011

A publication by the Dean's Office for the faculty and staff of the College of Fine & Applied Arts

Change is Inevitable

By Glenda Treadaway, Dean

It has been an interesting start to the semester. We have planned for budget cuts for this year and next year. We have begun preparations for our upcoming SACS visit and for the possibility of some much needed space in Edwin Duncan Hall- two changes that are exciting and signal a step forward to the next era of our college. Some changes are not always welcomed; some changes are long overdue; and other changes are yet to be known. It is not change that should concern us, but how we respond to change. Change can be viewed as a new exciting adventure/opportunity or as an unwelcomed intruder on our normalcy. The question is "how will you respond?"

While budget cuts are certainly an unwelcomed change, it is a time that we can look at what we are doing and ask ourselves if we are doing it in the most efficient manner. It is time for us to work together as a college to see what we can do to collaborate and cooperate to create interdisciplinary programs that will strengthen all of our units. It

is a time of self-evaluation which will allow improvements to all of our programs. While self-evaluation is not always pleasant, it is necessary if we are to improve and move forward. I encourage each of you to take this time to look at what we do and ask what we could do better and what we need to do to move forward.

It is not change that should concern us, but how we respond to change... the question is "how will you respond?"

The SACS visit and preparations are very different this year. A Quality Enhancement Plan is being developed. I encourage all of you to look at these plans at <http://www.qep.app-state.edu>. Make comments and suggestions about these plans. Since it will be a focus of the university in the near future, think about how you can get involved. Let's be proactive in looking at how our units can help the university be successful in implementing a Quality Enhancement Plan.

The additional space we will gain from Edwin Duncan and the building of the Beasley Broadcasting Complex is much needed and overdue change. The Departments of Technology and Art are gaining some needed space in Edwin Duncan. The Department of Theatre and Dance will be gaining space in Chapel Wilson due to the Department of Social Work moving to Edwin Duncan. The Department of Communication is gaining some needed space in the new Beasley Broadcasting Complex. That in turn will give the Department of Art some additional space in Wey Hall. While the space may not be the most up-to-date space, it will provide relief for many of our departments. Let's look at this space as a beginning and think about how to utilize this space to further the goals of the department and college.

Regardless of the change, let's be ready to face it head on and look for ways that we can make the change work for us. Think of change as an adventure instead of as an intruder.

Faculty & Staff News

Laura Leigh Benfield Brittain (COM) delivered a paper entitled “Remembering to Forget” at the Third Annual Harlem Symposium: Art, Ethnicity, and Globalization- A Gathering of Internationally Renowned Artists and Scholars. The symposium takes up the question of art, ethnicity, and globalization in the context of Harlem’s past and future as an international center for the arts and culture. Highlights of the symposium included a lecture by James Elkins, E.C. Chadborne professor in the Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is recognized as one of the world’s preeminent art historians; a studio visit with Julie Merhetu, one of the world’s preeminent contemporary artists and recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship in 2005; and the lecture “Firefiles” by Simon Critchley, a British philosopher now teaching at the New School in New York.

Brittain also presented “Wodicko through the eyes of Levinas” in Italy at Castello di Spannocchia.

During summer 2010, Brittain participated in a summer Institute of Doctoral Studies in Visual Arts residency program WHERE. During the program, lectures and presentations took place across Europe and North America including: Stephen Greenblatt, at Spannocchia Castle, Tuscany, lecturing on the shift from feudalism to the rise of Renaissance culture; Howard Caygill, at Spannocchia Castle, Tus-



Laura Brittain (COM) with students at commencement.

cany, lecturing on Kant, Hegel, and the shift from Neoclassicism to Romanticism as well as contemporary art and aesthetics; Sharon Hecker in Milan, lecturing on DaVinci’s “Last Supper” on location and providing an introduction to other important Milan art sites including Dan Flavin’s light instillation at Santa Maria Church; Etienne Balibar, in Paris, lecturing on the shift from Romanticism to the bourgeois industrial revolution and the advent of modernism in Paris; John Rajchman in Paris, bringing the discussion of modernism forward to the question of “the contemporary;” and Paul Armstrong in Providence, RI, presenting a seminar on “Word and Image” and conducting a dissertation orientation.

IlaSahai Prouty (ART) received a 2011 University Research Council Grant in the amount of \$4,700 to develop a series of works in glass that explore how repetition builds

into rhythm and ritual. The grant monies will be used to work with a gaffer, or professional glassblower, to develop multiple components exploring how glass operates as a conceptual material.

