Walters State Names Baker, Elsbernd Outstanding Alums

Dr. Chris Baker of Morristown and Vicki Elsbernd of Reston, Va., received the Walters State Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2011 during the Walters State Foundation May meeting. Baker is a professor of sociology at Walters State. Elsbernd is deputy director of the heliophysics division of the Science Mission Directorate at NASA.

“The Walters State Foundation plays an integral role in the success of our students. It is most appropriate that we announce the Walters State 2011 Distinguished Alumni recipients during this meeting. For nothing better represents or is more symbolic of this foundation’s mission and purpose than the accomplishments of our graduates,” said Dr. Wade McCamey, president of Walters State.

(Continued on page 3)

WSCC Mourns Founding President

Walters State Community College’s first president, Dr. James Wesley Clark, passed away in Johnson City on July 14 following a brief illness.

Clark was appointed as Walters State’s founding president in 1969 and served until 1974. He had previously served as the president of Columbia State Community College in 1966.

“Dr. Clark was truly a founding father of this institution and a pioneer in the establishment of community colleges, which was a new concept in higher education in the late 1960s and early 1970s,” said Dr. Wade McCamey, current president.

Under Clark’s leadership, many of Walters State’s popular programs were instituted, including law enforcement, agribusiness and manufacturing/engineering technology. Enrollment grew from 414 students to 1,932 during his tenure. Dr. Clark handed out the first Walters State degrees during the college’s first commencement in 1972. The college also received accreditation under Dr. Clark.
In May, I had the distinct honor of recognizing Dr. Chris Baker and Vicki Elsbernd as the 2011 Walters State Distinguished Alumnus and Alumna of the year. This is the highest honor the college bestows on former students.

When the community college movement began over 40 years ago, I doubt few educational experts could have predicted the many successful paths our alumni have taken. However, the first faculty and staff employed at community colleges in the late 1960s and early 1970s believed that individuals who had not previously had the opportunity to attend college could be as successful as those who had. They also believed that community college graduates would become leaders in their communities and respective fields.

Dr. Baker, a national leader in the field of sociology, and Mrs. Elsbernd, a NASA scientist and manager whose career has vastly enhanced what we know about the solar system and our climate, are just two such examples. They, and thousands of other community college graduates throughout the country, are the reason why business and industry leaders and government officials are investing in community colleges during this period of economic downturn.

Like never before, community colleges are viewed as one of the best solutions to the country’s high unemployment. At Walters State, we are adapting to the evolving workforce demands as quickly as possible. For example, we recently collaborated with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, area power manufacturers, entrepreneurs, business owners and community members to develop a new program in the growing field of clean energy technology.

A recent study released by the University of Tennessee named Walters State’s clean energy program an “in-demand” major for the future. Graduates of our clean energy technology program, the first of its kind to be offered at a Tennessee community college, will find jobs working in small businesses, large corporations, farms and utility companies. New job-training programs such as the clean energy technology degree mean new job opportunities for residents of our community. And like this year’s distinguished alumni, the future successes of graduates from this new program will make our world a better place to live. In fact, I would not be surprised if one or more future Walters State alumni are recognized for their significant contributions in the field of clean energy and sustainability.

As this issue of “The Hub” was going to press, we learned of the passing of Dr. James W. Clark, the founding president of Walters State. Dr. Clark was a pioneer in the establishment of community colleges and the college is appreciative of the leadership he provided. During his tenure, all basic academic courses and several career programs were initiated. He also hired the first cohort of faculty. On behalf of the college, I extend our condolences to the Clark family.

Wade B. McCurry
Learn New Healthcare, IT Career Skills in Just Six Months

The cost of the program is $750. Stipends are still available. These are $625 and are awarded upon completion of the program, Keyes said. After the stipend, the cost is only $125.

“This is a great opportunity for Walters State alumni to learn new skills and prepare for the coming switch to electronic health records.”

-Ginger Keyes
Assistant Director, HITECH Training (and Health Information Alumna)

Baker graduated from Walters State in 1985 with an associate’s degree in general studies. He holds a bachelor’s degree from East Tennessee State University and both a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. He is a scholar, educator, author and community activist. He is one of the nation’s leading experts on economic and social development in Appalachia. After teaching several years at the West Virginia Institute for Technology, Baker returned to Walters State as a professor.

Elsbernd earned an associate of science in pre-engineering in 1974. She is deputy director of the heliophysics division of the Science Mission Directorate at NASA. Working out of NASA’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., she is responsible for the management of missions to understand the sun and its effects on Earth and the solar system. She manages an operating fleet of 26 spacecraft and six separate science missions under development.

