Dedication for New Buildings Feb. 20

As *The HUB* goes to print, plans are being made to dedicate two new buildings on Walters State’s Sevier County Campus. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the campus on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Everyone is invited to attend.

The two new buildings flank the campus’ original building, Maples-Marshall Hall. Both buildings were built entirely with private funds. One will be the campus’ second academic building, housing classrooms and laboratories. The other building will house the Professional Entertainment Program and the Rel Maples Institute for Culinary Arts.

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Choral Program Honored by TBR

The Tennessee Board of Regents has recognized Walters State’s choral program with one of its highest honors. The program received the TBR Academic Excellence and Quality Award at TBR’s fall meeting.

“This award recognizes the talent and commitment of our students and the dedication and quality of our faculty and staff, especially Laura Ritter (Director of Choral Music and Associate Professor),” said Dr. Wade McCamey, President of the college.

Walters State’s choral music program includes a large concert choir and several ensembles. A community chorale is comprised of both students and community members. Twelve choral students were selected to be part of the 2007 American Choral Directors Community College Honors Choir.

Choral performances are offered several times a year at both the Morristown and the Sevier County campuses. Often, concerts are free. Check www.ws.edu for the schedule.

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Gibbs Oversees Security Operations at ORNL

When Steve Gibbs graduated from Walters State in 1976, he envisioned a future in law enforcement, perhaps patrolling a beat and keeping neighborhoods safe. Instead, Gibbs went on to play a vital role in keeping the entire country safe. He oversees an 800-plus member security force that guards federal research facilities in Oak Ridge.

His official title is deputy general manager of Wackenhut Services, Inc – Oak Ridge Team. Gibbs and his team protect the people and the highly confidential work conducted at the 33,725-acre Oak Ridge Reservation, which includes Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The most rewarding part of his job is working with his officers. Gibbs explained that the security force is a paramilitary force that does some policing activities.

“I enjoy seeing people succeed. I make sure people have the equipment and the training they need. I make sure they know they’re doing something very important for this country,” Gibbs said. Gibbs sees it as his personal responsibility to make sure every officer is right for the job.

“I have to be able to lay down my head at night knowing that the facilities are secure.”

Gibbs has been working with security at the Oak Ridge facility for almost 30 years, beginning as a security guard in 1978 when Lockheed Martin provided security. Wackenhut took over that contract in 2000. He worked as a police officer for the University of Tennessee while he attended Walters State. He went on to earn a degree in criminal science from East Tennessee State University.

“Without those degrees, I wouldn’t be where I am. I still use information that I learned in those public safety classes today,” Gibbs said.

Gibbs and his wife, June, live in Knoxville. The couple has five children.
As a nonprofit higher education institution, our success is determined by how effective we are in meeting our goals and objectives in support of the college’s overall mission - to provide quality higher education opportunities and excellence in teaching and service to residents of upper East Tennessee.

While the college employs numerous accountability surveys and self-assessment studies to measure performance, according to one of the college’s most important constituents, our alumni, we are not just meeting our mission goals but exceeding them.

A recent alumni survey shows that Walters State graduates rate their college experience above the state average on every indicator measured. Whether it’s the quality of instruction, availability of faculty or advisors, student support services, technology or learning to write and speak clearly, Walters State surpassed the state average on every area of the survey.

In business terms, such success is the equivalent of a product exceeding all annual sales projections and goals. In Walters State’s case, students are our product and our value is determined by their achievements relative to their education and experience at the college.

Some of the many achievements of our alumni are featured in this newsletter, such as a graduate from our Public Safety program who oversees security at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex and a nursing alumna who serves as director of Baptist Hospital of Cocke County. Their lives are tangible examples of the results we glean from surveys and studies. Their achievements answer such questions as “Are we providing programs that prepare students to transfer to senior institutions? Are our technical education programs teaching real-world skills that are current and relevant to the workforce needs of this area? Are our support services supplementing the intellectual, career and life goals of our students?”

While the formal assessment process is used to determine whether or not we can answer with an affirmative “Yes” to the aforementioned questions, the underlying reason for the successes of our graduates and their favorable opinion of Walters State is easy to pinpoint. In addition to their many talents, expertise in their respective areas and dedication to their jobs, Walters State faculty and staff are idealistic individuals who are committed to making a difference through education. They genuinely and sincerely believe that increasing access to education is the most effective way to improve the quality of life for individuals and the community in which they live.

