Labor Grant To Fund New Workforce Education Center
A $1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will be used to establish the Center for Workforce Education. The new program will enable both employed and unemployed workers to learn marketable skills. The project is a joint effort between Walters State’s Division of Technical Education and the Center for Workforce Development. The new center will open in 2006.

Long-time Professor Pens Second Book on Yellowstone
A new book by Dr. Orville Bach, economics professor, gives readers a behind-the-scenes look at the nation’s first national park. “Tracking the Spirit of Yellowstone” details his adventures while serving as a seasonal ranger over the past 30 years. The book is illustrated by Bach’s wife, Margaret. The book is published by Blue Willow Press. His first book, a guide to Yellowstone’s backcountry, is still in print.

International Center to Open
An agreement between Walters State and the Hamblen County Department of Education will greatly enhance efforts to provide more educational opportunities to non-English speaking residents. An International Center will be established in the college’s East Tennessee Regional Public Safety Center for non-English speaking students from pre-school through high school. Students will attend the Center part of each regular school day for language instruction. The center will also be utilized by the college for internationally related programs and services.

College Center Named to Honor Campbell
The Tennessee Board of Regents has unanimously voted to honor President Emeritus Dr. Jack E. Campbell by naming the College Center building in his honor.

The building is now known as the Jack E. Campbell College Center.

“Dr. Campbell contributed over 30 years of unparalleled leadership and service in building what our entire faculty and staff regard as one of the premier community colleges in this country,” said Walters State President Dr. Wade McCamey in recommending the naming of the building through Chancellor Dr. Charles Manning to the TBR, the college’s governing body. TBR members voted for the name change at the quarterly meeting held in December at Walters State.

Most alumni will remember the College Center as the center of Walters State activity on the Morristown campus. It was the first building constructed on the campus, opening in the fall of 1971. The “Z” Buda Assembly Hall and Gymnasium, the cafeteria, the bookstore and administrative offices are all located in the building.

College Awarded Perfect Score in THEC’s Performance Funding
WSCC is one of only three Tennessee colleges to be awarded 100 percent of available performance funding by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Performance funding provides financial incentives to public colleges and universities for exceeding state standards on quality measures. Roane State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin also received perfect scores.

“This news is a direct result of the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff,” said President Dr. Wade McCamey.

“It demonstrates Walters State’s commitment to accountability, institutional effectiveness and excellence in teaching.”

This is the first time the college has received a perfect score, even though it has come very close in years past. Recent scores have hovered in the upper 90s.

Walters State will receive an extra 5.45 percent of its appropriated budget, or $1.1 million from the state.

McCamey said that students will benefit from the college’s extra funding, but the perfect score means much more than money.

“For students, alumni and the community, the score is an assurance that Walters State continues to be a high-quality educational institution,” McCamey said.

Calendar
Jan. 17 Spring semester begins
Feb. 7 Lady Senators Softball Home Opener
Feb. 24 Senators Baseball Home Opener
March 17-19 and March 24-26 “The Tempest,” Theatre, Morristown Campus
May 6 Commencement
As our fall 2005 semester comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to focus on just a few of the many highlights from the last six months.

Walters State’s commitment to excellence in teaching, accountability and institutional effectiveness has been recognized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Walters State was one of only three colleges in Tennessee to earn 100 percent of available performance funding (see article on the front page for more information). More than anything else, this perfect score on performance funding shows that our students are receiving the programs and services they need to be successful in life.

Another initiative that involves Walters State’s commitment to continuous planning was the selection of a topic for our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which will be one of the components assessed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools during the college’s upcoming reaffirmation of accreditation review process. The QEP provides a means for colleges to focus on a single topic for enhancing student learning. Following an intensive, collaborative process in which numerous aspects of the college’s programs and management were considered, faculty decided on a QEP action plan that will increase student motivation and encourage personal responsibility for learning. To accomplish this goal, the manner in which teaching styles and student-learning styles interface will be assessed, with the results being incorporated into the learning environment.

In addition to preparing for the college’s reaffirmation of accreditation process by SACS, several individual programs were reviewed this past semester for reaccreditation. They included our Paramedic, Nursing and Physical Therapist Assistant programs.

