WSCC Receives Elite Apple Honor

Walters State has been named a 2012-13 Apple Distinguished Program for its mobile-learning initiative.

The Apple Distinguished Program designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership and educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple’s vision of exemplary learning environments.

“The selection of Walters State for this honor reflects the success of our faculty, staff and governing board in enhancing and extending teaching and learning with thoughtful and innovative implementations of technology,” said Dr. Wade B. McCamey, president of Walters State.

Over two years ago, each academic division at Walters State developed a plan to use mobile devices and apps as learning tools in the classroom. Faculty members use over 60 different apps in nearly every subject to engage students. Faculty frequently use iPad carts in the classroom and iPads are available for check out at the R. Jack Fishman Library.

“Since a majority of our students were already using mobile devices to access information anytime and anywhere, we determined that their educational experience should be no different,” said Dr. Lori Campbell, vice president for Academic Affairs at Walters State.

Most importantly, the college has realized a 10 to 25 percent increase in student learning through the use of mobile technologies in the classroom.

(Continued on page 3)
Throughout Walters State’s 43-year history, many individuals and organizations have stepped forward to make a difference in the lives of our students and the community we serve.

One such person was the late philanthropist and businesswoman Mrs. Wilma Maples. Steadfastly committed to improving lives through education, she was one of the leaders in the development of our Sevier County Campus.

Working closely with WSCC President Emeritus Dr. Jack Campbell, Mrs. Maples set the pace for a fund-raising campaign that realized over $20 million in local contributions in support of the college’s efforts to build three buildings at the Sevier County Campus.

Because of her leadership and generosity, literally thousands of individuals have earned college degrees without having to leave their community.

Most recently, Mrs. Maples provided for the establishment of three separate endowed scholarship funds for the benefit of Sevier County students. Mrs. Maples generously bequeathed $200,000 for two endowed scholarships.

She also requested that all proceeds from the sale of her estate go toward an endowed scholarship for Sevier County students. Through the recent sale of her house and land for $1 million, the Rellie L. Maples and Wilma Maples Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund has been established to benefit students attending the Sevier County Campus.

There is a beautiful fountain and water feature at the Sevier County Campus that is named in honor of Ephraim E. Ogle, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Maples’ late husband, Rellie. Ogle, who died in 1937, was a teacher, merchant, postmaster and pioneer in the development of Gatlinburg. Mrs. Maples had requested that the fountain bear Ogle’s name. She believed that much of today’s prosperity is the result of the hard work, vision and generosity of previous generations, and she wanted to pay tribute to individuals who had made a difference in the lives of others.

Just as she wanted her husband’s grandfather to be remembered, we will continue to honor Mrs. Maples for her unparalleled commitment to helping others improve their lives through education. However, the true testament to her legacy will be the future generations of local students who will reap the educational benefits and opportunities created by Mrs. Maples for generations to come.
what I learned in Robert Russell’s courses. I thought everyone received the same background at every school, but I was wrong,” Trawick said.

She’s quick to point out that she’s not the only one to benefit from Russell’s eagerness and enthusiasm for his field. The group that organized this tribute included representatives from the first ten or so classes. Many had met through their connections with Russell, forming tight friendships that stretched across the country.

For Russell, this event will be near the top of his favorite days. “I enjoyed seeing so many of my students,” Russell said. “Each of the people that attended was doing great. I also got phone calls from all over the country. So many students could not make it to this reunion, but they wanted to call and talk. I was thrilled to talk to so many and to find out how successful their careers were.”

He has a few words for other alumni, especially those who were not his students. “When a professor gets a phone call from an alumnus, those words make all the difference. Knowing that your former students credit you with even a small part of success can make a 20- or 30-year career worthwhile,” Russell said.

Trawick and her friends talked about honoring Russell for several years. Things really started taking shape when she met Wanda Harrell, coordinator of Alumni Affairs. “Wanda helped us so much. We could not have done this without her,” Trawick said. Harrell assisted with logistics, encouraged the group and arranged for invitations to be sent to thousands of former Russell students.

Russell and Trawick encourages alumni to think back to time spent at Walters State. Did a professor make a difference for you? Few things mean as much to faculty members as hearing from former students. Consider making a call or writing a note.

