Terry Becomes First Alumnus to Head Foundation

F. Braxton “Brack” Terry became the first Walters State alumnus to serve as president of the Walters State Community College Foundation when elected in 2008. “I didn’t realize that I was the first alumnus to be president, but I knew I was the first former Senators ball boy to serve,” said Terry, an attorney with the family firm of Terry, Terry & Stapleton in Morristown.

Under his leadership, the foundation has grown despite a weak economy and a feasibility study has been conducted concerning future needs at the Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education. While the position has required a significant time commitment, Terry said it’s worth every minute.

“The Walters State foundation gives people in this region the opportunity for a first-class education. Without Walters State, many would not have that opportunity.”

“The development of the Greene County Center is going to have a huge impact not only on the students, but also on the economy of the area. For me, participating in such an important project is one of the most important things I will ever do,” Terry said.

Terry considers the education he received at Walters State to be “second to none” and, like most alumni, still has fond memories of professors. “Mrs. (Sarah) Eichelman helped me develop my writing skills, which were important later in law school and Mr. (Earl) Rowe was great, especially for a student that wasn’t planning on a science career.” (Both are still teaching, with Eichelman being Associate Professor of English and Rowe holding the same title in Biology.)

Terry’s role is another sign that the college is maturing, according to Dr. Wade McCamey, President of Walters State. “This shows that we are attracting quality individuals and producing community leaders,” McCamey said. “When a graduate becomes successful and decides to get involved on this level, it’s a reflection of institutional success.”

Terry lives in Greene County with his wife, Jana Durham-Terry, also an attorney who has been an adjunct faculty member at Walters State. The couple has two sons, John Robert and Alex.

Terry’s father, Charles R. Terry, is a former foundation president and long-time supporter of the college.

The Walters State foundation is one of the leading foundations in the country among mid-sized community colleges. Members are involved in philanthropic activities that include campus development, scholarship activity and professional development for faculty and staff at the college. Six other alumni are foundation trustees.

Ag Alumni To Host March Speed Show

The Ag Alumni Club in conjunction with the Ag Club invites alumni to attend the 2009 Winter Horse Series Speed Show on March 20 and 21 at the Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center.

Activities on March 20 begin at 5 p.m. On March 21, the gates open at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Roger Brooks, head of the Agriculture Program, at (423) 585-2663.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Winter Horse Series, with 16 separate events. Since its inception, the series has raised $60,000 in scholarship money. It is sponsored by Jefferson Federal and Century 21 Masengill-McCrary Realtors/Masengill Auction Company.

Choir, Sevier County Alum Chapters Gear Up

Tony Nichols, an alumnus and an adjunct faculty member, is the driving force behind the reactivation of the Sevier County Chapter.

Both groups are hoping to hold spring events, but dates have not been set. A reception may be held in conjunction with a spring concert.

Alumni wishing to be involved with one of these two chapters, should call Henry Drinnon, Vice President for College Advancement, at (423) 585-2629. Check the Walters State Alumni Web site for the latest details.

The Walters State Concert Choir Alumni Chapter and the Walters State Sevier County Campus Alumni Chapter are currently in the process of reactivating.

Alumni chapters are one way Walters State alumni connect with other alumni who have similar interests.

Laura Ritter, Director of Choral Music at the college, is serving as advisor to the group’s alumni chapter. She welcomes the involvement of any former choir or Walters State Sensations member.
A Message From The President

Walters State is most appreciative of the tremendous support we receive from the communities we serve. We are blessed to have so many community-minded individuals and organizations that support the college’s mission to provide affordable, high quality educational opportunities to residents of this area.

Our supporters give generously to Walters State because they want their communities and fellow citizens to prosper. Their commitment to this cause is unparalleled in Tennessee. The Council for Aid to Education recently reported that the Walters State Community College Foundation led all other 12 Tennessee community colleges in contributions last year.

First I want to express my profound gratitude to our foundation trustees, alumni and other supporters of the college. Because of their leadership and generosity, more students living in upper East Tennessee have an opportunity to attend college and pursue their career goals.

And secondly, I want to recognize the important role Walters State alumni play in the college’s development goals. The success of the college’s foundation is intertwined with the success of Walters State alumni. Individuals and organizations contribute to Walters State because they know how well our alumni perform on the job and as transfer students.