Initiatives such as performance funding, the quality education plan and reaffirmation of accreditation are essential elements of Walters State’s strategic planning and commitment to continuous improvement. However, more tangible results of such planning are seen in the successes of our students, faculty and staff.

Walters State recently had a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of these successes during the recent Tennessee Board of Regents quarterly meeting, which was hosted by the college at our Morristown campus. Through student presentations and performances held throughout the meeting, TBR members, as well as presidents and other representatives from higher-education institutions from across the state, got to see first-hand the reason and purpose for our collective planning. Culinary arts and restaurant management students prepared and served gourmet lunches and dinners; cadets from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy demonstrated defensive tactical maneuvers; students from our music and theatre department performed several times; some of our international students produced an Indian fashion show; our nursing students held a health fair, and the Students In Free Enterprise team gave a multi-media presentation on their community service projects and other accomplishments.

Our students, faculty and staff are to be commended not only for the purposeful accomplishments that were in evidence during student presentations and performances but also for their gracious hospitality throughout the TBR meeting.

While it’s rewarding to reflect on a few of the college’s many accomplishments, there is no time to rest on our laurels. As spring semester gets under way, we will be busy putting into effect the previous six months’ planning. And we’ll also be looking ahead. For our students to succeed in life and work, the college must continuously plan for the future so that it can adapt to the educational and workforce needs of the area we serve.
The Walters State Community College Foundation has received over $365,000 in contributions since its annual meeting in May. Also, the foundation met its 2004-05 annual fund campaign goal for student scholarships. The news was presented to the foundation trustees at their fall board meeting on Monday, Oct. 17, at the Morristown campus.

Foundation trustees also learned about some of Walters State’s accomplishments for the 2004-05 academic year during a college update from Walters State president Dr. Wade McCamey. Among the highlights, McCamey said that Walters State rated higher-than-average in several areas on a national benchmark survey, including the amount spent per student on instruction and the number of hours taught by full-time faculty.

Through a program designed to inform Hope Lottery Scholarship recipients of eligibility requirements and through services such as counseling and tutoring, Walters State had one of the highest lottery scholarship retention rates in the state last year. Almost 70 percent of lottery scholarship recipients enrolled at Walters State met requirements to retain their scholarship, McCamey said. The Walters State foundation, which is considered one of the most successful foundations in the country among colleges of Walters State’s size, has a current fund balance of $12.7 million.
Basketball Season Off to Promising Start for WSCC Teams

The Senators and the Lady Senators are poised for repeat trips to the NJCAA national tournaments, despite a few early injuries.

The Lady Senators reached No. 14 in the national polls and enjoyed a successful November road trip to Atlanta, beating national powerhouse Georgia Perimeter in their home tournament.

“We paid a price for those wins,” said head coach Dave Kragel. “I lost two of my starting guards.”

Talented Kiesha Nicholson was injured during the Georgia Perimeter game. She has returned to action but is not at 100 percent yet. Dana Garrett tore an ACL during the same game. Her injury will require surgery, knocking her out for the rest of the season.

“This is the time when our other players will have to step up. Great ball teams have players that come forward in times like these. We’ll see how hungry they are,” Kragel said.

Kragel celebrated a milestone in December, securing his 600th victory as a head coach. Only three active coaches in NJCAA women’s basketball have more wins.

The Senators have also broken into the nation’s top 25 with an impressive start. Wins in the first two months of play came despite the loss of two players to knee injuries before the season began.

Sophomore Patrick Younessi and freshman Joe Lackey required surgery and are not expected to return this season.

“We’ve made a lot of adjustments and they seem to be working,” said head coach Bill Carlyle. “We’ve moved a couple of the bigger forwards out to post.”

The Senators are posting league-leading numbers this season. Every statistical category includes a Walters State player. At press time, sophomore guard Ralph Legg leads the league in scoring with an average of 20.6 points per game. Tyler Jones, also a sophomore, is not far behind with 16.5. The two also lead the league in three-point accuracy.

“We have the talent. I have no doubt of that with regard to this team. We just need to stay consistent and focused and I believe we’ll keep winning ball games,” Carlyle said.

The teams have full months in January and February before both wrap up their home schedules Feb. 25 against Southwest Tennessee Community College. National tournament bids will be determined by regional tournaments.

Get in on the action! Admission to all Walters State home basketball games are free. Visit www.ws.edu for a complete schedule.