NASA Exec Elsbernd to Class of '12: Keep Learning, Stay Curious

Alumna Vicki Elsbernd delivered the commencement address at December’s ceremony. Elsbernd serves as acting director of the heliophysics division at NASA. She graduated from Walters State in 1974. She also holds degrees from Tennessee Technological University and the University of Tennessee.

Elsbernd credited her math and science professors at Walters State with her decision to major in engineering and expressed gratitude for their support. She also gave students advice and encouragement: don’t stop learning; believe in yourself, even when others doubt you; and be passionately curious. “Your degree can take you many places. It took a country girl from Bean Station to NASA. Just imagine where you can go, and make it happen.”

Walters State’s 43rd commencement ceremony conferred 693 technical certificates and associate degrees.
Travel With Walters State in 2014 to Paris, London

Travel with Walters State faculty and students to London and Paris in March 2014.

“This trip will spotlight two of the world’s greatest cities,” said Dr. Foster Chason, vice president of Student Affairs. He will be leading the trip with Dr. Evelyn Honaker, dean of Business.

The trip includes tours of both cities with free time to explore personal interests. Stops in London include Trafalgar Square, Big Ben and Saint Paul’s Cathedral. In Paris, see the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and Versailles. Walking tours will give insight into both cities.

The cost of the eight-day trip ranges from $2,800-3,100.

Most trips include a good mix of students, college supporters and alumni.

“The interaction on these trips is great. Most members of the group find they have many life experiences in common in addition to the Walters State experience,” said Chason.

“On past trips, alumni have enjoyed sharing career advice to recent graduates or students,” Chason said.

For more information, contact Chason at (423) 585-2680 or Honaker at (423) 585-6978.

CLASS NOTES

1975
Kim Fountain Stapleton, General Clerical Studies, has earned her Certified Administrative Professional certification from the International Association of Administrative Professionals. She serves as judicial administrative assistant to Chancellor Telford Forgety of Tennessee’s fourth and fifth judicial districts. She is the organist at New Market Baptist Church. Kim is also a certified wedding consultant/director and, with her husband David, operates the Minnis House, a bed and breakfast in New Market.

1977
Judge Thomas “Skip” Frierson, General Studies, has been named to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Division. He previously served as Third District Chancellor.

1984
Karen McPherson, Education, teaches third-grade math at Alpha Elementary School in Hamblen County. She has been an educator for 26 years. She is involved with several community organizations and serves as organist and pianist at her church — a role she has had since the age of 12.

1990
Chris E. Bell, Business, is director of the Morristown-Hamblen Emergency Management Agency.

1995
Pamela Hill, Education, teaches sixth grade at Lincoln Heights Elementary School. She is a member of the school’s leadership team, a teacher-mentor and a student-teacher supervisor. She chaperones Junior Beta Club students to the state convention and the school’s eighth graders to Washington, D.C. Hill has implemented a program at the school for extended skills classes.

2002
Travis L. Singleton, General Studies, has released a new album, “The War Within.” Digital downloads are available on iTunes. Critics compare his music to Eric Clapton and U2.

2003
James “Jim” Cofer, Culinary Arts, is the director of dining services at Maryville College with ARAMARK.

Christi G. Southerland, Respiratory Care, has served as an adjunct faculty member at Walters State. She has also worked at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Baptist West and as a sales representative with Apria.

Chrstal Vaughn, Education, teaches fourth grade at West Elementary in Morristown. Vaughn is a member of the school’s data team, serves as science fair coordinator, scholar bowl coach and is cheerleading sponsor. Vaughn recently received the Cherokee Health Systems Special Education Award for her teaching excellence.

2005
Sorka S. Blanton, Social Work, just completed her B.S. in Organizational Management from Tusculum. She works with ETSU’s Families First program.

Andy Drinnon, General Studies, has completed his Ph.D. in history at St. Andrews College in Scotland. While finishing his doctoral work, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Walters State.

2008
Jeff L. Robinette, Manufacturing, has earned his B.S. from ETSU and is now maintenance supervisor for American Greetings in Greeneville.

2011
Joslyn M. Frazee, General Studies, has opened Reflections Performing Arts Center in Jefferson City. She teaches ballet and offers jazz, lyrical, tap and swing dance. She has been dancing since she was three and started teaching at 18. Frazee is a former member of the professional “Ballet Magnificat.”

James E. Phillips, Nursing, is now a staff registered nurse at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. His mother, Sharon Clayborne, was a 1992 graduate of the nursing program.

