Five Reasons to Visit Walters State This Spring!

1. Tell a teacher thank you...you will be surprised how many remember your name and all will be proud of your success. (Most give free career advice, too). Just call the division first and make an appointment.

2. “Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street” will be appearing March 28-30 and April 4-6 on the Morristown campus. Auditions are going on at press time and Walters State’s Music and Theatre Department has a wealth of talent to share. Check the WSCC news page or the facebook page for more details, or contact Glenda Nolen in the Humanities Division at 423-585-6922, Glenda.Nolen@ws.edu.

3. Join some of Appalachia’s most noteworthy authors and other literary fans at The Mildred Haun Conference: Feb. 7-8. Admission is free. Frank X. Walker will be the keynote speaker. Other writers slated to attend include Amy Greene, Karen McElmurray, Marianne Worthington, George Ella Lyon and D.A. Adams III. Hear from our talented students during a special open mic. For more information, contact Dr. Viki Rouse at 423-585-6963 or Viki.Rouse@ws.edu.

4. Catch some awesome athletics...regardless of your game. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. The money was good, but there was a downside. 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President’s Message

A Message From The President

With 2014 just under way, it’s the time of year for reflection and resolutions. Whether you’re a former Walters State student or a friend of the college, I hope you will consider remaining connected or reconnecting with Walters State this year.

Opportunities to stay involved with the college abound and continue to grow. We offer numerous arts and cultural events throughout the year, including plays, concerts, art exhibits, and lectures by internationally renowned speakers. Through our Global Connections initiative, we sponsor international programs and events at all four of our campus sites. You can even join some of our students, faculty and staff for one of our Global Connections trips overseas.

You can also support our talented student-athletes by attending a game. Senators’ athletics teams are perennial contenders for national championships. Last year, five of our teams – softball, baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, and golf – earned berths to their respective national tournaments. And our volleyball team, in only their second year, finished second in their conference.

If you’re a former student with at least 30 hours of Walters State credit, you are a member of our Alumni Association. If you haven’t done so yet, I encourage you to contact our Alumni Affairs Office to see how you can reconnect with some of your former classmates and instructors or get involved in one of our many alumni club chapters.

Whether you attend a college event, join an alumni club, or make a donation to our foundation, you will directly or indirectly make a difference in the lives of our current students.

On behalf of Walters State’s faculty, staff and current students, we hope to see or hear from you soon.

Wade B. McCombs
President

Walters State Athletics

Seniors golf coach Bill Gardner starts the spring season with a target on his back… but it’s a target he’ll wear with pride. For the first time in the college’s history, the golf team is ranked No. 1 in preseason national polls.

“The ranking does bring added pressure because everyone wants to beat us,” Gardner said. “To be honest, this team deserves to be No. 1 because they work so hard every day. There are no individuals here, only a team.”

The ranking follows an outstanding 2012-13 season. That team finished second in the nation last year and brought in new recruits.

When Joey Seaver played his first game for Walters State, he knew he had made a special connection. What he could not have known, though, was how his life would be intertwined with the college.

Seaver was named to replace legendary Coach Ken Campbell as head baseball coach. “Coaching is the next best thing to playing. So, would you want to re-invent the wheel when everything is going so well?”

“I never thought about being his successor. I thought he would keep coaching for a long time. I had to face that decision,” Seaver said. “I never thought about being his successor. Joey really deserves this. He’s been an assistant coach for 24 years and it’s time for him to be a head coach. His knowledge of pitching and his passion for the game can’t be topped,” Campbell said. Campbell also said the team has an excellent chance of making it to the JUCO World Series in Seaver’s first year at the helm.

Seaver isn’t ready to talk about any trips to Colorado or even the possibility of another state championship. In contrast, he’s always enjoyed, don’t anticipate many changes. Why would you want to re-invent the wheel when everything is going so well?”

One advantage Seaver has in recruiting is his experience playing at Walters State.

The golf team will see its first spring action in March at the Tusculum College Spring Invitational in Greeneville.

