Walters State Community College will soon unveil a new Web site designed to make it easier for alumni to stay connected to each other and to the college.

The site, which is expected to be operational in May, will be accessible through a link on the college’s Web site, www.ws.edu.

The new site will not only provide information on the college, but will also be a social networking space for former Walters State students. Once registered, members will be able to host blogs, post photos and even get an “@ws” e-mail address.

Registering for the site will be easy. Former students will need to enter a few basic pieces of information before accessing the site. Members can then connect with other members by class year, by alumni clubs and by majors.

Unlike many social networking sites, this site has several layers of security. Only Walters State alumni will be able to register. Members may choose to post some information, like an e-mail address, while leaving addresses or phone numbers hidden.

Members can take part in discussion forums, form groups with classmates and even make an online donation to the Walters State Foundation.

The Web site also includes a Career Center. If you’re looking for a job, you can post your resume here. You can also look for a Walters State graduate to fill a vacant position at your company.

Of course, the alumni Web site will offer the latest news on your alma mater, including upcoming cultural events, academic programs and athletics.

Members of the Class of 2007 were given a chance to learn about the Web site earlier this spring when more than 300 became members of the Alumni Association. Check the Walters State Web site during May for your chance to become a member.

Alumni who have problems registering should contact Darla Kitts in the Office of College Advancement at (423) 585-2629.

New alumnus Lucas Douthat gets a preview of Walters State’s new alumni Web site.

As “The Hub” was going to press, plans were confirmed for Grammy-winning musician Jeff Coffin of the popular group Bela Fleck and the Flecktones to appear at a benefit for Walters State’s Professional Entertainment Program. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on April 16 at the Smoky Mountain Jubilee Theatre in Pigeon Forge. Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 for students at the door.

Calling All Early Nursing Class Grads

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Walters State’s first nursing class. Close to 40 nurses donned caps and gowns back in May 1977, to become the college’s first graduates in Nursing.

Ben Hux, who served as treasurer of the Nursing Class of 1977, and Jane Walker, a Walters State alumna who now serves as an assistant professor of Nursing, are hoping to organize a celebration/reunion for the Nursing Program’s first three classes, 1977-1979. It will be sometime this fall.

Hux is now a physician’s assistant and lives in Sevierville. In addition to being a faculty member, Walker is a member of the Walters State Nursing Class of 1994.

To learn more about this event, contact Hux at (865) 450-1244 or bhux@ceortho.com or Walker at (423) 585-6760 or Jane.Walker@ws.edu.

Walters State graduate to fill a vacant position at your company.

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Walters State Community College has grown tremendously since it opened its doors to 414 students in 1970.

During its first 37 years, the college has served almost 90,000 credit students. A total of 16,543 individuals have earned a degree or certificate from Walters State. While the college has experienced incredible growth over the years, the same family-like environment that was so important when Walters State first opened still exists today. This is a credit to the caring faculty and staff who work at Walters State because they are committed to helping individuals improve the quality of their lives through education.

Walters State’s association with its students does not end after graduation. In many ways, it’s just the beginning. Walters State alumni greatly influence current as well as potential students. The college is proud of the many successes of our alumni, and we use their stories to show others that they too can achieve their dreams and goals.

Walters State’s current marketing campaign represents one of the many ways in which we feature our alumni. To communicate the impact of a college education, we promote the personal and professional achievements of our alumni on billboards, in newspaper advertisements, in television and radio commercials, and in numerous publications. The stories of our alumni, including many of you reading this newsletter, have motivated others to forever change their lives by investing in education. Just as young artists, scientists and entrepreneurs are indebted to preceding generations, current Walters State students look to the individual accomplishments of the college’s alumni for inspiration.

Walters State’s alumni are critical to the current and future success of the college. The degree to which our alumni are involved with the college greatly influences the environment at Walters State. A more involved alumni means a more vibrant campus for everyone.

Given the importance of the alumni to the future of Walters State, we are currently developing several initiatives that will create more opportunities for our alumni to connect with the college and their former classmates. One example is the newsletter you are currently reading. This is the first issue of a revised newsletter that I hope you find more informative and attractive.

Walters State is also unveiling a new, comprehensive Web site for our alumni, as you read on page one. The site will serve as a virtual social network and community for alumni.

We are excited about further cultivating relationships with alumni and are hopeful that more of our former students will want to reconnect with the Walters State family through the revised newsletter, the new Web site, as well as other initiatives that are in the early planning stages.