Tasha K. Pitsenbarger, General Education, recently completed her B.S. in communication studies (cum laude) at King University. She is the grant and volunteer coordinator with the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department.

Benjamin E. Schlechter, Psychology, has obtained a M.S. in Counseling from Carson-Newman University. He majored in spiritual care and guidance and had a minor in mental and behavioral health. He received his B.A. degree from Carson-Newman in applied psychology in 2004 and also has a certificate in gerontology from Western Carolina University.
Alumni Profile: King Shaping Future of Remedial Courses

A Walters State alumna is playing a vital role in the future of remedial studies across the nation.

Saundra (Couick) King graduated from Walters State in 1978 and has spent her career striving to improve community colleges. She is assistant vice president of remediation and innovation at Ivy Tech, the community college serving the entire state of Indiana.

“This project is a wonderful opportunity. When this is completed, we will have a very impressive national model. If I didn’t believe that, I wouldn’t be here,” King said.

King described remedial studies as classes students take to prepare for reading, writing and math at the college level. At Walters State, these are now known as learning support courses but have previously been called developmental studies. These classes are unique to community colleges. They offer students the chance to take college prerequisites missed in high school or to take refresher courses if returning to school after being out for several years.

King’s interest in this particular aspect of community colleges was sparked while she worked as director of transitional studies at Chattanooga State Community College.

There, she also served on a Tennessee Board of Regents committee that looked at ways to improve these courses.

Now, she’s looking to revolutionize the courses. Since the college is large with 200,000 students, educators across the country are watching to see her outcomes.

“At one time, the focus for students was to get through developmental studies before taking anything else. Many students became discouraged. We’re trying to move away from that focus so students can accelerate and save time and money,” King said.

One way Ivy Tech is looking to change remedial courses is by changing them to “co-requisites” from “pre-requisites.” In other words, a person could take remedial writing while enrolled in Composition I.

“This isn’t as easy as taking two classes. The content has to be closely linked so the remedial information arrives just in time for students to use it in college-level courses. We also may offer enhanced classes for students who have mastered most of the competencies tested by the diagnostic exam. Perhaps a student passed 80 percent of the information tested and only needs one hour of remedial courses,” King explained.

A Newport native, King speaks fondly when she recalls her first alma mater. She graduated in 1978 from Walters State.

“I know I would not be here today if I had not been given the background I needed at Walters State. While a student, I gained a foundation that I’m still building on,” King said.

King remembers completing her Walters State application and financial aid forms with the assistance of an Upward Bound counselor. Upward Bound encourages students to consider and prepare for college. King was the first generation in her family to attend college. Perhaps those are reasons she has dedicated her career to advocating for community colleges students.

“I miss the mountains. My roots are there and my mom’s family goes back almost 200 years in Cocke County. That will always be home,” King said.

King’s son, Christopher, recently graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in sports management. He works in New Hampshire for a field team of the L.A. Kings.

Horse Trailer Gives Winter Horse Series A Big Boost

The Agriculture Department and the Ag Alumni Club received a boost this year. A Farm Credit Mid-America Community Giving Grant enabled the program to purchase a new horse trailer. That trailer was top-of-the-line thanks to alumni working at Greene’s Trailer & Equipment.

Alumnus Ronnie Sartain, a financial services officer with the Greeneville Farm Credit Office and a member of the Agriculture Department’s advisory board, thought about the grant when he heard department head Roger Brooks discussing the need for a trailer. The trailer will be used throughout the academic program, but is especially handy for the annual Ag Club Winter Horse Series.

“This is what we’re about. We feel strongly about supporting agriculture and agribusiness through community colleges and land grant universities,” Sartain said.

“Programs like the Winter Horse Series give students practical, real-world experiences. We really hope that some of them can return to the community and get

involved with production agriculture or agribusiness around here, maybe even Farm Credit as customer-members or future employees,” he said.

Greene’s Trailer & Equipment in Sneedville had loaned the department tractors and horse trailers in the past. The company didn’t just offer a discount. Alumni Amy Greene-Chapman also negotiated a discount from manufacturer Kiefer Horse Trailers.

“My brothers and I are all graduates of Walters State. We want to do everything we can to support that department and to support agriculture in this region,” said Greene-Chapman.
Kim Bolton, head of the Biology Department, has been named interim executive director of the Claiborne County Campus. She invites all Claiborne County Campus alumni to visit the campus and see recent renovations.