Gardner was also a member of the college’s psychology faculty for over 30 years.

Alumnus, Asst. Coach Seaver to Lead Diamond Senators

While Gardner stresses the importance of the team, he brought an elite individual award home last year – the Dave Williams Division II Coach of the Year. He was also named coach of the year for the southeastern JUCO region.

“I was very humbled by both awards. I never even played golf until I retired from coaching baseball. I never saw a golf club until I was in college,” Gardner explained. Gardner joined Walters State in 1972 coaching both basketball and baseball. He moved to golf in 1984.

“If I were the first to admit that I’m not a good player, so the awards I’ve received would not have happened if it weren’t for my players. These are really team awards. And, if the college had not been supportive, the team could not have gone far. I would like to take my name off the award and just leave it as Walters State Golf Team,” he added.

Follow Walters State Athletics at www.ws.edu/athletics

V-Ball Has Outstanding Season

The Walters State volleyball team recently ended its second full season of competition with the first-ever foray into postseason action where the team finished runner-up in the NJCAA Region X Tournament played in Myrtleville, Va.

The Lady Senators had another winning season, rolling off an 11-8 record to follow up their 8-5 campaign in their inaugural season of 2012. The program is on solid footing under coach Jasmin Coleman, who loses three sophomores from this year’s team – Morris-town natives Megan Blaylock, Ashley Stani- fer and Mariah Mckinney.

Emily Lowe, Megan Settle, Taylor Rymer, Heather Ottinger and Alexis Whitehead will return for the 2014 season.
Three faculty members were honored with the 2013-14 Distinguished Faculty Award this year. Individuals receiving the award were Chris Knight, associate professor of development education, mathematics, and coordinator of developmental mathematics; Darlene Smith, assistant professor of education; and Darrell McGhee, associate professor of history.

Writing is a process of discovery. You have an idea. You put it on paper and it begins to take shape. Chris Knight, associate professor of sociology, spent several weeks in the Ukraine, meeting with educators and farmers. He compared the similarities and methods of sustainability between that area and Appalachia.

Dr. Eugene de Sille, associate professor of physics, was named a Fellow by the Tennessee Science Academy.

Matthew Lawson, instructor of speech, was recognized with the Horizon Award for new leaders at the Tennessee Communication Association’s 2013 annual conference.

Michelle Mitrik and Erika Stevens, both as- sociate professors of Spanish, developed online Spanish 1010 and 1020 courses for the Niswonger Dual Enrollment Grant. The class- es are offered through Walters State.

Susan Roberts, associate professor of art, participated in an art residency in painting at the Vermont Studio Center this summer. She will be exhibiting work at the Rose Center in March.

Darlene Smith, assistant professor of educa- tion, and Dr. Matthew Smith, assistant professor of chemistry were named 2012-13 Mobile Fellows. The college’s Mobile Learn- ing Fellows program encourages faculty to explore new methods of engaging students and increasing active student involvement through the use of mobile devices and technolo- gies. Mobile Fellows share their meth- ods with other faculty members.


“For me, the biggest motivation is preserving the past and leaving a legacy. Much of my po- etry is about my family members,” Heck said. She adds that all writers have different motiva- tions.

“Writing allows you to freeze a moment in time. For most writers it’s an outlet. Writing is always a catharsis. You release energy. You express yourself. Writing allows you to freeze a moment in time,” Heck said.

Writing is a process of discovery. You have an idea. You put it on paper and it begins to unfold,” he added. Adams will be one of the presenters at the writing workshops included in this year’s “Mildred Haun Conference” in February.

Other writers in the Humanities Division in- clude Larry Clifton, associate professor of speech, who often writes about film, and Brad Owens, associate professor of English, who writes poetry. Two of Owens’ poems are in the recent anthology, “The Dead Mule: School of Southern Literature.”

Dr. Timothy Holder, associate professor of history, is one of the college’s most prolific writ- ers, with books ranging from “Nixon and His Men” to the “Ask the Professor” series.