In her grant she writes “I plan to capitalize on both the nature of the material and the performative process of glass blowing in my work. I find glass to be a material that operates as both an object and an idea. Hopefully, in my glass sculpture, we see the surface of the object, and also through it, to the idea embodied by it.”

Prouty was invited, as part of a select group of artists, to participate in the beta version of the United States Artists crowd-funding endeavor called Project Site. United States Artists is a foundation supporting the work of artist through large unrestricted grants and by hosting selected projects, for more information visit <http://www.unitedstatesartists.org/>



IlaSahai Prouty (ART)

A video about her project, *Dream Repeater: Boat Sinking*, is available at the site alongside images of her work and reflections on the creative process. Prouty has been working with the idea of repeating dreams in several ways and plans to make the space of a dream using glass and other materials.

With this grant she will “repeat” an anonymously collected dream called *Boat Sinking* as an installation. Prouty’s *Dream Repeater* series is on-going. As part of the series, she repeats the vivid and repeating dreams of others as sculptures and installations, invites repetitions of her own repeating dreams, and considers the implications of repetition as it relates to rhythm and ritual. At the time of publication, Prouty has been very successful, having raised 128% of her goal, or \$7,650.

Prouty was also invited to participate in *Plunder the Influence*, a collaboration initiated by artist Adriane Herman that examines physical manifestations and sources of influence. As part of the exhibition, blog and book, invitees were asked to document their shelves or stacks of books and to think and write about them for this context. View the blog version at http://adrianeherman.typepad.com/plunder_the_influence/

This project was occasioned by *The Storytellers*, an exhibition curated by Henry Wolyniec at the Unum Great Reading Room at the University of Southern Maine’s Glickman Library (January 24-March 12, 2011) and is funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commis-

sion, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jody Servon (ART, Director of Catherine J. Smith Gallery) has work in the exhibition “Local Histories: The Ground We Walk On” in Chapel Hill, NC through April 29, with an opening reception to be held February 11. The exhibition of over 50 artists from across the U.S. explores Alfredo Jaar’s idea that “place can not be global,” and is curated by artist Elin O’Hara Slavick and art historian Carol Magee, both professors in the Art Department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The exhibition represents a unique collaboration between the Town of Chapel Hill and the UNC Art Department and features current and former students and faculty of the department as well as others from the region and across the country. The featured artists, including Servon, were selected from among over 150 applications.



A piece of art from Barbara Yale-Read 's (ART) exhibition entitled "Word Processing"

Barbara Yale-Read (ART) is exhibiting several works in The Galleries of the Cabarrus Arts Council in Concord, NC. The exhibition is entitled “Word Processing” and includes the work of artists who use texts, letters, and words as texture, design, and a vehicle to deliver their point of view. Ceramics, painting, and installation are featured in this exhibition. She also gave a gallery talk on February 3.

Tina McCorkindale (COM) presented a session on online teaching at the Public Relations Society of America International Conference in Washington, D.C. She is the chair-elect for PRSA’s Educators Academy and is a member of PRSA’s National Research Committee.



Tina McCorkindale (COM)

Tom Mueller (COM) is a co-founder of ASU’s newest Residential Learning Community, the “Active Living” RLC. The new community will be housed in Cannon Hall, where Mueller is faculty in residence. The new Active Living RLC “fosters an environment that encourages a well-rounded balance of mind, body, and spirit in order to achieve personal and academic success. Residents in the Active Living community share common interests in fitness, endurance sport, strength enhancement, outdoor adventure, nutrition, flexibility training, and positive mental health includ-



Tom Mueller (COM)

ing relaxation and rest. The Active Living RLC engages in programs that explore, build, and heighten an ongoing interest in an engaged, active lifestyle."

As part of this new community, Mueller developed and

had approved a First Year Seminar entitled "Endurance Sport and Society." Active Living Residents will be instructed to enroll in this course as part of their freshman experience. "I was excited to learn that Chris McDougall's 'Born to Run' has been named as the summer reading book for Fall 2011; it integrates perfectly into my course content," Mueller commented.

Cindy Spurlock (COM) has two recent publications: "For God and Country? A Critical Re/Vision of *America's Best Idea*" in Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture and "The Rhetorical, Performative Poetics of Sherman Alexie: Critical Reflections on Affect, Memory, and Subjectivity" in Critical Insight: Sherman Alexie (Leon Lewis, Ed.)