I also want to extend a personal invitation to all alumni to visit one of our campuses. Spring is a great time of the year at Walters State. Attend one of our baseball games and cheer on the Senators as they attempt to defend their national title. Or just stop by to say hello and catch up with a former professor or staff member.

Whether you send personal and career information to the alumni newsletter, join the alumni Web site or visit one of the college’s locations in person, I, as well as current and future Walters State students, look forward to hearing about your many accomplishments in life.

Wade B. McCarty
Alumni Return to WSCC To Teach

“Brian Walter and Linda Foutch are probably the two most important professors that I’ve studied under. Both inspired me to become a teacher.”

Ironically, Walter retired the year Baker returned to Walters State. Foutch is now chair of the History department.

Favorite professors were also a big draw for Sandra Kaye Heck, a 1977 Walters State graduate who joined the English faculty in 1998.

“I’m so pleased and honored to be in the company of so many great teachers.”

Janice Donahue, currently an associate professor of Developmental Studies Mathematics, took another route. She became a student at the college while working in the Admissions Office.

“Walters State actually gave me the chance to go to college. When I look out in my classes, I see students like me: those who are the first generation to attend college, those who are balancing so many demands and those who want to succeed.”

That special connection is one reason many graduates are welcomed, according to Dr. Lori Campbell, vice president for Academic Affairs.

“Our graduates have an understanding of the comprehensive community college philosophy and bring a commanding knowledge of our region to the students we serve,” she said.

Faculty News

Dr. Lawrence Kennard, professor of Chemistry, was elected chair of the East Tennessee Section of the American Chemical Society. The section has more than 700 members.


Staci Quillen, assistant professor of Nursing, has been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing.

Jane Walker, assistant professor of Nursing, has been chosen to participate in Sigma Theta Tau’s Omada Board Leadership Program. Sigma Theta Tau is the international honor society for nursing.

Walker also wrote “An Overview of Hospital-Based Health Care,” which will be the first chapter in a new nursing textbook.

Gail Winkler, head of the Health Information Technology Program, has received her third award from Who’s Who Among American Teachers.
Class Notes

1985
Tom Rush, A.S. Computer Science, has been named executive vice president at Community National Bank. Rush is a member of the college’s management advisory committee.

1985
Danny Talley, A.S. Criminal Justice, has been promoted to lieutenant with the Tennessee Highway Patrol. He and his wife live in Parrottsville.

1994
Christy Miller Cowen, Ph.D, A.S. General Studies, is an assistant professor of Psychology at Lincoln Memorial University. She lives in Morristown.

1994
Melissia Ball, A.S. Paralegal Studies, has completed the Tennessee Bar Exam. She is now practicing in New- port.

1994
Dr. Allen Welch, Pre-Pharmacy, has been named director of pharmacy services at Baptist Hospital of Cocke County. He lives in White Pine.

2001
Tony Watson, A.S. Fire Safety, has been named fire chief of the Pigeon Forge Fire Department. Previously, he was the training officer with the Sevier County Ambulance Service.

2004
Amanda Ford, A.S. General Studies, has been named a Quillen Scholar at East Tennessee State University. She is pursuing a graduate degree in counseling.

2004
Michael Tutwiler, Education, is now in his second semester of graduate school at Harvard University. He earned his undergraduate degree from Penn State University.

2005
Matthew Underwood, General Studies, has completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan as a member of Combined Joint Task Force 76, an interagency and multinational organization. Underwood is an infantryman with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, stationed at Caserma Ederle in Italy.

2005
Aaron Dawson, A.S. Culinary Arts, has been named executive chef at Brumley’s Restaurant and Lounge at the General Morgan Inn in Greeneville.

2006
April Harmon, A.S. Business Administration/Management, is an administrative assistant at Blackburn, Childers and Steagall, PLC. She lives in Green- ville.

Alumni News

Kerr New PTK Advisor
Kathy Kerr, associate professor of English, has been named the new advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Club. Kerr, who teaches at the Walters State Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education, has been active with PTK for several years and encourages any former PTK members who would like to be involved as alumni to call her at (423) 798-7966.

Lynette Strickland, director of Business Services at Walters State, formerly served as a PTK alumni advisor and plans to continue her involvement as an active member.