A good case in point was the very generous gift the foundation received in December 2008 from Laughlin Memorial Hospital in Greeneville. Laughlin donated to the foundation the Laughlin Square property that adjoins our Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education. Valued at $1.1 million, the property includes a 32,000 square-foot multi-commercial building and large parking lot.

This donation will allow the college to expand its programs and services to this facility as well as greatly increase the number of parking spaces for our students and employees at the Greeneville/Greene County Center.

In making the gift, Laughlin President and CEO Mr. Chuck Whitfield was highly complimentary of Walters State alumni. He said his hospital has been greatly impressed with the professionalism and skill of nurses, respiratory therapist assistants and others who work at the hospital after graduating from Walters State. He also praised the college’s health programs students who receive their clinical training at Laughlin as well as the college’s Division of Health Programs faculty and staff.

While many factors were involved in Laughlin’s decision to donate this property to the foundation, one of the major influences was the positive impression our health programs students, alumni, faculty and staff have made on Laughlin Memorial Hospital employees and the community.

As an institution of higher education, we analyze data and test scores to gauge our students’ progress. For example, we recently learned that our nursing students once again exceeded the state and national licensure exam pass rates. However, it is always more gratifying to hear laudable testimonials about Walters State alumni from individuals and organizations that employ and work closely with them.

The outstanding achievements of Walters State alumni are the reason for the college’s favorable reputation in our service area and, consequently, a major contributing factor in the success of the college’s foundation.

Waite B. W. Caney
**Foundation News**

**Bibles’ Generosity Recognized by TBR Chancellor**

Two Walters State benefactors have received one of the highest honors bestowed by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Chancellor Charles Manning has announced that Ray and Barbara Bible, longtime supporters of Walters State, will receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. A presentation date has not been chosen.

Most recently, a $1 million donation from the couple funded the construction of two new horse barns and an enclosed warm-up ring at the Walters State Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center in White Pine. The expansion prevented the loss of several large horse shows, which needed bigger facilities.

With the additional facilities, over 400 horses can be housed. The local economic impact of the expansion is predicted to be $1.2 million annually.

The Ray and Barbara Bible Equestrian Complex was dedicated last summer and has since housed many horse shows and livestock events.

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**Is Planned Giving Part of Your Legacy?**

Would you like to support the work of Walters State, 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.

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**Laughlin Gives WSCC Property**

The Walters State Foundation has received a very valuable gift from the board of directors at Laughlin Memorial Hospital, Inc. The board donated the Laughlin Square property, which is adjacent to the WSCC Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education.

“Laughlin Memorial Hospital and its entire healthcare team are extremely pleased in our decision of donating this property to Walters State Community College. It is felt that acquisition of this property will enable the college to expand its quality educational programs to better serve not only our city and county’s residents but also local industries and businesses,” said Chuck Whitfield, president and CEO of Laughlin.

The property currently houses several tenants and the foundation will work with them to ensure businesses are not adversely affected.

“We are profoundly grateful to Laughlin Hospital for gifting this property to the Walters State foundation,” said Dr. Wade McCamey, president of the college.

The property is located at 228 North Main Street.

Enrollment at the center rose this semester to 921, an increase of 11.4 percent over last spring.

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**Attending the announcement of Laughlin Memorial Hospital’s gift to Walters State Community College are, from left, Drucilla Miller, Dean of the Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education; Ray Adams, chairman of the Laughlin Memorial Hospital Board of Directors; Chuck Whitfield, President and CEO of the hospital; Dr. Wade McCamey, President of Walters State; and businessman and philanthropist Scott Niswonger, a Walters State Foundation trustee.**
1988  
**Melissa Brotherton Carson**, General Studies, is a staffing coordinator for Home Instead Senior Care. She earned both a B.S. and M.A. in Organizational Management, as well as a M.A. in Education from Tusculum College. She has one grown son, serving in the United States Marine Corps.

1989  
**Glenda Nolen**, A.S. Secretarial Science, has worked as a secretary in the Humanities Division at WSCC for 15 years. Her husband Fred is also a Walters State graduate.

1994  
**Christy Miller Cowan**, A.S. General Studies, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Lincoln Memorial University. She earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 2003.

1995  
**Amy McIntire Crittenden**, A.A.S. Nursing, is a certified hospice and palliative care nurse at a non-profit hospice organization in Dubuque, Iowa. She enjoys being a mom and riding her motorcycle.