Garner Dewey (Dean's Office) with Meg Marck-Kennedy (Director of Appalachian Overseas Education Programs) and Carter Hammett-McGarry (Director of General Education) presented at the Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting

in San Francisco, California. The focus of the conference was "Global Positioning: Essential Learning, Student Success, and the Currency of U.S. Degrees." Their roundtable discussion, *General Education Global to Local Perspective with Study Abroad in Costa Rica* encompassed information regarding the development, planning and implementation of last fall semester's innovative, in-coming freshman international experience.



An image from the exhibit "Out of the Blue- Continued" featuring work from Dee Pelliccio (Dean's Office) and Andy Wilson (ASU Alumnus)

Dee Pelliccio (Dean's Office) and Andy Wilson showed their collaborative artwork at Earthfare from January 4-February 1, including an artists' reception on January 22. The theme of the exhibit was "Out of the Blue-Continued," with the medium of oil and mixed media and subject of abstract landscapes.

Wilson is an alumnus of ASU's Walker College of Business. As part of the recovery process from a 2007 stroke, Wilson began painting and working with Pelliccio. Wilson and Pelliccio both claim the other has been instru-

mental in their growth and development as artists, as well as their belief that they have "Talent On Loan From God or T.O.L.F.G."

Ray Miller (TD) published "Global Perspectives on Dance and Pedagogy; Research and Practice" in the Winter 2010 Vol 42/2 issue of Dance Research Journal.

In addition, Miller was a convener and presented a paper on "Dance Dramaturgy/Theatre Dramaturgy: A Dialogue to Explore Distinctions and Possibilities" at the November 2010 Joint Association for Theatre and Higher Education and the Congress on Research and Dance Conference in Seattle.

Joel Williams (TD) serves as a Circuit Coordinator for Region IV of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Annually, he is responsible for recruiting and assigning theatre faculty and professionals to serve as respondents to approximately 50 registered theater productions in North Carolina and Southern Virginia. He also participates as a directing mentor for students invited to direct ten-minute play readings at the annual Regional Festival. This year's festival, held in Daytona Beach February 1-6, featured six invited productions from southeastern colleges and universities as well as readings of selected new scripts written by students. ASU's Department of Theatre and Dance will be well-represented at this year's festival. *The Pursuit of Mr. Rockefeller*, a new play written by ASU student Jonathan Fitts and directed

by Joel Williams will be performed by ASU students at the Festival. The show will be considered for an invitation to the national level and a performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Additional faculty and staff will also attend the festival. **John Marty**, Assistant Professor in Theatre and Dance, will serve as lighting designer for the production of *Rockefeller*. **Anna Ward**, Lecturer in Theatre and Dance, and Neil Reda, technical director of the Valborg Theatre, will be directing respectively, *Red Bug* and *The Last Drink of Quincy Wright*. These short plays, also written by Jonathan Fitts, were vetted and selected by festival organizers as two of the six best submitted from students across the region.

Jeanne Mercer-Ballard (TEC) has been accepted to present “The Watauga High School Project: A Case Study in Community and Design Collaboration” at the Fifth International Conference on Design Principles and Practices at Sapienza University in Rome, Italy on February 3. Mercer-Ballard will then travel to Florence to form a program relationship with Lorenzo de Medici for study abroad opportunities.

Donald Corey (TEC) recently had four of his products published in the book, “1,000 Product Designs: Form, Function, and Technology from Around the World” by Eric Chan from Rockport Publishers (ISBN-10 1592536387).

In addition, Corey has arranged a sponsored project for his IND 3711 Design Studio II class with Irwin Industrial Tools. Irwin has



Donald Corey (TEC) has four products featured in the book “1,000 Product Designs: Form, Function, and Technology from Around the World”

agreed to give the Industrial Design Program \$12,000 to be used to purchase a new rapid prototyping machine that the student will use to complete the project. This is the third time Irwin has worked with assistant professor Corey and students in the IND 3711 class. Students will be working on tool designs with Irwin’s design team. According to Corey, “It is a great way for students to really get insight into the corporate design world. The design team at Irwin is so generous with time, feedback, and experience, the students really have an amazing experience.”