Many Walters State faculty do concentrate on their academic discipline. For example, Dr. Chris Baker, professor of sociology, writes ex- tensively on Appalachian issues and is the co-author of “Social Problems: A Service Learning Approach.” Dr. Greg Bock, associate professor of philosophy, published a chapter entitled “I Know You Know I’m Not Telling the Truth” in the textbook, “Psych and Philosophy.”

Walters State recognized faculty and staff for their excellence in teaching and service during the college’s annual fall convocation.

Christie Wilson, instructor of English, pre- sented “How Comics Can Save an Introduc- tion to Literature Course” at the Two-Year College English Association of Tennessee an- nual conference.

Getting an idea. You put it on paper and it begins to take shape. This is the process of discovery. You have an idea. You put it on paper and it begins to unfold,” he added. Adams will be one of the presenters at the writing workshops included in this year’s “Mildred Haun Conference” in February.

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Writing is Popular, Successful Pursuit for Faculty Members

Walters State’s faculty members are known for great teaching abilities. You may not know that many of them are accomplished writers out- side the classroom.


“For me, the biggest motivation is preserving the past and leaving a legacy. Much of my po- etry is about my family members,” Heck said. She adds that all writers have different motiva- tions.

“Writing allows you to freeze a moment in time. For most writers it’s an outlet. Writing is always a catharsis. You release energy. You express yourself. Writing allows you to freeze a moment in time,” Heck said.

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Alumnus Named State Resource Officer for 2013

A Walters State alumna was selected from over 300 school resource officers to receive the President’s Award from the Tennessee School Resource Officer’s Association.

Maurice Solomon was cited for his outstanding work with students in Jefferson County and, particularly, Rush Strong School. Rush Strong is a K-8 school near the Knox County border. He is a 2014 graduate of the WSCC Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

Like many academy graduates, Solomon started his career as a corrections officer. He knew that, unlike many officers, he wanted to work with young people. Rush Strong was glad to have his help.

Solomon was surprised to win this prestigious award, given to only one resource officer a year. His co-workers may not have been expecting him to win the award but weren’t shocked when his name was called.

“We’re thrilled to have Officer Solomon here,” said Jerry Bouler, assistant principal at Rush Strong.

“Students and parents know him. He knows this community well and knows many people personally. They all love him. He’s a very personable guy and he really cares about the kids. The kids know that,” Bouler said.

Solomon tries to treat each student as an individual. He can usually tell when one of the students is having a bad day or maybe experiencing troubles at home. Solomon always makes himself available to talk or just offer an encouraging word.

When it comes to safety, he provides the Rush Strong students with the same fierce protection as he would his own children.

He’s never at a desk. Instead, he’s always walking around, making sure anyone outside the school knows he’s on duty. He even sees police officers as learning tools during the past couple of years. And as a result, Walters State transfer students on average per term rises as students complete associate’s degrees. Plus, completing the associate degree makes it more likely that students will complete their bachelor’s degree.

Reverse transfers have been completed informally through the Student Success Office for several years. To qualify, 25 percent of the total number of hours required for the degree, usually 55, must be completed at Walters State. The first step is to request a transcript be sent from senior institutions back to Walters State. Give those transcripts time to arrive and be processed. Then, call Melissa Duff at 423-318-2563.

If you attended Walters State and transferred short of the requirements for a degree, reverse transfer programs allow you to use classes taken at senior institutions to complete your associate’s degree.

Walters State President Dr. Wade B. McCamey encouraged the WSSC class of 2013 to show “respect, compassion, and kindness toward others” in all aspects of life.

McCamey was the commencement speaker for the 45th commencement ceremony on Dec. 12. Walters State conferred over 700 technical certificates and degrees.

“After thinking long and hard about what to say to you, I decided that I can probably serve you best by telling you more about the college from which you are about to graduate,” McCamey said.

He then cited some impressive statistics for technical graduates: 92 percent find employment in jobs specifically related to their field of study within six months; 96 percent of recent graduates felt they fulfilled their educational goals and 91 percent of employers were satisfied with the skills and knowledge of Walters State graduates.

