

## September newsletter, 2016

- Enrollment: slow and steady, diversity numbers on the rise
- Harry M. Davis professorship
- Equity advocate, Afro-vegan chef to speak
- Safety Week



Sheri N. Everts, Chancellor

# Inside Appalachian

news and notes from the university



**Small classes and robust faculty-student interaction are hallmarks of the Appalachian Experience.**

At Appalachian, we put students first, always, and together we are building a bright future. Ultimately, the reason Appalachian's stellar faculty and staff come to work every day is to realize this vision.



*Appalachian welcomed the largest first-year class ever this fall semester.*

*From the desk of Chancellor Everts*

### **Enrollment continues slow and steady upward trend; diversity numbers continue climbing**

I am proud to announce our official enrollment numbers for the 2016-17 academic year. Our first-year class is the largest and most diverse first-year class in Appalachian State University's history – and certainly among the brightest. Our first-year class totals 3,125 students, with just under 17 percent from traditionally underrepresented groups, up from 15.2 percent in fall 2015, which was also an Appalachian record for diversity. The admissions selectivity process continues to enroll students most likely to succeed. For enrolled students, the average high school GPA is 4.17 (weighted), average SAT score is 1133 and ACT 25. Out-of-state enrollment is up for both new undergraduate and graduate students, as is enrollment for transfer and distant education students. We are also proud to report increased quality measures for higher retention and record four-, five- and six-year graduation rates.

Slow and steady enrollment continues to be a priority at Appalachian. It is important to note we are not anticipating any change in our student-to-faculty ratio, currently at 16:1, which is a hallmark of the Appalachian Experience. While strong demand is a positive indicator of Appalachian's overall standing, we must be able to sustain our community. Pacing the growth so that it is slow but steady is key, and the leadership at Appalachian is committed to having the appropriate resources in place to support the continued health of the university. Ninety-nine percent of full-time faculty have doctorate, first professional degree or other terminal degrees, and we are committed to sustaining that caliber of excellence.

Space to support the work of faculty and staff is always at a premium. We have allocated more than \$2 million from renovation and restoration, as well as carry-forward funding, to upgrade the old Presbyterian Church behind the Plemmons Student Union. It will now be called Howard Street Hall and house two new 60- to 80-seat classrooms and 21 faculty offices. And, construction on the new Beaver College of Health Sciences is moving along smartly, with occupancy slated for August 2018.

## Advancement Corner

*News from Randy Edwards, interim vice chancellor for advancement*

Funding for professorships is always a top priority for University Advancement. Professorships ensure Appalachian State University maintains the outstanding faculty for which we are noted. I am proud to announce the North Carolina Banking Association (NCBA) is partnering with Appalachian's Walker College of Business (WCOB) to establish the Harry M. Davis Distinguished Professorship in Banking.

"This professorship will allow the Walker College of Business to continue to attract and retain superior talent to build upon Dr. Davis' lifetime of work helping prepare graduates for the banking industry," said WCOB Dean Heather Norris. "We are pleased that outstanding organizations like NCBA choose to partner with our university to make a significant impact on future business students."

**Read more:** [news.appstate.edu/2016/08/29/harry-davis](http://news.appstate.edu/2016/08/29/harry-davis)

### About professorships

A distinguished professorship requires at least \$500,000 in funding. When approximately two-thirds of that amount in gifts and/or pledges is made, the university may apply for matching funds from the State of North Carolina for the remaining third, creating an endowment of at least \$500,000.

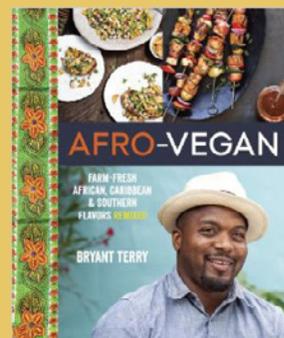
For giving opportunities, visit: [give.appstate.edu](http://give.appstate.edu)



*Dr. Harry M. Davis*

## University bookshelf

Afro-vegan chef and equity advocate Bryant Terry will be speaking at 11 a.m. Oct. 19 in the Holmes Convocation Center as part of the Beaver College of Health and Sciences' Transforming Health Series presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. A national leader in the movement to promote healthy eating, Terry is the author of "The Inspired Vegan" and the critically acclaimed "Vegan Soul Kitchen." We can all learn from this global-kitchen philosopher as we consider a more sustainable world.