Sid Connor (TEC), John Craft (TEC), Kevin Howell (TEC), and Michelle Sureus

(TEC) attended the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering Conference in Panama City, Florida. Connor served as Co-Chair of the Standards and Accreditation Committee and was involved with certification hearings scheduled during the conference. Craft presided as president of the Graphics Division. He also finished his term as a member of the Executive Board and was presented with a plaque for service to the board and members of ATMAE. Howell reported at the Epsilon Pi Tau meeting as Region 2 Director. Surerus discussed the impact of rapid changes caused by advances in digital technology as a challenge to the teaching of print media technology. Her informational presentation was titled, “The Evolution of Skills Needed by the Printing Industry- Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going, and How To Keep Up?”

John Craft (TEC) and Tom Reeves (TEC) of the Thomas W. Reese Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology Program were invited speakers at the Printing Industries of the Carolinas Fall 2010 Conference held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. PICA facilitates the conference that brings together educators and industry professionals for a weekend of digital and traditional print media technology updates, training, and sharing of best practices. More than twenty graphic communication educators from universities, junior colleges and high schools attended this event.

Reeves presented on the topic of “Flexography in the Classroom.” His informational pre-

sensation addressed Appalachian's commitment to flexographic education and offered strategies for effective teaching of flexographic printing concepts. He also demonstrated a method for optimizing anilox rolls- these are special cylinders containing cells filled with ink during the press run (a product produced by Ron and Katherine Harper's company).

Craft presented on "Using Photoshop CS5 to generate Color Separations for Screen Printing." Craft explained the use of the Indexed Color Mode in Photoshop CS5 to produce color separations for screen-printing. Examples of images that are suitable for screen-printing and techniques for quality printing were included in the session.

Chad Everhart (TEC) recently completed his service as the 2010 President of the American Institute of Architects Winston-Salem Section. Everhart has served as a board member since 2008 and will continue to serve as Past-President in 2011.

Kern Maass (TEC) received funding from the College of Fine and Applied Arts, International Education and Development, and the Technology Department to travel and attend the International Design Principles and Practices Conference in Rome, Italy. Maass will be presenting his paper "Sketch-Modeling for Success: Best Practices for Concept Generation." In addition, Maass will be building relationships with industry partners and extending study abroad opportunities for design students.

Dennis Scanlin (TEC) and the Technology Department recently received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for a three-year project called "Wind for Schools." The goals of the project are to develop and implement a statewide program to integrate the study of wind energy into the public schools, to construct model small wind turbines on



Dennis Scanlin and the Technology Department are working on a three-year project called "Wind for Schools"

school campuses with good wind resources, and to establish a Wind Application Center on the campus of Appalachian State University. Five graduate students are currently staffing the Wind Application Center and provide technical assistance to teachers and school administrators as well as the general public in

regard to wind energy.

Jeff Tiller (TEC) is the Principle Investigator for a \$2.55 million project seeking to develop increased implementation of high efficiency homes in North Carolina. Appalachian State is partnering with North Carolina State University, Advanced Energy Corporation, Southern Energy Management, and a wide variety of other organizations on the project. The North Carolina Energy Efficiency Alliance was formed to develop an ongoing structure that will continue after the project ends and will be housed within the Department of Technology. The most difficult task of the effort is to work with homebuilders, Home Energy Raters, realtors, home buyers and others in the homebuilding industry to certify 3,000 homes as meeting high efficiency standards, such as ENERGY STAR. In addition, the project team is conducting a wide variety of research activities on new homes, including monitoring energy usage and comfort conditions in the field, analysis of energy bills and consumption data, and computer modeling. To conduct



the day-to-day activities of the project, the Department of Technology has hired a staff that includes Program Manager **Chuck Perry**, Assistant Program Managers **Nick Hurst** and **Landon Williams**, several Research Assistants including **Sean Gray** and **Lawrence Lippard**, and several Graduate Assistants.

Tiller is also serving as the lead on a project to develop a high efficiency Residential and Commercial Energy Code for the State of North Carolina. The project has featured a variety of analytical efforts to estimate the impact of dozens of energy measures on energy consumption of both homes and commercial buildings. For each measure, the project team estimated the additional costs and evaluated the economic impact on cash flow for homeowners and building operators, as well as societal impacts such as potential employment opportunities. This December, after months and months of arduous meetings, the state's Building Codes Council passed the proposed code. The overall project made the editorial pages of newspapers across the state, which strongly supported the work.

