**News Briefs**

**Partners In Progress Funds Sevier County Scholarships**
WSSC has joined with Sevier County to create the Partners in Progress Scholarship Program which will pay the maintenance fees for every high school graduate in Sevier County. Beginning with the class of 2003, graduates with a 2.7 GPA and a composite score of 19 on the ACT can attend WSSC for free. In addition to making higher education a reality for many students, the program will serve as an incentive for middle and high school students to perform better academically.

**WSCC Alumnus Named To Head Safety Department**
WSCC alumnus Fred Phillips has been named commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety by Gov. Phil Bredesen. Prior to being named to the state’s top law enforcement position, Phillips was serving his third term as Washington County sheriff. Phillips earned an A.S. in Criminal Justice from Walters State in 1990.

**WSCC’s Culinary Arts Team Brings Home Bronze Medal**
WSSC’s Culinary Team earned a bronze medal at this year’s American Culinary Federation Southeast Regional Competition held in Charlotte. Team members prepared a complicated and tasty menu of roasted corn and tomato chowder, seasonal poached pear salad, grilled asparagus, venison rack and winter vegetables and sweet potato Bavarian cream with blood orange zest for dessert. The team is coached by Chef Catherine Hallman.

**Program Prepares Students For Show Business**
Imagine your teenager comes home and announces he or she has decided on a career in engineering, accounting or education. You’d be proud—and rightfully so. But what if that student instead tells you about plans for a career as an entertainer?

While you may be proud of your child’s talents, you may also be hesitant to support such a career choice. Visions of a steady, lucrative and respected career would probably be replaced with images of starving musicians and seedy agents.

Enter Walters State’s Professional Entertainment Program. Its mission is to prepare talented students with both the artistic and practical skills needed to make it in a business known for its unwelcoming stance. The program also provides Sevier County’s growing entertainment business with needed professional talent.

“Many theatres in Sevier County have our graduates in their casts,” boasts Deborah Hicks, director of the three-year-old program. Graduates are also working at venues throughout the South and on several cruise lines.

In developing the curriculum, Hicks, who was herself a professional musician for 25 years before becoming an educator, met with producers and directors from several entertainment companies to find out exactly what characteristics make up the ideal entertainer. Some things that made the list are obvious, like the ability to read music. Others surprise students.

Most producers, for example, aren’t interested in people who can dance or sing. They want someone to do both.

“Most of our students sing or dance when they arrive, but few do both well enough to get a job. That’s something we start working on immediately because we know it will be easier for them to find work if they can do both.”

Contrary to popular belief, Hicks insists that almost anyone can be taught to sing and dance—to a certain degree.

“Almost everyone can be taught to match pitches,” she explains. “We don’t bring dancers to the point where they can sing an aria. We do want them to be able to sing enough to carry a part if they’re in a chorus line.”

The curriculum isn’t just limited to performance. A second track prepares graduates for behind-the-scenes careers as lighting and stage technicians. Internships provide students real-world experience in a very safe environment.

“Students know that faculty members are always here for them. They can come here when they need help finding work. If a student leaves straight out of high school for New York or L.A., they’re not going to have that,” Hicks explains.

Through the Professional Entertainment Program, students mature and are better equipped to handle the pressures of Hollywood, or wherever their talents lead them.

Many students go on to complete four-year degrees after earning an associate’s degree at Walters State. Others put what they’ve learned to work immediately by hitting the audition circuit.

**Calendar**

**April 25**
Choral Concert, 8 p.m.

**May 1**
Conferring of Certificates

**May 2**
Nurse Pinning Ceremony

**May 3**
Commencement
Governor Bredesen’s 2003-2004 state budget proposal calls for a $102 million cut in statewide higher education. Walters State’s share will be $1,487,800, representing a nine percent overall reduction. We have been advised that we should consider this to be a permanent reduction to be accomplished by reducing recurrent operating expenses rather than by making one-time reductions.

In addition to this almost $1.5 million cut in next year’s budget, we have also been instructed to prepare for an $832,900 impoundment (five percent) in our current budget year. To address the impoundment, we have already implemented a hiring freeze, a freeze on all but emergency or mandatory travel, a freeze on equipment purchases and a limitation on all other purchases not deemed to be critical.

Although Walters State will be drastically impacted by these budget reductions, I am confident that our college faculty and administration will remain committed to providing their customary quality of services and spirit of caring while dealing with increased work loads and reduced levels of institutional support and professional development.

In an institution as complex as Walters State, with nearly 6,000 credit students, 4,000 continuing education and job training students and some 650 employees, it would be impractical to itemize all of the cost cutting strategies that have been identified by our administrators to meet this budgetary challenge. I can tell you, however, that the major theme guiding institutional cutbacks has been a firm resolve to preserve the quality and access to the college’s core mission of providing its students with opportunities afforded the faculty and staff.