Faculty and staff who are inspired to change the lives of others through education are the wellspring from which all successes at Walters State begin. And if the college’s success is determined by the achievements of our alumni and their opinion of their alma mater, Walters State is clearly in the wonderful position of fulfilling its mission to provide quality higher education opportunities and excellence in teaching and service.
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 your family 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.

To learn more about Planned Giving, contact Henry Drinnon at (423) 585-2629.
1984
Karen Woody, A.S. Criminal Justice, is a major in the Correctional Institutions division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The Del Rio native has been with the Texas justice system for 18 years.

1985
Brian Osborne, A.S. Criminal Justice, has left the White Pine Police Department after 12 years and is now pastor of First Baptist Church in White Pine.

1999
LeAnne Glasscock, A.S. General Studies, has been named the new head softball coach at Morristown-Hamblen High School West. Glasscock also teaches in the high school’s special education department.

2000
Sandra Henderson, A.S. Physical Therapist Assistant, is director of physical therapy services at Healthstar Physical Therapy in Morristown.

2002
Benjamin Schlechter, A.S. Psychology, has earned a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology from Western Carolina University. He is now pursuing a master’s degree in Health Sciences there.

2005
Danielle Harrell, A.S. Communications, is a senior at Middle Tennessee State University. She is interning with the college’s Office of News and Public Affairs. Her responsibilities include writing for The Record, the office’s weekly newspaper.

2006
Michael Cable, A.S. General Studies, leads a jazz band, Michael Cable & His JazzBox. The group released its first album, Everybody Something, last May.

Alumni News

Beaty To Coordinate Alumni Activities, Events

Walters State alumni now have the services of an assistant director to help with activities. Richard Beaty has been named Assistant Director for Alumni Affairs and Special Events.

“...I feel fortunate to have Richard on staff working in alumni affairs. We’re already planning a number of initiatives for alumni,” said Henry Drinnon, Vice President for College Advancement.

While Beaty has only been in his new position a month, he has visited all campuses and had the chance to meet many alumni. Currently, he’s busy keeping the alumni Web site updated and increasing activity on the new site. (See page 3 to learn more about the site or just click the “WSCC Alumni” logo at www.ws.edu).

Look for his blog when visiting the site. Beaty updates it regularly. He can help you start your blog on the alumni Web site, too.

Beaty comes to the college after serving as a foster parent recruiter for Youth Villages in Morristown. He previously was house manager for the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile, Ala. His career also includes stints as a videographer for television news departments in both the Knoxville and the Mobile markets. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he majored in broadcasting.

“Walters State has impacted the lives of so many people. Graduates have succeeded in so many areas. I want to find out exactly how the college has made a difference in the lives of our alumni. I want to learn and share our alumni’s stories,” he said.

Beaty’s responsibilities also include planning some of the college’s special events, which will include a 40th anniversary celebration in 2010 and other special events for the college.

Beaty can be reached at (423) 585-6976 or at Richard.Beaty@ws.edu. If you’re on the Morristown campus, stop by to meet him in suite 320 of the Dr. Jack E. Campbell College Center.
Alumni in Focus

Alumna Tapped To Lead Cocke Hospital

Patti Ketterman proudly put on her white cap in 1977, being a member of the first class of nurses to graduate from Walters State. In the last 30 years, though, her career has taken a different turn. Dr. Ketterman has recently been named administrator of Baptist Hospital in Cocke County, a role seldom held by nurses.

“I wanted to be in hospital administration early on in my career. I wanted to be in a position where I could make change happen,” Ketterman said. She worked for several years as a nurse before moving into her first management role, director of staff development. While she was working, she sought more education.

She earned a B.S.N. in 1986 from East Tennessee State University. In 1989, she finished her master’s in public health from the University of Tennessee. Last year, she earned a doctorate in nursing science from the University of Memphis.

Ketterman was already attending Walters State in 1974 when the college announced the start of its Nursing Program.

“I was good in science, so I signed a list. There must have been 400 or 500 names on that list. I never gave it another thought until almost a year later when I received a letter inviting me to be part of that first class,” Ketterman recalled.