Tiller is the Co-Chair of a Conference on a Renewable Energy Future for Mexico, to be held at Universidad de las Americas Puebla (UDLAP) in Cholula, near Puebla, over Spring Break. The conference is one task of a larger project to develop research opportunities and academic programs in renewable energy at UDLAP. Other faculty working on the project include Jesse Iutabingwa, Director of the Office of International Education and

Development, **Jeff Ramsdell**, **Marie Hoepfl**, and **Brian Raichle**. This January, Brian Raichle and Jeff Tiller visited UDLAP for long days working on the many tasks for the project, which include several community solar demonstration systems, recruiting 9 students to attend Appalachian State for one year in the Renewable Energy Engineering program, writing proposals for research funding, conducting educational programs for the faculty at UDLAP, and working on the conference. Over the weekend, the most difficult task of the visit, Jeff and Brian managed to trudge up La Malinche, a nearby volcano that is over 14,600 feet in height. This summer, the project team will be conducting educational programs in the Department of Technology for faculty and students from UDLAP, as well as installing a solar project in a rural community near Cholula.

Grants

The College of Fine and Applied Arts earned \$10,080 in grant awards for the months of November and December, 2010.

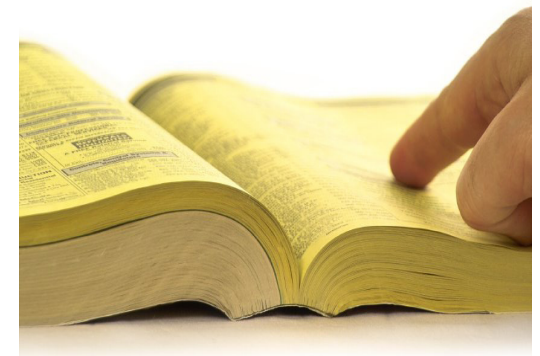
Marie Hoepfl (TEC) was awarded \$10,080 from the Caldwell County Green Commission/AIRE for ARRA: Appalachian Energy Internship Program.

FAA Directory

The FAA Directory has now been updated to work with our new FAA website! The directory has been populated with all the existing data from the old directory. You can filter the directory by Department and sort by name, department, area, email, or phone. There is a link to the directory in the Resources box located in the left pane of every page on the FAA website, or you can go there directly by typing faa.appstate.edu/directory

Anyone with a profile on the FAA directory can edit their profile from the FAA website. Directions for editing your profile can be found at faa.appstate.edu/faculty-web-profile

Please take this opportunity to update your profile with current information.



The New FAA Directory is easier, faster, and has more information! Update your profile today!

What is the University Mace?

Commencement is full of tradition and symbolism. Higher education retains many customs of its origins, especially during commencement ceremonies. The photo at right made us question, why do we carry a mace during commencement?

The Appalachian State University mace is carried by a senior faculty member in all academic processions. Traditionally, the mace bearer precedes the chancellor of an institution, both upon entering and leaving a ceremony. The mace serves as a symbol of authority just as it did during the Middle Ages when a mace bearer accompanied an official taking office or opening court.

The Appalachian Mace symbolizes the University's mountain heritage, the rustic location and the sophistication of an emerging, national leader in higher education. Its design, as a walking stick with a base constructed of roughhewn log and finished molding, is appropriate to the natural environment of the area. At the top of the mace is a soaring, red-tailed hawk, native to the area. The hawk symbolizes power and authority as well as the empowerment of education. The talons are grasping a sphere containing two quartz crystals. The first crystal represents the global nature of the University, its educational programs, alumni, and students. The second quartz crystal within the sphere is a reproduction of Grandfather Mountain.

The letters ASU relieved within the pine cone are done in black enamel and are gold plated. The various bands represent the flora and fauna native to the area. The black walnut, one of the strongest of woods, was used to symbolize the staying power of the University. The mace was constructed by Carolina Bronze of Asheville. Fittingly, two Appalachian students and an Appalachian graduate were involved in the production. It was commissioned by the Appalachian Alumni Association in 1994.

Have a question about higher education traditions and symbols or a story idea about academia? Send your questions and ideas to hutchenscs@appstate.edu



Martha Marking (TD) peeks out from behind a banner at Tony Cary, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs during Fall 2010 Commencement.