To protect the integrity of that core mission, budgetary cutbacks will be achieved through the following categories of strategic downsizing:

1. Significant administrative restructuring reducing administrative expenses and administrative positions.
2. A reduction of full-time faculty positions and instructional support requiring the use of increased numbers of adjunct faculty, the merging of instructional laboratories and the conversion of several faculty and staff from 12-month to nine-month contracts.
3. A 50 percent reduction in the number of part-time positions.
4. A significant cutback in travel and professional development opportunities afforded the faculty and staff.
5. A reduction in both personnel and operations associated with the maintenance of grounds and facilities.
6. More operational cuts, such as closing the college Library on Saturdays and making proportional cuts in the already lean budget for intercollegiate athletics.
7. The curtailment of non-core public service activities, such as the college’s Early Learning Center, which have traditionally required subsidies from the college’s operating budget.

We are disappointed at not being able to continue operation of the Early Learning Center but with current and anticipated budgetary constraints all such community service activities will have to be self-sustaining in the future if we are to protect the quality of our core programs and services offered strictly for the benefit of our degree-seeking students.

Every attempt has been made to protect the jobs of currently employed faculty and staff. We have identified several vacant positions which we will not fill and a number of faculty and staff who will retire in the coming months whose positions will remain vacant or be covered through reorganization or the utilization of adjunct faculty. Even so, we anticipate a net loss of over 30 faculty and staff positions.

I hope that many area professionals with advanced degrees and qualified retirees will consider coming forth to join the ranks of the college’s adjunct faculty pool. For us to maintain our reputation for academic excellence and remain the college of choice throughout our service area, we will need the assistance, cooperation and understanding of the community. These are tough times for our state and nation, and Walters State is up to the task of fulfilling our mandate without complaints or excuses.

Waunita C. Campbell, President

**Faculty Footnotes**

Chef Catherine Hallman, instructor of Culinary Arts, has been named Chef of the Year by the Greater Smoky Mountains Tennessee Culinary Federation chapter.

Dr. Pam Goodman, vice president for Student Affairs, has been honored by the East Tennessee College Alliance for her service and professional contributions to the group over the past 10 years.

Dr. David White, professor of English, presented a workshop entitled “Teaching Composition and Literature in the Regents’ Online Degree Program” at the Two-Year College Association for English Professors in Nashville.

Sandra Kay Heck, associate professor of English, presented a workshop at the Appalachian Studies Conference in Richmond, Ky., on incorporating Appalachia into the English classroom through writing assignments and literary analysis.

Chip McLain, instructor of English, presented a workshop on Edith Wharton’s “The House of Mirth” at the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference at the University of Louisville.
Computer Science Alumni Association Now Forming

Walters State is proud to announce the formation of theWSCC Computer Science Alumni Association. This alumni association will include both former and current Computer Science and Information Technology students.

The association will create a new channel of communication with alumni and help our Computer Science and Information Technology faculty to enhance the program. The association will serve as another way for the program to continue to provide the area with quality students that are better prepared to meet the needs of business and industry in our service area.

The main purpose of the association will be to provide a forum for alumni communication, allow former alumni the opportunity to network with faculty and current students, inform program staff of job and internship opportunities for current students, keep staff and faculty aware of the technology that industry is using and develop an alumni scholarship fund for Computer Science students.

An informational meeting is being planned. If you have an interest in being a charter member of theWSCC Computer Science Alumni Association, please contact Tom Duda, assistant professor of Computer and Information Science, at (423) 585-2644 or Tom.Duda@ws.edu.

Theatre Production Benefits VBI

Walters State’s Humanities Division took advantage of its winter production of “The MiracleWorker” to raise both student and community awareness of the problems faced by vision-impaired individuals.

The play’s debut performance served as a benefit for Volunteer Blind Industries, a Morristown-based charity that provides work opportunities for the area’s blind residents. Volunteer Blind Industry representatives manned an information booth during intermission at every performance to provide information and answer questions.

Director Jerry Maloy, assistant professor of Music and Theatre, says the involvement with Volunteer Blind was one way to make the performance, and the inspiring story of Helen Keller told through it, more meaningful to the play’s young actors.

NOTICE TO ALL WSCC ALUMNI

Regrettably, due to current and projected budget cuts, this will be the last HUB newsletter mailed to alumni. Alumni who have made financial contributions to the college or its foundation will, however, receive the HUB through the mail. The HUB will continue to be available online for all alumni at www.ws.edu/hub/.