The PTK Alumni Chapter is one of only two chapters that have established scholarships through the Walters State Foundation. PTK’s scholarship was established as a memorial to long-time PTK advisor, Frances Stambaugh.

Ag Alumni Raise Funds
While gate receipts from the events held as part of the Winter Horse Series 2007 haven’t been totaled, participation in the annual event set a record, according to Roger Brooks, head of Walters State’s Agriculture Program.

The final event of this year’s series was the Horse Speed Show on March 16-17. The series is a joint effort between the Ag Club and the Ag Alumni Club. Corporate sponsors of the series are Jefferson Federal and Century 21 Masengill-McCrary Realtors/Masengill Auction Company.

Want to Get Involved?
Walters State Community College has 16 alumni clubs, including PTK Alumni Club; Ag Alumni Club; Nursing Alumni Club; Greeneville/Greene County Alumni Club; Public Safety Alumni Club; Senators Pages Alumni Club; Baptist Collegiate Ministries Alumni Club; Charter Alumni Club; Creative Writing Alumni Club; Athletic Alumni Club; Creative Writing Alumni Club; SIFE Alumni Club; Outdoor Alumni Club and the Walters State Alumni Ambassadors. To learn how you can become involved in any of these clubs, contact Darla Kitts in the Office of College Advancement at (423) 585-2629.
Alumni in Focus

Ag Ed Is Global For ’96 Alumnus

Brian Parr, a 1996 graduate of Walters State, is helping secondary schools in the European countries of Georgia and Armenia start their own agricultural education programs.

Parr with secondary school teachers in the two former Soviet republics through a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is now an assistant professor at the University of Georgia. He will spend about six weeks visiting schools there this spring.

“Agriculture education in the secondary school system is completely new there. We are training teachers to implement courses similar to what we have in this country,” he explained.

The program gives teachers the principles of experiential learning, the basis of agricultural education in the U.S. The expected outcome will be that farmers become more efficient, making the local and national economies more viable.

According to Parr, farmers there are many years behind U.S. counterparts due to the financial setbacks that resulted from the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Many of the teaching practices being implemented now were used in U.S. schools 50 or more years ago. An example of such a program is a “pig chain.” Several school systems have been given high-quality swine with the agreement that one of every litter be given to the equivalent of a Future Farmers of America chapter.

“These aren’t very popular in the U.S. anymore, but the exchange ensures a genetically high-quality livestock breed,” Parr said. The exchange also gives young people the opportunity to get hands-on experience in caring for farm animals properly.

After graduating from Walters State, Parr received both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee. He taught at David Crockett High School and then earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

Parr is married to Kemaly, also a Walters State alumnus. The couple has two children.

DA Stresses Education

Those expecting newly elected District Attorney General Jimmy Dunn to throw the book at every defendant may be surprised. Dunn serves Tennessee’s Fourth Judicial District, which includes Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Sevier counties.

While Dunn takes very seriously his responsibility to pursue justice, he also believes mercy has a role. One way he shows mercy is by giving nonviolent offenders the opportunity to enroll in adult education courses as part of their sentencing.

The former highway patrolman believes time in school can often do much more to change a person than time spent in prison.

“I do sometimes try cases against college graduates, but most of the people who come through the courts don’t have a high school diploma. I’ve seen many go from the wrong side of the law to the right side through education.”

Dunn proudly counts himself as one of Walters State’s early alumni and credits the college with helping him pursue his dream of a college education.

“I had always wanted to go to college, but we were very poor. I was working at Firestone when someone told me that a new college had opened in a church basement. So, I decided just to take a few classes.”

Those few classes became an associate’s degree in Public Safety. He went on to East Tennessee State University and Nashville Law School.

Dunn was elected to his post in November 2006. The race was his first venture into politics. He has spent the last 17 years as an assistant attorney general in the same district.

Charter Alumni Club Elects New 2007 Officers

The Charter Alumni Club recently elected 2006-07 officers. Posing with the Senator above are, from left, Misty Hance of Morristown, president; Kari Fields of Rogersville, secretary; Linda Hampton-Parker of Newport, treasurer; and Gary Lowe of Morristown, vice president. The club is open to all alumni, even those who attended without earning a degree. For information, contact Debra Williams at (423) 585-6824 or Debra.Williams@ws.edu.
Walters State administrators, donors, alumni and students gathered in January to break ground on two new buildings planned for the Sevier County Campus. One building will house the Rel Maples Institute for Culinary Arts and the Professional Entertainment Program, while the other will be an academic building with classrooms, laboratories and offices. The buildings have been funded by $9.5 million in contributions from private donors and local government representatives.