Fundraising Corner: Friend Raising

By Lisa Gonzalez

(gonzalezlb@appstate.edu)

This past month Dean Treadaway and I had the opportunity to visit with the Kiwanis Club in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. The organization is known for its support of education.

We explained the many ways that ASU and The College of Fine and Applied Arts provides the best resources and educational experience to our students. We also had the opportunity to share some of the goals and needs of our College to an audience that shares our commitment to educational excellence. We have begun building new relationships with hopes that they will become involved with our College.

Civic organizations like the Kiwanis are great places to find supporters of our program. The individuals who choose to be active members of civic groups generally feel a responsibility to their community, are great advocates for the causes they hold dear, and are usually willing to give their time, talent, and dollars in support of programs and ideas that align with their group's cause.

continued next page

Communication Connection: Survey Says!

By Christie Hutchens (hutchenscs@appstate.edu)

Thank you to those of you who provided feedback about *Perspectives* in our last survey. The information we gained will help us to make this publication serve you better. After all, *Perspectives* is for you, the faculty and staff of our college, and we want to ensure that each publication contains information and stories that you will find interesting and useful.



Striving for excellent internal communication!

Some of the ideas your feedback generated are:

More photos- You asked for more photos of the individuals highlighted in Faculty/Staff News so that we can all get to know each other better and put faces to names. When you submit items for *Perspectives*, consider

including a photo related to your story or one of yourself!

The Broader Perspective- Based on your suggestions, we'd like to start including articles that focus on Best Practices, Teaching Tips, and Pedagogy. I need your help! If you have an interest in these areas and would be interested in writing a guest column for future issues, please contact me.

More integration with our website- We have a great new website thanks to our IT team. You go there regularly to find information and answers to questions. We're working on ways that we can use the website, along with *Perspectives*, to make our communication efforts more effective and interesting. Do you have ideas? I'd love to hear them, please contact me.

If you didn't get a chance to respond to our survey or have other ideas, share them with me anytime. My work serves you and I can do a better job with your guidance. I'm always open to your ideas about how to keep our college more engaged and informed.

Fundraising continued

Dean Treadaway and I look for opportunities to share the Fine and Applied Arts story and vision with groups like this because it can help build a foundation of support within our community. If you are a member of a civic or community organization, consider the ways in which you might share what's happening in our College or encourage your fellow members to support our many activities. It may be as simple as letting your organization know of some of our student theatre performances or encouraging them to participate in our Craft Enrichment Series. We encourage you to be an advocate of the College of Fine and Applied Arts and help us in one of the most important aspects of fundraising-Friend Raising.

Significant Progress Made with Technology Department's Gas Char Initiative

The Gas Char Initiative, (GCI) has made significant progress since last fall. The GCI is in the second year of a three year project funded by two Environmental Protection Agency, P3 grants; year one, \$10,000, years two and three, \$75,000.

The team has been working primarily on four projects simultaneously. The bulk of their efforts have been concentrated on developing the GCI Research Center, at Resource Wood Inc. (RWI), in Church Hollow, Foscoe, NC. The center occupies a corner of the RWI sawmill/woodlot surrounded by biomass. The GCI's prime objective is converting biomass, i.e. waste wood, into agricultural biochar and energy. The center currently consists of a small green house, storage building, and trailer garage. The green house is a test plot for com-

bined heat and power, (CHP) and the trailer is a mobile platform for testing and demonstrating gasification.

The second project consists of research and design for biochar production and testing. The work will amp up with a "Char Party" (testing the process) when winter's grip relaxes.

The third project is the construction of a biomass gasifier. The gasifier is being welded and assembled in the Technology Department metals laboratory.

The fourth project is an application of biochar for agricultural augmentation and water conservation. Four undergraduate students are participating in an independent study course to learn about Green Roof Systems, (GRS). They will be conducting research sponsored by three OSR grants and an OSR assistantship. The work will evaluate the effectiveness of biochar for GRS soil. This study is unprecedented in the literature.

The GRS, gasification, and biochar production projects are



Sam Sink, graduate student, grinding on a gasifier reactor vessel

focusing on participation in the 14th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors, held on Thursday, April 14, 2011.

The GCI team is composed of a number of faculty, students, and community members, including Principle Investigator **Dr. David Domermuth**, Dept. of Technology. Principles include: **Bucky Black**, RWI, **Dr. Susan Doll** and **Dr. Jim Houser** TEC faculty; Sebastian Brundage, Landon Abernethy, Justin Hackler and Sam Sink, Ethan Labowitz, TEC graduate students; Virginia Butler, Andrew Leon, Hannah Wallach, and Sophie Dupont TEC students.