Malcolm McAvoy, director of Speech Communications, was named Tennessee Communicator of the Year by the Tennessee Communication Association during their annual meeting at the University of Tennessee. Marci Nimick, instructor of Speech; Dr. Larry Clifton, associate professor of speech; Taylor Richards, assistant professor of Speech; and McAvoy all made presentations or chaired panels at the meeting.

Dr. Jeff Horner, dean of Natural Science, and Kim Bolton, head of the Biology Department, traveled with representatives of the Tennessee Board of Regents to Dakar, Senegal, to present at the 2012 ELES 4 Africa Conference. Educators from over 39 different countries heard their presentation on mobilization tools and classroom assessments.

2012 Distinguished Faculty

Four faculty members were honored with 2012-13 Distinguished Faculty Awards, Walters State’s highest teaching awards. Honored were Dr. Julia Bell, associate professor of Computer and Information Science; Sarah Eichelman, associate professor of English; Doug Keith, associate professor of Criminal Justice; and Dr. Crystal Rice, associate professor of Mathematics.

Walters State’s Second Annual “Run for Fund” Success!

Close to 100 alumni, faculty and staff and community members gathered in October for the Second Annual Run for Fund 5K. The group ran (or walked in the fun walk) through the Walters State Morristown campus, circled College Square Mall and came back to finish at the tennis courts. In the process, they raised funds for the Walters State Alumni Scholarship.

Ambria Collins, the first recipient of the Walters State Alumni Scholarship, started the race. She is a music and elementary education major from Mooresburg. Her parents, Christopher and Tina Collins are both alumni. Her grandmother, Wilma Collins, is also an alumna.

“Starting the race was an honor. It was a unique experience and I will never forget it,” Collins said. “I am very grateful to everyone who participated in the first run. The scholarship is very much appreciated.”

She plans to transfer and complete a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and music. Her plans are to teach and be involved in music perhaps as a director of a church choir. At Walters State, Collins is in the Sensations show choir, the Women’s Ensemble and the Concert Choir.

“I can’t imagine life without being part of a choir,” Collins said.

The overall female champion of the 2012 run was Becky Grindstaff with a time of 22:07. J.B. Pectol finished first among males with a time of 19:20. Pectol is associate vice president of Communications and Marketing at Walters State.

The next Run for Fund is Oct. 5. Watch the Walters State website and the alumni Facebook page for details. For sponsorship opportunities, call Wanda Harrell, coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Special Events, at (423) 585-6976.

Thank you!
Run for Fund
5K Supporters
Gold Sponsor
Citizen Tribune
Bronze Sponsors
East Tennessee Diamond Company
Howard’s Pharmacy
Subway
Trophy Shop
Mile Marker Sponsors
Holston Gases
Lakeway Regional Hospital
Trade Center
Special thanks to College Square Mall, the Morristown Running, Hiking, Biking Club, the Senators Pages and volunteers.

Save the Date! Third Annual Run for Fund 5K is Oct. 5!

Are you an artist?

Plans are now being made for the 2013 Walters State Art Show. A date hasn’t been set. For more information, contact Wanda Harrell, coordinator of Alumni Affairs, at (423) 585-6976 or alumni@ws.edu.
Jerry Nichols Comes Home Once a Year

At press time, alumnus and former Senators basketball stand-out Jerry Nichols reflects being number one. His Motlow State Bucks have dominated TCCAA play this year, and that included beating his alma mater and Coach Bill Carlyle twice.

“The first time I coached against Walters State, it was interesting just seeing Coach Carlyle on the opposing sidelines. He’s basically become my dad. So, I do have mixed emotions but I’ve got a job to do and I’m there to win,” Nichols said.

And you can bet his former coach is always up for the challenge.

“I’m very proud of Jerry. He’s a very hard worker and I know his team will always be ready to play when they come to Walters State. I love Jerry like a son, but I don’t like losing to him,” Carlyle said.

Nichols played for the Senators from 2002-2004. He went on to play at Division I Arkansas State. He became head coach at Motlow State and was named athletic director in 2011. One statistic he’s very proud of is that every member of his first two recruiting classes graduated and accepted scholarships to four-year schools.

“We’ve started a program to help at-risk students excel in college. This is for all students, but I make sure our players are part of it. We take a cultural trip every year. We teach study habits and we have community mentors that help our students along the way,” Nichols explained.