For students ready to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, McCamey shared some equally impressive information. Walters State transfer students on average perform as well or better than students who attend their first two years at a four-year college or university. And Walters State transfer students have a cumulative first-year GPA of 3.18.

McCamey also commended these students as the first graduating class to have fully utilized mobile technology while at Walters State.

“Our faculty and you, our students, have done some wonderful things using mobile devices as learning tools during the past couple of years. And as a result, Walters State was one of the first community colleges in the nation to be selected as an Apple Distinctly Graduated Program,” McCamey said.

CLASS NOTES

1991 April A. Bell, A.A.S. office administration, earned her B.S. in organizational management from Tusculum College and now serves as a human resource specialist and area BMDI for International Paper in Morristown. She is also active at Unity Baptist Church in Newport.

1996, 1999 Cynthia M. Holt, A.S. criminal justice and Certificate basic law enforcement officer, has been promoted to shift sergeant at the Greene County Sheriff’s Department. She is currently pursuing her bachelor’s at Columbia Southern University.

1997, 2001, 2008, 2009 Angela K. Bibbins, A.A.S. and A.S. computer science technology, business, elementary education and secondary education, is employed as an elementary school teaching assistant. She has a B.S. from East Tennessee State University in elementary education.

1999 Jessica A. Antal, A.S. general studies, earned a M.S. in social work from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 2003. She works at the Thompson Cancer Survival Center.

2007 Rhonda E. Ratliff, A.A.S. nursing, received her B.S.N. in 2013 from ETSU. She is now pursuing a M.S. in nursing. She is married with five children.

2010 Jason D. Buel, A.S. engineering, completed his B.S. in civil engineering in 2013 at UT-Knoxville.

Kasey L. Ferguson, A.S. general studies, is a fifth-grade social studies teacher in Hancock County. She completed her B.S. in interdisciplinary studies.

Shelby M. Hoskins, A.S. pre-radiography, lives in Johnsonburg and is working on her bachelor’s in nursing at ETSU.

Geneva J. Lyons, A.A.S. nursing, is working in the emergency department at Holston Valley Hospital.

Brent M. Miracle, A.S. social work, works at Roadrunner Market and recently received his B.S. in human services from ETSU.

2012 Tammy L. Knapp, A.S. criminal justice, has a new job at a local law office.

Amber L. Lowery, A.S. general studies, works as a property manager for Douglas-Cherokee’s Volunteer Housing Management.

CORRECTION

David A. Drinnon, A.S., general studies, who was recognized in the last HUB for finishing his Ph.D. in history, completed the degree at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland.

CLASS NOTES

If you attended Walters State and transferred short of the requirements for a degree, reverse transfer programs allow you to use classes taken at senior institutions to complete your associate’s degree.

King University and ETSU have established formal reverse transfer degree agreements with WSSC and other schools are expected to follow. The transfer program supports both the 2010 Tennessee College Completion Act and Governor Bill Haslam’s “Drive to 55” initiative to have 55 percent of Tennessee’s population hold a postsecondary certification.

2013

David A. Drinnon

David A. Drinnon, A.S., general studies, who was recognized in the last HUB for finishing his Ph.D. in history, completed the degree at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland.

Why get an associate’s after you have enrolled in or graduated from a four-year college?

“For the students I have worked with, the biggest advantage is financial. Having an associate’s degree helps with employment while continuing with studies,” said Melissa Duff, director of the college’s Student Success Center.

“For other students, it seems to be almost closure. The associate’s degree is something they were not able to complete for some reason or another.”

Duff added that studies have shown self-esteem rises as students complete associate’s degrees. Plus, completing the associate degree makes it more likely that students will complete their bachelor’s degree.

McCamey Offers Class of 2013 Advice, Congratulations

Walters State President Dr. Wade B. McCamey encouraged the WSSC class of 2013 to show “respect, compassion, and kindness toward others” in all aspects of life.

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