Ketterman said that the college now sets the standard for nursing. In the beginning, hospitals and some older nurses were skeptical of the new associate’s degree program. Registered nurses previously had graduated from diploma programs administered by hospitals.

“People really put us to the test when we got our first jobs. They wanted to see if associate degree nurses were as good as diploma nurses. There were a lot of eyes watching those first few classes. It took a few years before hospitals realized the value of the degree program.

“Now, our hospital could not operate without Walters State graduates.”

The overall nursing assessment she first learned over 30 years ago has become her management model.

“I learned then to look at the whole situation before making a decision. My management style is collaborative. I like to get input from others and see what the big picture is before deciding which choice or direction is right.”

Police Rookie, ‘06 Grad Recognized

Rookie police officer Steven Carpenter wasted no time making a name for himself as a law enforcement officer. The 2006 graduate was named Deputy of the Year by the Noon Exchange Club in McMinnville.

The organization honors a law enforcement officer with the award each year for above-and-beyond service for the community and outstanding achievements in law enforcement and community service.

Carpenter joined the Warren County Sheriff’s Department in 2005 as a corrections officer. After a year, he was promoted to patrol officer.

One of Carpenter’s biggest challenges in his position is shared with law enforcement officers across the state: finding and destroying methamphetamine labs. Warren County ranks second in the state in the number of meth labs destroyed. In dealing with users, he has seen firsthand the damage caused by the drug.

“People think they can try it one time, but they get hooked on that first try. It breaks up families and does so much damage. It ends up costing a lot of people their freedom.”

Carpenter plans on continuing his law enforcement career and said he will probably spend at least 10 years as a road officer. He enjoys meeting and helping people in his community. Eventually, he would like to become an investigator or detective.

Ag Club Named 2007 Alumni Chapter of the Year

The Ag Alumni Club was named the 2007 Alumni Chapter of the Year during the college’s annual Honors Day festivities. Above, Henry Drinnon, at left, Vice President of College Advancement, presents a cash award to Misty Lawrence, Ag Alumni president, and Roger Brooks, head of Walters State’s Agriculture Department and sponsor of the club. Lawrence is a 1999 Walters State graduate and now teaches agriculture at Sevier County High School.

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Charter Faculty Recall Early Years

Faculty News

Faculty, Staff Honored

• Cheryl McCall, Director of Walters State’s Nursing Program, received the Distinguished Faculty Award for 2007. Dr. Debra Scott, Vice President for Planning, Research and Assessment, was honored with the President’s Meritorious Achievement in Leadership Award. Glenda Seal, Coordinator of Information Processing for the Planning, Research and Assessment Office received the Distinguished Administrative Professional Award. Distinguished Support Staff awards went to Vickie Mills, Executive Secretary in the Office of Planning, Research and Assessment; Vicky Marshall, Secretary in Counseling and Testing; Tammy Holt, Secretary in the Mathematics Division; and Dawn Crumpley, secretary in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Division.

• Janice Donahue, Coordinator of Academic Enrichment and Associate professor of Developmental Education, has been selected as the faculty representative on the Tennessee Board of Regents.

• Jane Walker, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was chosen as a nurse ambassador by the National League of Nursing.

• Dr. Tim Holder, Assistant Professor of History, has published a book “Nixon and His Men: The Road Through Watergate.”

• Dr. Betsy Dobbins, Associate Professor of Nursing, has passed the Certified Nurse Educator exam. She is one of the first people in the country to pass the new exam.

• Dr. Larry Clifton, Taylor Richard and Robin Ringer, all members of the Speech Communications faculty, presented papers at the Tennessee Communication Association Conference in September. Ringer’s topic was “Excellent Educators: From Ordinary to Extraordinary.” Clifton spoke on “The Moving Image, Teaching Cinema in the Community College” and Richard spoke on “Confronting Facts Based on Assumptions.”

From left, Dr. Evelyn Honaker, Linda Foutch and Sidney Hall have taught at Walters State since the college opened in 1970.

In 1970, three young educators decided to take part in a great academic experiment: the community college system.

As it turned out, all three loved teaching at a community college. This year marks the 38th year of teaching for Walters State’s remaining charter faculty members: Linda Foutch, Sidney Hall and Dr. Evelyn Honaker.