“We are collectively witnessing the continuation of a dream come true – the result of a strong, unparalleled partnership between the governmental entities and citizens of Sevier County and Walters State. These two new facilities, as well as the current structure and the beautiful 67-acre campus site, have been totally funded from local sources and represent another historic milestone for higher education in Tennessee,” Dr. Wade B. McCamey, president of the college, said during remarks preceding the groundbreaking.

Walters State’s Sevier County Campus currently includes one building, Maples-Marshall Hall, which opened in 2000. The new buildings should open in 2008.

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WSCC Fills Three Vice President Slots

Walters State has three new vice presidents. All three are familiar to the Tennessee Board of Regents and two are well known to many alumni.

Dr. Foster Chason was named vice president for Student Affairs and director of Athletics. He previously served as a special assistant to the president at Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

Dr. Lori Campbell has been named vice president for Academic Affairs. She joined Walters State as a counselor in 1990 and most recently served as dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Henry Drinnon has been named vice president for College Advancement. He joined the college in 1995 as director of accounting for the office of College Advancement. His most recent post was executive director of College Advancement.

All three are looking forward to meeting and working with alumni to find the best possible ways to keep alumni connected.

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Is Planned Giving Part of Your Legacy?

Would you like to support the work of Walters State Community College, but feel unable to because of approaching retirement, the need to make sure a spouse or child is cared for or just think planned giving can be too complicated?

Through planned giving, many alumni have been able to include Walters State in their legacy without neglecting other important responsibilities.

For more information, contact Henry Drinnon at (423) 585-2629 or Henry.Drinnon@ws.edu.
Senators Begin Title Defense

The Senators have started the defense of their 2006 JUCO National Championship title.

“Once you take a national title,” said Coach Ken Campbell, “everyone is gunning for you. They want to say they beat the World Series champs. We have to play our best every time we take the field.”

Jack Tilghman returns to the mound this year rated as one of the best pitchers in the nation. The sophomore was named MVP of the JUCO World Series and has yet to lose a game in a Senators uniform.

Also returning is third baseman Stephen Shults. Shults was named the Outstanding Defensive Player in the World Series and ranked No. 2 in the nation in home runs, hitting 23 during the season.

Both Tilghman and Shults were drafted by the Atlanta Braves.

In addition to returning talent, the Senators will field a very talented freshman class.

“It’s way too early to be talking about the World Series. We have to take care of business one inning at a time, one game at a time and one series at a time. We’ll worry about the post-season in May,” Campbell said.

Sophomores Key To Lady Senators

The Lady Senators hope the right mix of experience and youth will make 2007 truly a season to remember for the Walters State softball team.

“We brought back our strongest sophomores and added some very capable freshmen. I’m very optimistic about the season,” said Coach Larry Sauceman.

Sauceman has the enviable position this season of choosing among four excellent pitchers. Sophomores Kayla Short and Morgan Keith, both of whom contributed greatly in 2006, are joined by freshmen Sarah Soesbee and Whitney Hawkins.

Sauceman is sure to call on Soesbee to surprise opponents with a special pitch. Her arsenal includes a riser, an underhanded pitch that rises as it approaches the plate. The pitch often catches batters off-guard, adding up strikes.

Short is expected not only to contribute on the mound, but at bat as well. She tied with catcher Elisha Collins to lead the 2006 squad in home runs, hitting 11.

In the outfield, Britani Hobby returns as first baseman and is expected to be an important part of the team. She was nearly perfect last year, with a fielding percentage of .986 with only five errors out of 365 chances.

While the 2007 season is still very young, freshman Miranda Tounzen has proven to be a standout, hitting three triples in three games.

“I am confident that we will do well this season,” said Sauceman.

With some powerful batting, the combination of excellent fielding and pitching will see the Lady Senators go far in both the regular and post-season action.

Lady Senators Head To National Tournament

The Lady Senators will make the team’s fifth appearance in the NJCAA National Tournament after defeating Chattanooga State in the TJCCAA/NJCAA Region VII finals. Sophomore Dana Garrett was named tournament MVP. The team, which had an impressive 23-10 regular season record, is the 30th squad guided by Coach David Kragel during his tenure at Walters State.

Follow the Senators and Lady Senators at www.ws.edu.