1996  
**Angela Christy Matthews Fellers**, A.S. General Studies, completed her doctorate from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. She is an occupational therapist and an Assistant Professor in the Graduate Occupational Therapy Program at Milligan College.

Kari Sawyer Fields, A.S. Elementary Education, is a technology media specialist at Rogersville City School. She earned a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, a master’s degree in Educational Media and her Ed.S in Teacher Leadership, all from East Tennessee State University. She was named a Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2006.

1999  
**S. Kristin Asbury Rich**, A.S. General Studies, is an Instructor of Biology in the Natural Science Division at Walters State. She and her husband Doug have one child and live in Morristown.

2000  
**Tiffany Dalton Davidson**, A.S. General Studies, teaches Business and is the Future Business Leaders of America advisor for Morristown East High School. Davidson holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Carson-Newman College. She earned both a M.Ed and Ed.S from Lincoln Memorial University in Education Administration and Supervision.

2001  
**J. Donald DeVine**, A.A.S. Computer and Information Science, is a telecommunication technician for Walters State. He received his B.S. in Information Technology from East Tennessee State University in 2005. Read about his son under 2006.

**Renee (Rainse) Morie**, A.S. General Studies, teaches first grade at Dogwood Elementary School in Knoxville. She has a B.S. in Business Administration from Carson-Newman College.

2003  
**Leslie Gibson Sutton**, A.S. Human Services, is a youth services information clerk at Walters State. She lives in Parrottsville with her husband Donald.

2004  
**Tiffany Helton Vineyard**, A.A.S. Office Administration, is employed by Covenant Medical Management. She is continuing her education at Tusculum College.

2006  
**Shannon Devine**, A.A.S. Culinary Arts, is chef tournant at Olivia in Austin, Tex. The new bistro is drawing rave reviews, with “The Austin Chronicle” food critic calling it “quite simply my new favorite restaurant.”

**Elizabeth Dawn Pickett**, A.A.S. Paralegal Studies, works as a paralegal and notary for attorney Brad Davidson in Newport. She is enrolled at Tusculum College with plans to attend law school.

2007  
**Brandy Davis**, A.S. Nursing, is a nurse at Laughlin Memorial Hospital in Greeneville. She is featured in Walters State’s “Invest in Yourself” campaign this semester.

2008  
**Ashley Rader**, Certificate Basic Emergency Management Technician, is a supervisor in medical records for Laughlin Healthcare. She is a member of the Greeneville-Greene County Emergency and Rescue Squad. She is currently enrolled in the Nursing Program at WSCC.

**Charlene Matthews**, A.A.S. Nursing, is currently enrolled in the RN-BSN program at East Tennessee State University with plans to pursue a master’s degree following graduation. She and her husband Robert live in Del Rio.
Alumna Robin Van Zant has completed a tough journey. Just a few years ago, Van Zant was a patient on an oncology wing fighting breast cancer. Now, she's a nurse at the Christine LaGuardia Phillips Cancer Center of Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport.

In nursing school, she found a whole new group of supporters, including Kathleen Jones, Associate Professor of Nursing. Jones refused to let Van Zant be discouraged.

“Kathleen wanted everyone to succeed and would do whatever she could to help,” says Robin. “She was just there to listen.”

Robin also found classmates that she could relate to. She was not the only non-traditional student in her class. Students were all ages and from many different backgrounds. And the class became a family. Everyone worked together to ensure that all were able to learn the challenging material.

On May 3, 2008, Robin Van Zant graduated with honors. Eight years after fighting cancer, she began her mission to help others in their battle against the disease.

Alumnus Leaves Migrant Work Behind, Now Engineer

For all of the incredible journeys made through Walters State, few can duplicate that of Rudy Marquez.

Marquez is now an electrical engineer at TVA. He entered Walters State while still a migrant worker.

For Marquez, the story began when he took the G.E.D. exam at the college in 1997. His score remains one of the highest ever achieved on the exam and it earned him a scholarship to attend Walters State.

“I was working on a farm at the time. College seemed like a different world. I didn’t think I could do it,” Marquez said. “But everyone said, ‘where there’s a will, there’s a way. We’ll find the way.’”

Marquez returned to Mexico to obtain the needed student visa with the help of Rose and Steve Parella and Edd Bissell, a retired pharmacist. Marquez had worked several years on Bissell’s Jefferson County farm. Marquez now calls Bissell “my American dad.”