The two were chosen by a committee representing all of the Walters State communities, including alumni. Criteria included noteworthy contributions to one’s profession, professional awards or recognition, contributions to the vision and values of Walters State Community College; and an enduring commitment for the betterment of mankind through volunteerism or professional service.

The Walters State Office of College Advancement has implemented the naming of at least one distinguished alumnus or alumna each year. Nominations for next year can be submitted anytime before Feb. 28. For more information, contact Wanda Harrell, coordinator of alumni affairs and special events, at (423) 585-6976.

Save the Date...Plan on Attending These Events
Oct. 1–Walters State National Alumni Association Run for Fund
Oct. 3-4 –International Festival
Dec. 1 – Second Annual Holiday Bazaar
Feb. 3-4 – 2nd Annual Mildred Haun Conference
A Celebration of Appalachian Literature, Scholarship and Culture
Travel With WSICC

Walters State invites alumni to join faculty and students on a spring break trip to Europe. A trip to Ireland, Scotland and England is planned for 2012.

Tentative dates for the trip are March 8-18. Last year, the college sponsored a trip to Italy and Greece. The trip included faculty and staff, students, alumni and Walters State Foundation trustees of all ages. This trip will be led by Dr. Foster Chason, vice president for student affairs, and Dr. Evelyn Honaker, dean of business.

“This trip is a unique opportunity to enjoy the Irish countryside and experience the international cities of Dublin, Edinburgh and London. So many people in this area are of Scotch-Irish descent, this trip is a natural choice,” said Chason.

The trip includes travel around the Ring of Kerry and stops at such icons as the Blarney Stone, the Book of Kells at Trinity College and St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin; travel through the Lake District; Edinburgh Castle; and a guided tour and free time in London.

A big advantage of the trip is the low price. Adults travel at the student rate, $3,812. This price includes the flight, hotel rooms with private baths. Breakfast and dinner are also included. For travelers desiring single rooms, the price is slightly higher.

“The only out-of-pocket costs during the trip will be lunch everyday and souvenirs or incidental costs,” Chason said.

During last year’s trip, the interaction between students, faculty, staff, alumni and Foundation supporters led to many friendships, Chason said.

“ Travelling in a group provides a great sense of community. One of the great things we have found is that people who share common interests on the trip,” he said.

Only 30 spots are available and deposits are due soon. The trip is filled on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, contact Chason at (423) 585-2680 or Honaker at (423) 585-6978.

Class Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Roger W. Bates, A.S. Criminal Justice</td>
<td>retired from law enforcement. Bates was ordained as a minister in 1997 and volunteers serving veterans. He is also a member of the Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Marlene Williams, A.S. General Studies</td>
<td>holds a B.B.A. from Tennessee State University and is pursuing a master’s in counseling at Carson-Newman College. She is a social worker with the Department of Children’s Services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Alex Adams, A.S. English</td>
<td>has had his &quot;The Brotherhood of Dwarves&quot; fantasy series acquired by Seventh Star Press. The third title in the five-book series, &quot;The Fall of Dorkuhn,&quot; will be released later this year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Brittany Sawyer, A.S. Business</td>
<td>completed her B.S. in marketing at Oral Roberts University in 2004. A former SIFE team member, she is an entrepreneur and runs a marketing and government relations firm in Tulsa.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Summer Osborne, A.A.S. Nursing</td>
<td>completed her BSN in 2006 at Grand Canyon University. She completed the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at East Tennessee State University in 2010 as a member of the Sigma Theta Tau nursing honors society. She is employed with the Rural Health Consortium at Hawkins County Medical Center.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Megan Rimer, A.A.S. Nursing</td>
<td>was named the Lee Foster Emergency Room Nurse of the Year at Wellmont Hawkins County Hospital. The award is named for Lee Foster, a retired nurse at the facility and is given each year as part of the hospital’s observance of National Nurse’s Week.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Jonathan Calloway, A.S. Psychology</td>
<td>has received the 2011 Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay. The prize carries a $5,000 stipend and includes a chance to meet Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Calloway’s essay was based on his relief work in Haiti.</td>
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In Memory

Shirley Parker, library assistant 3, passed away unexpectedly on June 1. Shirley served the students, faculty, staff and the community at the R. Jack Fishman Library. She worked at the college since 1975 and was also a Walters State alumna. She will be greatly missed.
Alumnus Bradford’s Art Career Earning Prizes, Praise

Are you a Robert Tino or Jim Gray fan?