The not-exactly-a-book recommendation this month is the "The Authority of the Book" exhibit at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts through Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017. Are we at the end of the era of the printed book? Perhaps, but the explosion in self-publishing argues that the printed/made book is more potent than ever. The works in this show have a variety of approaches and relationships to the idea of production, but they all share a commitment to the book as an authentic primary experience in art.



*Fifty Two, Clifton Meador*



*Students gather on Sanford Mall during the Safety Festival where several dozen community and university organizations set up tents and shared resource materials.*



*Hundreds of students and other members of the Appalachian community gathered for the annual Walk for Awareness Aug. 30. The silent walk through campus commemorates lives lost to violence and supports victims and survivors of violence.*

## On the Mountain

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At the first of the month, we celebrated our annual Safety Week, a series of events designed to educate our students to the myriad resources available on campus and in the community to ensure their personal safety, health and wellness.

During the week, we hosted an annual, community-wide Walk for Awareness, a silent walk through the campus to commemorate lives lost to violence, and held a safety festival on Sanford Mall. At the festival, various university departments, clubs and community partners presented events, displays and workshops to share resources beneficial to students' well-being.

As one of our strategic initiatives, in 2015 the university created the Department of Wellness and Prevention Services to help students navigate their university years safely and successfully through education and training.

And this summer, Appalachian joined The Jed Foundation Campus Program (The Campus Program), which is designed to help colleges and universities assess and enhance mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention programming. **Read more:** [chancellor.appstate.edu/newsletter/id/29](http://chancellor.appstate.edu/newsletter/id/29)

## Spotlight on: Faculty

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When considering which of the many deserving faculty members to spotlight this month, I imagined instead the 154 new faculty who are quickly approaching the middle of their first semester with us. The contributions they and their colleagues are making and the exponential impact they have on our students is extraordinary. I want to thank and honor all of them for their commitment to higher education and to share some of the initiatives we have in place to support them:

- an annual raise process for EHRA faculty and non-faculty employees that marks the third year in a row for merit pay increases for faculty
- internal funding for 14 new tenure-track faculty lines
- creation of the new Center for Academic Excellence to strengthen professional development opportunities
- the Chancellor's Academic Leadership Development Program, initiated last spring, which graduated its inaugural class of nine participants and has a class of 14 more individuals underway in 2016-17
- the imminent creation of an Innovation Scholars Program, which will provide support for faculty and staff engaged in innovation within their discipline. Innovations could be related to teaching, research, service, community engagement, economic development or any combination thereof.



*The inaugural class of the Chancellor's Academic Leadership Development Program celebrated a successful completion with the program's founders at the Appalachian House. Pictured left to right are: Dr. Heather Norris, Dr. Sue Edwards, Dr. Jim Denniston, Dr. Tim Smith, Dr. Tracie Salinas, Dr. Denise Levy, Dr. Jim Toub, Dr. Melissa Gutschall, Dr. Tim Huelsman, Dr. Tracy Smith, Dr. Lisa Runner, Dr. Doug Roberts, Dr. Dave Williams and Chad Everhart. Photo courtesy of Academic Affairs*

## Spotlight on: Faculty Awards

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At the university's fall semester opening meeting for faculty and staff, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Darrell Kruger presented six members of Appalachian State University's faculty with excellence in teaching awards. The late August gathering took place in the Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts on Appalachian's campus.

"The commitment to teaching has always been the heart and soul of Appalachian's mission, and has, over the years, served as the foundation of its overall success," said Kruger. "Our mission statement is clear in this regard, and reads in part: 'with instruction as its primary mission, the university is committed to excellence in teaching and the fostering of scholarship.'"

**Read more:** [news.appstate.edu/2016/09/09/faculty-excellence-award-winners](https://news.appstate.edu/2016/09/09/faculty-excellence-award-winners)

## Spotlight on: Faculty Awards



Dr. Anita Kitchens, professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, received Appalachian's campus teaching excellence award.