He secured the required paperwork in Mexico and came back to Tennessee. The two first semesters, Marquez received support from St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. Then, the late Charles A. “Z” Buda learned about Marquez’ plight from Bissell. Buda was a generous supporter of higher education and didn’t want to see a young man with potential denied the chance. Buda awarded many scholarships, but Marquez remains the only out-of-state student to receive one from him.

As soon as he could, Marquez started working as a tutor, sending the little money he could spare home to help his parents. He graduated from Walters State with a 3.98 GPA in the demanding Pre-Engineering Program. He was named to the Phi Theta Kappa USA Today All-Tennessee Academic Team, one of the highest honors a community college student can receive.

Looking back, he doesn’t know how he did it all. And, to him, the sacrifices he made at the time seem minimal.

“This was the opportunity of my lifetime. Everything changed because of Walters State, Mr. Buda, Edd, Rose, Steven and the many other wonderful people who pulled together to help me reach my dream of a higher education.”

After completing his associate’s degree, he was offered a scholarship to attend Tennessee Technological University. He completed his bachelor’s degree and went to work for TVA. Marquez works in the Chattanooga office.

Marquez and his wife, Lupita, are the proud parents of an infant son, Adrian Rodolfo.
Ross Named Distinguished Faculty

Amy Ross, Associate Professor of Office Administration and Coordinator of the college’s QEP program, received the 2008 Distinguished Faculty of the Year award.

Ross joined the college in 2002. “Amy is a great faculty member because she has a ‘we can do it’ attitude,” said Dr. Lori Campbell, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“Amy thrives on trying innovative techniques with her students. She looks for the best solution, not necessarily the first solution. She is tireless in her pursuit of personal and professional excellence.”

Ross came to Walters State from DeRoyal Industries. She spent several years in marketing and human resources. Her business experience put her in a unique position to keep the Office Administration Program on par with the needs of area business and industry.

She developed a passion for teaching while involved in corporate training.

“I began teaching as an adjunct and realized this was what I wanted to do with my life,” Ross said.

“For me, the biggest reward is seeing students be successful. I love to see students who have gone on and earned four-year degrees or found great career opportunities come back and say ‘I did it.’”

Over the past two years, Ross has overseen the implementation of the Quality Enhancement Program, “Slated for Success.” The plan enables faculty members to adjust their teaching style to match the learning style of students.

Ross, who lives in Seymour, has also served as an advisor to Students in Free Enterprise and to the SIFE Alumni Chapter. She had to give that up due to QEP responsibilities.

“I really enjoyed my work with the SIFE Team. It was great to see those students gain confidence and compete.”

Faculty News

Faculty, Staff Honored

John Rose, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, was one of only 43 people nationwide chosen to attend the Academic Fellows Program in Tel Aviv. The program is sponsored by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracy. Rose received intensive training in teaching counter-terrorism.

William Sproat, Associate Professor of Biology, is serving as a citizen member of the University of Tennessee Medical Center’s Medical Ethics Committee.

Dr. Lawrence Kennard, Professor of Chemistry, has served as president of the American Chemical Society-East Tennessee Chapter for the past year. Under his guidance, Walters State hosts an ACS event each year.

Jane Brown, Associate Professor of Nursing, has just finished her term as president of the Tennessee Association for Community College Nursing.

Sandra Kaye Heck, Assistant Professor of English, had a poem included in the Knoxville Writers Association’s anthology, “Outscapes.”

Kathleen Jones, Associate Professor of Nursing, was named Nurse of the Year by the Tennessee Nursing Association. She teaches at the Greeneville/Greene County Center.

In Memoriam

Steven Hamilton Roberts, Head of Walters State’s Art Department, passed away on Nov. 17.

Steve had taught classes at Walters State for over 13 years and was much loved by students, fellow faculty members and college administrators. He was known for his quick wit and his constant smile. He will be remembered for the many young artists he encouraged and the talent he developed. Steve himself was well-known for his work in ceramics.

The Art Club is working on plans for a permanent memorial to Steve. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Mark Hurst at (423) 585-2618.
On The Verge of a Perfect Season?

As The HUB goes to press, the Lady Senators are 26-0. That's the longest undefeated streak in Walters State athletics history.