Then, you’re probably a William “Bo” Bradford fan. You just haven’t discovered the work of the Walters State alumnum. His watercolor work is often compared to that of Tino and Gray, perhaps East Tennessee’s best-known artists.

Bradford’s prints have been featured in conjunction with the Dogwood Arts Festival and an original hangs in the headquarters of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Last year, his painting “October Road” was named best-in-show at the juried “Showcase of Crafts” during the 35th Mountain Makins Festival held at Rose Center in Morristown.

Suddenly, the art world is all abuzz about the Morristown painter.

“He really is the best watercolor artist I have worked with,” DeMonbreun said.

At this stage, the painter is not quite ready to believe everything the critics say. When asked which painting is his best, he simply replies, “the next one.”

“I’ve completed about 600 paintings, but I would only show maybe 150 to anyone,” Bradford says with a quick laugh. He even admits to once taking an award-winning canvas out of the frame to add a few more strokes in search of perfection.

Bradford first began drawing years after a diving accident had limited his mobility. Then, he decided to move to watercolor. To enhance his skill, he earned his associate’s of science degree in drafting and design in 1993. Bradford admits it took a little while to find his place.

“I first came to Walters State out of boredom. I thought I wanted to study pre-law and eventually go to law school. That wasn’t really for me,” Bradford recalls.

“I came back after I started drawing. In drafting and design, you’re doing the same actions as when you start a painting. You’re just doing it mechanically,” he explains.

Bradford was encouraged by Rob Russell, (now retired) associate professor of drafting and design. Russell challenged him to improve his skills with each assignment and to consider different perspectives.

Bradford is confined to a wheelchair since the diving accident happened, shortly after his high school graduation. He has worked to develop stronger muscles in his arms and his hands for painting. He also uses unique tools, like painting straps. Bradford learned about that particular tool from watching the late PBS icon Bob Ross.

For Bradford, getting a paintbrush in place requires work and can take several tries. He cannot naturally pick up a paint brush with ease like many painters. Early on, he realized that the way he holds a brush produces unusual results. A certain stroke, for example, allows the paint to glide across the canvas, giving unique shadows and movements. That particular stroke has become a signature item in many of his paintings.

Bradford’s art seems almost like his destiny given his situation. In fact, his artistic talents may have remained hidden without that diving accident. The art came about through his desire to do something to combat his boredom and frustrations.

Bradford is quick to point out that, if he had dived a little to the left or right, he would have been killed. Knowing that, Bradford approaches life from a unique view.

“I’ve been given several second chances at life. Now, I can work at doing something or I can work at doing nothing. I would rather work at something,” Bradford said.

What if his work should fall out of favor in the fickle circles of art? Bradford will keep painting. After all, he originally pursued painting as a hobby for his own enjoyment. That joy will never end.

Bradford sells his work at Framing by Carol in Morristown. Works are also displayed on his facebook page.
Walters State wishes the best to the following faculty and staff members who retired during 2010-11: Delores Drinnon, account clerk 1; Bill Edmonds, associate director of disability services and financial aid liaison; Jeannie Hopper, co-director of the Student Success Center; Jim Fears, custodian; David Kitts, custodian; William Maxson, assistant professor of mathematics; and Wanda Musick, executive aide.

The Walters State Support Staff Council recently awarded book scholarships to Terry Watterson, maintenance worker/bus driver in Plant Maintenance; Lora Duvall, computer operations specialist in Financial Aid; and Marae Wightman McKemy, a financial aid assistant-lottery, also in financial aid.

Wesley Rucker, assistant professor of nursing, was named Critical Care Nurse of the Year by the Northeast Tennessee Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. The award came at the Tennessee Nurses Association District Five Nursing Day Dinner.

Debbie Johnson and Natasha Nelson completed the Global Career Development Facilitator training. Both are employed through the Center for Workforce Development. Johnson is a career center specialist at the Tennessee Career Center in Greeneville and Nelson is a career center specialist at the Tennessee Career Center in Talbott.

Phi Theta Kappa advisors were recognized at the organization’s regional conference. Dr. Crystal Rice, associate professor of mathematics, received first place honors as Distinguished Chapter Advisor. Viki Rouse, associate professor of English, received the second place Paragon award. The chapter received honors in the following categories: Distinguished Chapter Team, Distinguished College Project, Distinguished Honors in Action and Distinguished Chapter.

Tim Strange, dean of Public Safety, and Dr. Eric Powell, director of the paramedic program, attended the Consortium for Homeland Defense Conference at the Army War College in Pennsylvania. The college provides homeland defense training and serves as a facilitator between different law enforcement agencies serving East Tennessee.