Photo by Marie Freeman



Dr. Lisa Runner, associate professor of music education in the Hayes School of Music, was presented with the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Photo courtesy of Randall Terry



Dr. Erik Rabinowitz, associate professor, Recreation Management and Physical Education, received Appalachian's campus teaching excellence award.

Photo by Marie Freeman



Dr. Lisa McNulty, professor, Department of Nutrition and Health Care Management, was first runner-up for the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Photo by Marie Freeman



Dr. Nancy Bargerstock, professor, Hayes School of Music, received Appalachian's campus teaching excellence award.

Photo by Marie Freeman



Dr. Gregory Rhoads, associate professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, received Appalachian's campus teaching excellence award.

Photo by Marie Freeman

# Spotlight on: Staff Awards

## Spotlight on: Staff Awards

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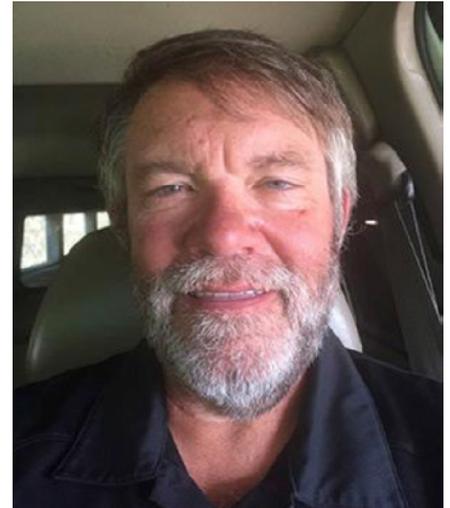
During the university's opening meeting for faculty and staff for the fall semester, four members of the university's staff also were honored with awards recognizing their exemplary service, commitment, collegiality and leadership to the university community. Director of Human Resources Mark Bachmeier presented the 2016 Staff Excellence Awards to Livelle Leon Rodriguez, Barry Sauls, Lori Townsend and Tom Van Gilder, who were chosen by a review committee from a pool of 59 nominations.

**Read more:** [news.appstate.edu/2016/09/09/staff-awards-2016](http://news.appstate.edu/2016/09/09/staff-awards-2016)



Livelle Leon Rodriguez, accounting technician in University Advancement, has worked at Appalachian for nine years. Photo by Marie Freeman

Barry Sauls, director of Parking and Traffic, has worked at Appalachian for 18 years. Photo courtesy of Barry Sauls



Lori Townsend, senior associate director in Student Financial Aid, has worked at Appalachian for 14 years. Photo by Marie Freeman



Tom Van Gilder, interim director of Learning Technology Services, has worked at Appalachian for 17 years. Photo courtesy of Gina Slagle



# Welcome to Appalachian!

We are pleased to announce the following staff additions to the Appalachian Community.

**Charles Christian**, Internal Auditor, Office of Internal Audits

**Harvey Johnson**, Building and Environmental Services Technician, University Recreation

**Jody Miller**, University Program Specialist, Holmes Convocation Center

**Frances Musser**, Early Childhood Development Practitioner, Child Development Center

**Scott Rhyne**, Research Technician, Animal Facility

**William Streater**, Technician, Park Place Café

**John Suger**, Business and Technology Applications Analyst, Registrar

**Virginia Beasley**, Staff Physician, Health Services

**Elisabeth Wall**, Public Communications Specialist, University Communications

**Adam Wilson**, Food Services Technician, Rivers Street Café

**Emily Wolschlag**, ACT Coordinator, Student Programs

## Join us

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Please stop by our monthly Staff Connect and Faculty Club gatherings – they are fine opportunities to say hello, invite a newcomer to join you in a meal, a conversation or professional development opportunity, or share one of your favorite local spots or traditions. The next Faculty Club meets Friday, Oct. 28, and Staff Connect meets Thursday, Oct. 27. Both events are in Room 220 (Whitewater Lounge) in the Plemmons Student Union, 4 - 6 p.m.