The Heavy Metal Team, part of the GCI group

FAA Faculty Helping to Shape Appalachian's Future

Appalachian State University is currently engaged in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SAC-SOC) reaffirmation of accreditation process. A major component of this process is the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which, according to SACSOC "is the component of the reaffirmation process that reflects and affirms the commitment of the Commission on Colleges to enhancing the quality of higher education in the region and to focusing attention on student learning." The QEP is an opportunity for the institution to define a topic or issue that can enhance student learning and guide future planning, growth, and development. While most elements of accreditation focus on past achievements, the QEP represents the opportunity to look to the future and chart the course for the next era of student learning.

In October 2010, the QEP Topic Selection Council began accepting Concept Papers from faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Finalists were asked to expand on their initial concept paper by providing details related to SACSCOC requirements, particularly in the areas of student learning outcomes, institutional "fit," and assessment. After gathering feedback through public forums and the QEP website, the Topic Selection Task Force will select one or more topics to send forward to the SACS leadership team for consideration. The Leadership Team will select a single topic for ASU's QEP and the Development Task

Force will begin their work to develop, refine, and implement Appalachian's QEP.

Three of the six concept paper semi-finalist teams include faculty from the College of Fine and Applied Arts. We applaud our colleagues for taking the initiative to contribute to the future of Appalachian State University!

Concept Paper Semi-Finalist Teams:

Student Research: Alan Utter (HLES), Kathy Weaver (Office of Student Research), and Eric Allain (Chemistry)

Globalization: Jesse Lutabingwa (Office of International Education and Development) and Renee Scherlen (Government and Justice Studies)

Citizenship and Engagement: Shari Galiardi (University College), **Norman Clark (COM)**, Nancy Love (Interdisciplinary Studies Program), and Pat Beaver (Center for Appalachian Studies)

Into the Outdoors: Jerry Cantwell (HLES) and Andrew Miller (Outdoor Programs)

"Living in a globally connected world demands that we re-invent how we do business, how we educate our students and how we communicate with each other.

Working alongside these other artists has been exhilarating because we are taking what we know from working in the studio and on the stage and applying it to many other areas of our lives from sustainability to new technologies. It is not just about talking about things; but creating a place in which students and faculty from different disciplines roll up their sleeves and try to solve problems creatively, imaginatively with passion and commitment."

Ray Miller (TD)



Creativity and the Arts: **Ray Miller (TD)**, Bell Pelto (School of Music), **Marianne Adams (TD)**, and **Mike Grady (ART)**

Sustainability: Vachel Miller (Leadership and Educational Studies), Crystal Simmons (Physical Plant Administration), Ged Moody (Vice Chancellor Business Affairs) and **Susan Doll (TEC)**

We all have a stake in the QEP and the outcome of the accreditation process. Take the time to visit the QEP website (qep.appstate.edu) to learn more and share your feedback.

Graduation Audits

The student records area of the dean's office processes graduation audits for students in our college. These audits are official reviews of a student's program and are very important for ensuring that the student is on track to graduate on time. We will process audits for students who meet the following requirements:

- Must have a minimum of 90 semesters hours earned.
- Must be within one or two semesters of graduating. Students who will be completing an internship or student teaching in their last semester are an exception, and they should request the audit two semesters prior to their student teaching/internship.
- The dean's office must have memos on all substitutions and waivers in the student's file.
- If the minor requires a contract, the dean's office must have a signed copy of the contract in the student's file.
- The students must know which check-sheet they are following and give us the correct checksheet year when filling out the audit request. Advisors: Please make sure to remind your advisees which checksheet they are following each time you meet with them.

Please note that the audit is a final check of

the student's program, and does not take the place of advising. Advisors should not require a student to have an audit before they are advised.

Students must come to our office and fill out an audit request. Audits are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we will only process one audit per student. Our office receives a tremendous number of audit requests, especially during the early registration periods. Once we receive graduation applications for the current semester, we suspend processing of audits in order to notify graduating seniors of their status. The audit process generally takes 3-4 weeks, but will be longer if requested while we are checking out seniors.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Beth, Mark or Dee at 262-7129.