Is Planned Giving Part of Your Legacy?

Did you know there are creative ways to support Walters State Community College while still providing for your loved ones?

Planned giving is one of the ways alumni and friends have supported the college. As the name implies, thoughtful planning can create win-win situations for you and for the Walters State Foundation.

We invite you to visit our planned giving web page for additional information. Just go to www.ws.edu. Follow the “foundation” link and then click on “planned giving.”

Learn more by contacting Henry Drinnon, vice president for College Advancement, at (423) 585-2629 or e-mailing Henry.Drinnon@ws.edu.
The Lady Senators softball team had one of the best seasons of coach Larry Sauceman’s 14 years at his alma mater, finishing 40-13 with a third place showing in the regular season of Tennessee Community College Athletic Association play and a third place finish in the NJCAA Region VII tournament.

WSCC compiled a 20-3 record on the home field this season while sporting a 20-10 mark away from Morristown despite having only three sophomores on the team.

Two freshmen earned individual honors for their impressive rookie seasons. Shortstop Brittany Hefner was named the TCCAA Player of the Year after batting .489 with a team leading 18 home runs, 57 RBIs, 19 doubles and 88 hits. In addition, she carried a .540 on-base percentage, and she was named a second team NJCAA All-American and first team All-TCCAA as well.

Pitcher Ashley Rhyne was named the TCCAA Pitcher of the Year after appearing in 31 of the 53 games on the mound. Rhyne, who was also tabbed as an All-TCCAA first teamer, had a 1.18 earned run average in 165 innings pitched. She allowed only 49 runs – 28 earned – all season while recording 198 strikeouts and holding opponents to a .177 batting average.

Six Senators received post-season honors. Five players were named to the All-TCCAA first team: sophomore first baseman Corey Davis; sophomore outfielders Cody Stubbs and Shaun Ball; sophomore pitcher Shane Grimm; and freshman third baseman Chris Constantino. Constantino won a rare double placement, being named to the second team as a pitcher.

Several players were also drafted in this year’s Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

The Senators ended the season with a 43-15 record overall, their 11th straight season with at least 43 wins. TCCAA Hall of Fame Coach Ken Campbell’s teams have won at least 37 games in each of his 12 years at WSCC.

The Senators earned their ninth TCCAA regular season baseball crown in eleven seasons this year, ending with a 20-6 record and a heartbreaking loss in the East Central District Tournament. Coach Ken Campbell was named the TCCAA Coach of the Year.

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Walters State is a component of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

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, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits 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, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA). Inquiries and charges of violations of any of the 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 Office of Disability Services at Walters State, 500 S. Davy Crockett Pkwy., Morristown, TN 37813-6899.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

500 South Davy Crockett Parkway
Morristown, TN 37813-6892

Walters State Alumni & Friends
5K Run for Fund

Share Your News and Win!

Do you have a new job or a new degree? Maybe you just have a new address. Forward your information to Wanda Harrell, coordinator of alumni affairs and special events, and you could win a Walters State alumni T-shirt.

The new T-shirts have the “WS Alumni” logo embroidered on the upper left chest plate. The first 25 alumni to mail news of any sort to Harrell will receive a shirt. Sizes S-3X are currently available with two color choices, a light or a dark grey.

Make sure you include your name, mailing address and e-mail address. Also include the name and address of someone who will always know your address, usually your parents or a sibling.

E-mail your information to Harrell at Wanda.Harrell@ws.edu or send it through the mail c/o Walters State National Alumni Association; 500 South Davy Crockett Parkway; Morristown, TN 37813-6899. For more information, contact Harrell at (423) 585-6976.

Be Part of the FirstWSCC Alumni Run for Fund!

The Walters State Community College National Alumni Association plans its first Run for Fund on Oct. 1. This 5K run (or fun walk) will begin on the Morristown campus and includes a circle of College Square Mall. Registration on race day is $25 and begins at 7 a.m. The race begins at 8 a.m.

Pre-registration is $20 if received by Sept. 26, and alumni receive an additional $2 discount. All pre-registered participants receive a T-shirt. Awards will be given to overall male/female and top three in each age category. Children under 14 are free if a parent/guardian is participating. All proceeds will fund a scholarship, with preference given to children and grandchildren of Walters State alumni.

For more information, contact Wanda Harrell, coordinator of alumni affairs and special events, at (423) 585-6976. Event information is available through Walters State’s alumni facebook page and at the www.ws.edu. (Click on “foundation,” then look for the Run for Fund link.)