The team will play one more game before heading to the Region VII tournament in Cleveland, Tenn., March 2-9.

“At the beginning of the season, we thought we would be a good team. I never anticipated this,” said Coach David Kragel. This season is his 32nd year at the helm of the Lady Senators.

The key to what may be a perfect season? A good attitude, hard work and talented players...very talented players!

“We could start 12 of our players,” Kragel said. “A lot of our kids work very hard and this has been a team effort. It shows on the floor. Our players get a lot of assists and steals.”

LaKrystal Goss, in fact, leads the nation in steals at 61. Rhon’Neisha Taylor is the team’s overall leading scorer, although that title gets passed around during different games.

“It’s not that any one player has done it all, but one player has stepped up every night. We have a solid nucleus and good players waiting. I don’t even refer to the kids as a starter or a bench player,” Kragel noted.

As the season nears an end and tournament time approaches, Kragel said he’s encouraging the team to just remember what has kept them undefeated – hard work.

Kragel said that he has encouraged the players to enjoy each game as opposed to stressing the perfect season aspect.

“I am just so happy for these kids. The reason they came to Walters State was to get an education and hopefully have a chance to play at a four-year school and finish. That’s what’s happening for this team.

“Many coaches who have looked at our players think some that do not start now could start at a four-year university as juniors. For me, that’s very satisfying and rewarding,” Kragel said.

LaKrystle Goss, a freshman guard from Knoxville, manages to get off a shot even while being triple-teamed in a game against Chattanooga State Community College.

Milligan: Closing In On Baseball Dream

Former Senator Adam Milligan is very close to fulfilling his childhood dream of playing for the Atlanta Braves.

Milligan, a NJCAA All American outfielder, signed with the Braves after last season, but knee surgery threatened his playing career. He spent the winter rehabilitating his knee at the Braves’ Orlando, Fla., training facility. Now, he’s eager for spring training to start March 2. He anticipates he’ll begin his career with the Rome, Ga., Braves minor league team.

“The team has some great coaches in the minor league, so I am hoping to stay with them,” Milligan said.

“I grew up a big Braves fan and I could not have asked to be drafted by a better team.”

Milligan was drafted out of high school in the 28th round. He decided to get two years of college under his belt and improve his draft standing. His plan worked. He was drafted in the sixth round last year.

“The coaches at Walters State are outstanding. I matured a lot while I was playing for Walters State. Coach (Ken) Campbell teaches you to play to win and I learned so much,” Milligan said.

New Senators/Lady Senators Page Up

Senators and Lady Senators fans now have an easier way of keeping up with their favorite teams. Walters State proudly unveiled a new athletics Web page, shown at left, earlier this year. To access the page, visit www.ws.edu and click on the “Athletics” tab.

The page is updated daily with team results. Student athletes are featured in player profiles. Full rosters and schedules for all teams are available.

The Web site will also offer the latest information on ways you can be involved with Senators Athletics, including the Senators’ Club and events like the Road to Kansas Kickoff.
Get Involved With Your Alma Mater!

WSCC Spring Calendar of Events

March 27-29
“The Good Doctor”
Dinner Theatre
Morristown Campus
(423) 585-6922

April 3-5
“Let’s Go to the Movies”
Morristown Campus
(423) 585-6922

April 20
Sevier County Community Jazz Band Concert
Sevier County Campus
(423) 585-6922

April 17-19
“The Picture of Dorian Gray”
Morristown Campus
(423) 585-6922

April 21
Zambian Vocal Group
Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education
(423) 585-6942

April 23
“The Music of America”
Backbeat and Concert Choir
Sevier County Campus
(423) 585-6922

April 24
Choral Ensembles Spring Concert
First Presbyterian Church,
Morristown
(423) 585-6824

May 9
Commencement
Walters State Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center

Stay in Touch!

Walters State Community College’s alumni Web site is a great place to reconnect with former classmates and keep up with happenings at the college. Just click on the “Walters State Alumnus” logo at www.ws.edu.

You can sign up under the year you graduated and under one or more of the clubs. You can post pictures of your family and friends and even host a blog. The site’s security features make the forums private, only accessible to other members of the Walters State family.

And to let others know what you’re doing through The HUB’s Class Notes, send your information to Debra Williams at Debra.Williams@ws.edu or c/o Public Information; Walters State Community College; 500 South Davy Crockett Parkway; Morristown, TN 37813.

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