“The whole idea that you could get a college education, still be close to home and deal with the needs of your family and work was a great concept,” Foutch said. She was also excited about a college system that would offer developmental studies.

“One of the really great things that we do is give students the opportunity to get what they missed in high school and then succeed in college.”

Honaker, having grown up in the hills of southwest Virginia, shared that passion. Only four people from her high school class went directly to college.

“I thought community colleges would make education available to people all over the country.”

“The success of community colleges has really exceeded my expectations,” Honaker said.

Honaker was the first chairperson (now dean) of the Division of Business. Perhaps no other division has seen as much change.

“Over the years, our management program has grown to incorporate many areas like the paralegal program, culinary arts and other fields that may not be considered traditional business, but definitely have a business element.”

While the college still prides itself on the one-on-one attention students receive from faculty members, these three remember a time when every faculty member knew almost every student.

“For the first few commencements, over half of the graduates had been in one of my classes,” Hall said.

All three were younger than most of their students for many years. And their first year wasn’t spent on campus. It was spent in an administrative wing of First Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

All three appreciate the growth of Walters State and the fact that their teaching has affected so many in East Tennessee and beyond. At the same time, each expressed sadness at the loss of the closeness that has come with the area’s growth.

“For the first ten years, Walters State was the only thing here. There weren’t many restaurants on this side of town, so everyone ate in the cafeteria. You could stay in touch with faculty from every department then. I do miss that,” said Honaker.
**Senators Golf Team Welcomes First Female Member**

Sarah Jane Sinard, a former Jefferson County standout, is the first female golfer to play on the men’s team in the college’s history. She will, in fact, be the only female competing on a male team in the NJCAA/TJCCAA Region VII. She’s expected to play on par, perhaps even below par, with her male teammates.

“She can hit the long shots. She’ll be competing for titles right along with our male players,” said Bill Gardner, long-time coach of the Senators.

Wie, a professional golfer on the LPGA circuit since the age of 13, made news when she was allowed to compete in a PGA tournament in 2004. She failed to make the cut in that tournament.

Sinard has been playing golf since she was 10. She did very well at Jefferson County High School, winning individual titles and helping the women’s team win district and regional championships. Sinard did so well that she was signed by a four-year university to play following graduation. She did well academically and athletically, but didn’t feel at home.

“I enjoyed playing golf, but it just didn’t seem like the place for me. I couldn’t find my niche, so I decided to come home and attend Walters State.”

It was then that Gardner asked her if she would be interested in playing here. Sinard might feel some added pressure because she didn’t just join any team. She’s now a member of one of the most successful community college golf programs in the country.

Gardner said that, other than some minor changes like travel arrangements, he expects this year’s team to be the same as previous ones and wouldn’t be surprised to find the group in the chase for a national title come May.

**Follow the Senators and Lady Senators at www.ws.edu.**
Plan To Attend These Special WSCC Events

Every Friday Evening
Observatory Viewings
The Dr. James W. Ford Observatory
8 p.m., Weather permitting
(423) 585-6764

Feb. 20
Dedication of New
Sevier County Campus
Buildings
10 a.m., Sevier County Campus
(423) 585-2629

Feb 21-24 and
Feb. 29-March 2
“The Glass Menagerie”
Theatre, Judge William H. Inman
Humanities Complex
(423) 585-6947

March 4-9
TJCCAA/NJCAA
Region VII Tourney
"Z" Buda Assembly Hall and
Gymnasium
(423) 585-6754

March 11
Exhibition Barrel and Pole
Runs
Part of the Winter 2008 Horse Series
Great Smoky Mountain Expo Center
(423) 585-2663

March 14-15
Ag Club Speed Show
Part of the Winter 2008 Horse Series
Great Smoky Mountain Expo Center
(423) 585-2663

May 2
Nursing Pinning
Walters State Great Smoky Mountains
Expo Center
(423) 585-6981

May 3
Class of 2008
Commencement
Walters State Great Smoky Mountains
Expo Center
(423) 585-2681

Walters State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Associate of Arts, Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Walters State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the college. Walters State does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Human Resources Office at Walters State, 500 S. Davy Crockett Pkwy., Morristown, TN 37813-6899. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities at Walters State, 500 S. Davy Crockett Pkwy., Morristown, TN 37813-6899.