AN APPALACHIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2007 SEASON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tickets will be available online or by calling 262-4046 or visit www.appsummer.org. Payroll deduction is available for any ticket purchase of $100 or more (only $8.33/month).

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

Fundraising Follow-up

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

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

MLK Challenge Recap

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

March/April

Announcements

Please join us for the next Staff Council meeting, April 12, 2007 at 1:30pm, Room 1224 IG. Greer. We will be electing new officers at this meeting, please plan to attend. Every vote counts!

Annual enrollment for health benefits is going on now! Check the Q&A section in this Update and make your choice today. If you have any questions, contact the HR Benefits Department, Angie Miller (262-6769, millerad@appstate.edu) or Vicky Carter (262-4678, vcarteag@appstate.edu).

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

A memorial scholarship fund that was set up for Fran Rhodes. The Tiffany Rhodes Memorial Fund or in memory of Tiffany Road, Creston, NC 28615. Please make checks payable to FH Foundation. In addition to training, he is also trying to raise $4400 for the Leukemia Society. To make a donation, please visit: www.active.com/donate/tntwnc/tntwncRCharle. With questions, email Bob Chamberlin or Vicky Greene (262-6616, greenevb@appstate.edu).

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

STAFF UPDATE

by Michelle Menski

March/April

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

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

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

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

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

Staff Happenings

Congratulations to: Susan Marko (LHI) for receiving the Women of Influence Staff award at the Women’s Conference March 3, 2007 and for becoming a member of the Prestigious Scholars Honor Program.

Condolences to: Kathy Howell (Admissions) on the death of her son.

Eric Hart (LAP) on the death of his sister.

On June 1, 2007 Bob Charlebois (Conference Services Manager, Broyhill Inn) will be running the San Diego Rock n Roll Marathon as part of the Leukemia Society’s Team in Training. In addition to training, he is also trying to raise $4400 for the Leukemia Society. To make a donation, please visit: www.active.com/donate/tntwnc/tntwncRCharle. With questions, email Bob charlebois@appstate.edu.

An Appalachian Summer Festival is a celebration of art and culture, offering a wide range of events including music, dance, theater, and visual arts. The festival attracts artists and performers from around the world, providing a platform for creative expression and community engagement. The MLK Challenge Recap highlights the spirit of volunteerism and social responsibility among the staff, who dedicate their time and energy to making a positive impact in the community. The updates also include announcements about scholarship opportunities, upcoming events, and staff achievements, showcasing the diversity of activities and contributions within the Appalachian State University community.
FAqs about Annual Enrollment
Q: When is annual enrollment?
Q: When will I receive new ID cards if I am making a change?
A: New ID cards will be mailed to your home address prior to 7/1/07.
Q: What are the key differences between the Indemnity Plan and the NC Smartchoice PPO Plans?
A: With the PPO Plans, State members save on their medical costs by avoiding deductibles and coinsurance for in-network, non-hospital based physician office visits. The PPO plan provides choice. State members have three PPO plan options, with varying levels of coverage from which to choose.

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

Q: What are the rates for the 2007/2008 benefit year?
A: The rates for the 2007/2008 benefit year have not been established and will be determined during this year’s legislative session. Based on the market trends, it is likely that all plan options will experience a rate increase. If a rate increase should not change the premium structure between plans, therefore the 70/30 plan will most likely be the lowest premium for dependent coverage and the 90/10 plan will most likely have the highest premium for dependent coverage. Unfortunately the actual rates and benefits for both the PPO plans and the Indemnity plan will not be made available until after annual enrollment if a rate change, the State Health Plan will evaluate the rates when they are approved by the legislature. All rate changes will become effective October 1, 2007 and be deducted from the September 2007 paycheck.
Q: What changes can be made during annual enrollment?
A: Enrollment in one of the PPO plans or the indemnity plan if not a current member; Switch plans if already enrolled; Choose another plan.
Q: What if I need more than one eye exam per year? For more information, contact the office at 262-3411.
A: If a provider has a yellow circle on the directory, it indicates that only one eye exam can be provided per calendar year, and no exceptions are allowed for.

Q: Is it true that the prescription benefits on the PPO plans are the same as the current indemnity plan?
A: The pharmacy benefit on the PPO plans is the same benefit as on the indemnity plan, except for diabetic supplies.

Q: Under the PPO plans, pharmacy supplies such as syringes, lancets and test strips can be purchased for a copay at participating pharmacies under the pharmacy benefit.
Q: What do the symbols mean?
A: If a provider has a yellow circle on the directory, it means the doctor MAY bill for services as outpatient services, subject to the deductible and coinsurance.

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

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

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

Now that the task is “spring cleanup” which is well underway. Among many other things, landscape staff will be raking lawns, cleaning drains and curbs, picking up trash, and feeding the local wildlife.

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The first signs of spring will be showing up soon (if not already) all around campus with existing bulbs in addition to the Darwin and tulips that were planted last fall. Also be on the lookout for the quince, forsythia, rhododendron ‘Plum Easy’, variety flame azaleas, scabious, redbud, red mulberry, Dr. Appling’s Putnam and some of the first spring bloomers that indicate the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Homeowners please keep in mind that you can order some of the first spring bloomers that indicate the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Homeowners please keep in mind that you can order some of the first spring bloomers that indicate the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Homeowners please keep in mind that you can order spring bulbs from the Southern Living catalog.

Touch of Japan, Learn to Use Chopsticks, Mehandi Henna Painting, Dove Tattoos, Diversity Poetry Collage, Mask Making, Unity Weave, More You Know, The More You Grow - Water the Garden" has

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New Hire
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New PPO Plans:

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

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