Alumni News

Full name ____________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
Years Attended ________ Area of study ________ Degree ______
Current position and/or activities ____________________________
__________________________________________________________
Full name of spouse ______________________________________
No. of children ________
Name and address of someone who will always know your address
__________________________________________________________

Return to Office of College Advancement, Walters State Community, 500 South Davy Crockett Parkway, Morristown, TN 37813 or e-mail your news to debra.williams@ws.edu.

CLASS NOTES

1982
Amy Kozar Powell, General Studies, received the distinguished Salesperson Award from WRAL-TV in Raleigh, N.C., for 2002.

1994
Kim Setser, A.S., Nursing, is a nurse practitioner with Life Care Center in Morristown. She earned a M.S. in Nursing from East Tennessee State University in 2001. She and her husband, Jay, have a son, Zak.

1995
Randy Runions, A.S., General Technology, is Youth Pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Newport. Randy received a patent while working in his previous job as a product engineer at Howmet. He and his wife, Lori, have a son.

1996
Stacy Nicole Fine, A.S., Management Technology, is now assistant marketing director for the Barter Theatre in Bristol.

1997
K. Clifton Kornegay, A.S., General Studies, is a graduate student at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. He works as a research team leader with Congressional Research Service.

Kathy Morgan Gingras, A.S., Child Development, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at South-Doyle High School in Knoxville. She earned a master’s in Secondary Education from East Tennessee State University in 2001.

1999
Michael Hance, A.S., Nursing, is now attending the University of Health Sciences Antigua School of Medicine. His wife, Misty Stubblefield Hance, A.S., Education, has recently completed a master’s degree and teaches third grade.

Jessica Ann Payne, A.S., General Studies, earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Tennessee and is now working on a master’s.

2000
Marisa Ann Black, A.S., Nursing, is a charge nurse at Takoma Hospital. She’s currently working toward her BSN at East Tennessee State University.

Scarlett Moore, A.S., Business, received her B.B.A. in banking finance from East Tennessee State University in May. She is a credit analyst at Greene County Bank in Greeneville.

2002
Shelley Longrier, A.S., Culinary Arts, recently joined the Greene County YMCA as instructional supervisor for aquatics.

THE HUB ONLINE

http://www.ws.edu/hub/
TJCCAA Honors WSCC
With 2002 All Sports Award

The Walters State Senators Athletics Department is the 2002 recipient of the TJCCAA All Sports Program Award.

TJCCAA Commissioner Quentin Lane presented the award during the final home appearance of the Senators and Lady Senators basketball teams on March 1.

Also the ceremony, basketball player Jerry Nichols was honored for being part of the 2001-02 All-America team.

During the 2001-02 season, all five Senators sports teams were nationally ranked.

The Senators golf team earned a trip to the national tournament and finished the season ranked eleventh in the nation.

The Senators baseball team shattered the all-time school record with 51 victories and missed a trip to the Junior College World Series by one game.

The Lady Senators softball team also set a record for victories, finishing the season with 41 wins.

The Senators basketball team earned its first berth to the NJCAA national tournament in 2002 and finished the season ranked No. 8 in the country.

The Lady Senators compiled an impressive 26-8 record and missed the national tournament by only one game.

Baseball, Softball Teams Look To Repeat Success of 2002 Seasons

Last year, Walters State’s baseball and softball teams created hard acts to follow, with both teams setting records for season wins. This year, a combination of skilled sophomores and highly-regarded recruiting classes have both teams aiming for postseason victories.

The Senators have high expectations after finishing last season just one win shy of the JUCO World Series. While matching the success of last season will be a challenge, Coach Ken Campbell feels like he has the tools to compete for a third straight TJCCAA Eastern Division title.

“We have some good players returning, and we did well recruiting, so I think we will be competitive again,” says Campbell.

National experts seem to agree with Campbell, giving the Senators a preseason ranking of No. 16.

The team returns just nine players from last season. Expect the team to rely on pitchers Brad Rose and Eric Blevins. Catcher Pat Rose, right fielder Ben Carter and first baseman David Long are also returning starters.

Freshmen include Jon Kirby, the all-time Kentucky high school strikeout leader, and Matt Hensley, one of the most recruited players in East Tennessee’s class of 2002.

The story is much the same for this year’s Lady Senators softball team. Last year, the team was runner-up in the TJCCAA Eastern Division and ended the season 41-10. The team lost six starters, but Coach Larry Saucemen says he has a strong nucleus returning and a very good recruiting class.

“If the team chemistry is there, and they come together and gel as a team, I think that we could be just as successful this year as we were last season,” he says.

Returning pitchers Ashley Rismiller and Lynsi Pierce will once again be the fireballers for the team. The two are also leading hitters with Pierce sporting a .479 batting average.