“Students start learning how to build relationships. These are all important things I learned at Walters State.”

Nichols knew he wanted to be a coach early on in his life. He didn’t realize that dream could really happen until he came to Walters State.

“I don’t know if I would be the same person if I had not attended Walters State. I learned so much from Coach Carlyle and formed many important relationships while I was there. The structure Coach Carlyle gave me helped me get my life on track,” Nichols said.

Nichols also met Motlow State President Dr. MaryLou Apple when she was vice president of Academic Affairs at Walters State. She would often attend games and offer words of encouragement. Nichols still sees her in the stands cheering.

Nichols and Carlyle may meet on the court again – in the state tournament at the end of the season. Nichols hopes the Bucks capture their first berth in the national tournament. While Carlyle and the Senators may be underdogs this year, Nichols isn’t counting them out yet. A tournament championship would mark the Senators’ sixth trip to the NJCAA Championship.

Coach Dave Kragel, center, had a tough time holding back his emotions after the Lady Senators gave him his 800th career victory in February. The 75-64 win over Volunteer State also clinched the TCCAA regular season title. The team rushed the sidelines to present him with a ball and surprise “Kragel Fan” faces. Standing next to Kragel is alumna Jasmin Coleman, assistant basketball coach and volleyball coach.

Coach Jerry Nichols and Coach Bill Carlyle

Three WSCC Teams Ranked for 2012-13

Volleyball Marks First Season

The 2012-13 season got off to a great start with the successful launch of the college’s first Walters State Volleyball Team. Coached by alumna Jasmin Coleman, they finished with a 12-5 record.

Lady Senators Headed to NJCAA Tourney

The Lady Senators secured a place in the NJCAA National Tournament by winning the regular conference title. The team has had a stellar season, finishing with a 26-1 regular season record. The team spent virtually the whole season in the nation’s top ten.

Senators Basketball Makes Late Run

The Senators hovered near .500 for most of the season but got hot when the TCCAA games started, once being as high as fourth in the league. The team ended with a 13-16 record. At press time, the team is preparing to compete in the conference tournament.

Baseball Starts Season Near The Top

The Senators baseball team opened the season ranked as high as No. 11 in national polls. The team has a solid nucleus back from the 2011-12 season. That team finished 52-11, won the TCCAA tournament and was ranked as high as No. 1 in national polls.

Four baseball players have already signed to play at Division I colleges: Josh Peterson and Will Carter, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Chase Cunningham, Belmont; and Zach Walton, Austin Peay State University.

Softball Team Nationally Ranked

The Lady Senators softball team returns fresh off the best season in school history to find themselves ranked in the NJCAA’s pre-season top 20. Last year, the team finished with a 46-7 record. The ladies also finished runner-up in the conference tournament to eventual national champion Chattanooga State. The Lady Senators return several players from last year’s team and signed another solid recruiting class.

Follow the Action on the Web

To follow all Senators Athletics, bookmark www.ws.edu/athletics. News is also available on the college’s Facebook page and by following @WaltersStSports on Twitter.
Reasons to Visit WSCC ...

1. **The Arts!** The Division of Humanities offers performances at Morristown and Sevier County campuses. Many are free, while others have a small admission fee. Enjoy the music, the theatre, the visual arts and more! To be placed on the Division of Humanities’ mailing list, call Glenda Nolen (423) 585-6922 or Glenda.Nolen@ws.edu. Please put “Mailing List” in the subject line.

2. **A Game!** The Senators and Lady Senators baseball and softball teams are both ranked in the top 20 among national junior colleges...and both are coming off red-hot seasons last year. The Lady Senators volleyball team will also have a short spring season. Admission is free to all events. Bring the family and enjoy some of the country’s best spring sports action while cheering on your alma mater!

3. **Take a Class!** Both credit and non-credit classes at Walters State can keep your mind challenged while you sharpen your skills, train for a new career or simply pursue a hobby or passion. Appalachian Literature and Folklore are popular among alumni. Many industrial/engineering graduates are returning to learn clean energy skills. Community Education can teach seminars geared to specific industries and individual companies dealing in topics like workshop violence, TOSHA safety rules and social media.

4. **Reconnect with Walters State** by attending an event. Volunteer to be a classroom speaker or mentor a student. Support a scholarship or donate to the annual fund. Be part of a focus group. Come out next fall for the “Run for Fund” or the art show.