Spring Commencement 2011
May 7, 2011
9 am

Faculty Awards

Please submit nominations for Outstanding Scholarship/Creative Activity Award, Outstanding Service Award, and Outstanding Teaching Award.

Details of the process and forms can be found at <http://faa.appstate.edu/forms>

The deadline for submitting these nominations to Dr. Garner Dewey in the Dean's Office is March 1.

Please help us recognize our wonderful faculty through these awards!

Commencement Speaker

Please submit the names of possible individuals who could serve as commencement speaker for our college's graduation in May.

Recommendations must be submitted to Dr. Garner Dewey by March 1.

Assessment Update

By Garner Dewey

The College of Fine and Applied Arts continues to work through its five departments and 20 of its programs to develop a comprehensive assessment program that is essential not only for SACS accreditation, but also to provide valuable documentation and direction with regard to our programs' missions, visions, learning outcomes, and academic effectiveness.

In our college, this multi-year rigorous internal and external assessment review process is being led by **Dr. Garner Dewey, Associate Dean**, and Dr. Pete Wachs, Associate Director of Institutional Research and Planning.



Garner Dewey, Associate Dean, is leading the accreditation process for our College.

However, the bulk of the work is being completed by the entire faculty through the leadership of assessment coordinators from each program and the guidance of department chairs. Although much has already been accomplished, there is still significant work that is required.

The Dean's Office would like to thank our faculty and especially the assessment coordinators for all the ways that you are contributing to make our programs stronger. We would also like to encourage each of our faculty members to continue with the diligent work as the process of findings of assessment are imperative not only for ASU's accreditation, but to the effectiveness of our teaching. For more information regarding SACS and accreditation, please visit <http://sacs.appstate.edu>

Technology Update:

Digital Measures

By Tony Grant (grantab@appstate.edu)

Digital Measures (DM) is our Faculty Annual Report information repository. In other words, Digital Measures is a database for entering and managing annual report data for faculty at Appalachian State University. This is a Web-based application that will pool data for later review. Each full time faculty is required to use this system for their annual review.

The system is pretty easy to use and fairly intuitive. The College of Fine and Applied Arts successfully used this system last year. Some colleges have been using DM for several

years.

With DM you can be proactive. The system is available for data input at any time. Upload your syllabi and/or add professional accomplishments. A little here and a little there makes the task seem much less daunting.

One of the really great features about DM is that it allows for collaborative project reporting. If you are reporting a project that has multiple authors/contributors you will need to make sure the other participants have not already entered that item.

Another use for DM is personal professional record storage. You can use the system to create your vitae. Administrators can use the

information to make better organizational decisions.

If you need a refresher course, or are new to Digital Measures, send me an e-mail. We can run group or individual training sessions to get you going. We also have setup a launch page (<http://faa.appstate.edu/digitalmeasures/>) with helpful information about getting started.

Theatre and Dance Productions

<http://www.theatre.appstate.edu/current-season>

New Play Festival

February 9-12

I.G. Greer Studio Theatre

The Other Shore by Gao Xingjian

February 23-27

Valborg Theatre

Directed by Kin-Yan Szeto

How to Build a Forest

March 2-3

Valborg Theatre

With visiting artist Pearl Damour

Drum Song of Africa: Choriato's Journey

April 1-3

I.G. Greer Studio Theatre

Directed by Teresa Lee

Appalachian Dance Ensemble

March 23-26

Farthing Auditorium

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

April 13-17

Valborg Theatre

By William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin

Directed by Joel Williams



Dates and Deadlines

March 3-11	University Break
April 22	State Holiday
April 27	Last day of formal class meeting pattern
April 28	Reading Day
April 29-May 4	Final Exam Period (Excluding Sunday, May 1)
May 5	Faculty Grading Period
May 6	Final Grades Due by 1 pm
May 6-8	Commencement Ceremonies

PERSPECTIVES

is published twice during the fall and spring semesters by the Dean's Office of the College of Fine & Applied Arts for its faculty and staff to promote faculty and staff achievements and share news and information.

Submissions are due one week prior to publication and are to be submitted electronically to
hutchenscs@appstate.edu

2010-2011 Publication Dates

September 15

November 17

February 9

April 20

PERSPECTIVES

Contributing Writers and Editors

Dr. Glenda Treadaway
Dean

Christie Hutchens
Director of Communication

Lisa Gonzalez
Director of Development

Tony Grant and Josh Hodges
Computer Consultants