

## Inside NEWS

# University expands free speech zones due to SGA deal

### All of Sanford Mall, Duck Pond Field, amphitheater, and Durham Park now included

**ANNA OAKES**  
Staff Writer

The Appalachian State University campus community may soon enjoy the freedom of unscheduled public speech in two new areas.

University policy is being revised to include all of Sanford Mall and Durham Park as unscheduled public speaking areas on campus.

Currently university and community members may engage in spontaneous free speech in three areas: the

concrete area surrounding the statues on Sanford Mall, the Duck Pond Field behind Trivette Hall and the open-air amphitheater outside Plemmons Student Union.

Student Government Association President Miriam N. Makhyoun and Vice President Nick V. Albu asked the administration to revisit the policy in July.

"Unscheduled public speaking areas are places where individuals and groups are permitted to assemble, typically with a message, without

applying to the Dean of Students or the Vice Chancellor for Student Development," Makhyoun said.

Previously, restricting Sanford Mall from being an unscheduled public speaking area limited spontaneous, peaceful assemblies from occurring, she said.

"We have over a 360-acre campus, and less than an acre [was designated for] free speech," Makhyoun said.

In addition to expanding the current areas for free speech, Makhyoun and Albu

asked the administration to amend the language of the policy to encourage, rather than condone, free speech.

To achieve this, University Attorney David H. Larry has revised the current policy for "Facility Use, Solicitation, Distribution of Printed Materials, Unscheduled Public Speaking Areas, and Peaceful Assembly."

"We put in...statements that we encourage free speech and then identified the new areas where it can be accomplished," Larry said.

In Section 1.2 of the revised draft of the policy, which is pending approval from the administration, it now states: "Consistent with its educational mission, the university encourages the free exchange of ideas on campus, while assuring that other important university interests and activities are not infringed upon or disrupted."

Over the summer, Makhyoun consulted professionals such as American Civil Liberties Union Legal Director Steven R. Shapiro, and met

with university attorneys and administration members, including Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock and Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace.

"We have great administrators," Makhyoun said. "They are receptive to student ideas...and they will listen and they will do their best to [eliminate any] problems."

"It's very important to me for students to care passionately about issues like free speech," Wallace said. "It's

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## Solarium to be completed soon

**JUSTIN BOULMAY**  
Senior Staff Writer

The Solarium, the long-awaited addition to Plemmons Student Union, should be completed within a month, Appalachian State University officials said Friday.

What remains on the Solarium is the exterior landscaping, Director of Design & Construction Dr. Clyde D. Robbins said.

Plants also need to be moved inside the building, and the alarm system needs to be worked on.

"I'm trying to get a final inspection in the next two weeks," Robbins said.

If that happens, the Solarium could open in a few weeks.

Margaret D. Stricker, a senior journalism major from Brevard, said it would be good to have access to that area of campus again.

"I'm very excited," Strickland said. "They started my freshmen year and I have really missed being able to use that part of the Student Union."

The University Bookstore

should open no later than Oct. 10, Robbins said. He said the existing bookstore still needs to be renovated, and should be completed in six months.

Progress on the Solarium suffered a blow over the summer with the loss of the general contractor, Crossley Construction Corporation.

The university terminated Crossley's \$5 million contract because they failed to do their job, Project Manager W. Kelley Ingram said.

"We just got so frustrated with them," Robbins said. "When we defaulted them, they were over a year beyond their contract date."

"We were really hesitant to do it, but we passed milestone after milestone with this contractor, and commitment after commitment that they couldn't keep, and we finally got so frustrated that we just decided to terminate the contract and hire someone to finish the job," he said.

Crossley didn't start the project until six months after they were brought on to the

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## Field hockey glides to victory



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

Senior forward Elizabeth G. Sharpe fights off a member of the University of Maryland Baltimore Company's field hockey team for the ball. The game went into double over-time. To see more on field hockey turn to page 6.

## Convocation to take place Thursday

**JENNIFER SCHNEIDER**  
Staff Writer

Classes are canceled until 12:30 p.m. Thursday for Convocation. The traditional coming together of staff, faculty and students to celebrate the university's achievements will be held in the Holmes Convocation Center at 10 a.m.

"It enriches your experiences here and makes you feel part of Appalachian. It will give students a chance to have a sense of what is going on in their university community and it's a chance for us to remember our overall mission and to come together, faculty and students both," Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Janice Pope said.

This year's guest speaker will be Cedric L. Jennings, subject of the summer reading book "A Hope in the Unseen" by Ron Suskind. "One thing summer read-

ing has tried to achieve is to find a book that speaks directly to the students and here we have picked the student to speak directly to the students," Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace said.

"We liked the fact that Cedric Jennings was not that much older than the typical student and we liked the fact that it was a struggle about how you get to college against the odds," Pope said. "We felt that we really wanted to emphasize to all during Convocation to be on this book and its themes of overcoming adversity to get to college and then to succeed in college."

Awards will be presented during the ceremony to faculty, staff and students who have risen above and shown outstanding achievement.

"It indicates that we recognize quality and that we want to reward those faculty members and staff

who excel at what they do in scholarship, teaching and service," Dr. Stan R. Aeschleman, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs said.

Those recognized include recipients of the Board of Governors Teaching Award: art professor Barbara J. Yale-Read, associate chemistry professor Dr. Robert J. Yoblinski, library professor Dr. Glenn E. Starr-Stilling and associate political science and criminal justice professor Dr. Matthew B. Robinson.

The W.H. Plemmons Leadership Medallion Award will be presented to Chancellor Emeritus Dr. John E. Thomas, School of Music professor Dr. Scott R. Meister, Director of Student Judicial Affairs Judith M. Haas, 2004 alumna Amy M. Dixon and Masters candidate for higher education Brian S. Merritt.

Administrative assistants

Janice G. Jackson, Janice F. Voss and Margaret G. Kilgore will receive the Staff Outstanding Service Award.

"I think that quite often the staff is invisible to students and yet their jobs are about facilitating student life here at Appalachian. I think it's really important for students to see that we recognize our staff," Pope said.

"I believe that there are some formal traditions that are really important in terms of how we honor our history and show respect for individuals," Wallace said.

"In its broadest and best way it is a gathering of minds to celebrate the beginning of the academic year. I find it really inspiring and I love to be inspired at this time of the year. To me it's renewing, it's hopeful and I would like to share that with more people in the community."

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John Bethune | The Appalachian

Construction between the bookstore and library continues.

## Police strive for safer campus

**LORI FOX**  
Staff Writer

The Boone Police Department and the Appalachian State University Police are teaming together to create a stronger safety and crime prevention program.

Concerns for the Boone area consist primarily of traffic and pedestrian safety. Within the mere 5.84 square miles of Boone, 13,472 residents and 14,343 total students interact together, according to the 2000 census. This fairly large population in such a small vicinity explains the continuing traffic problems in Boone.

Rivers Street and Hardin Street, the two main streets surrounding the Appalachian State campus, pose the most danger for Appalachian State students.

Both of these streets are heavily traveled during peak driving hours. Hardin Street is especially busy since it is a part of US Highway 321. In competition with highway traffic, students often have trouble crossing streets to get to class.

"It's near impossible to cross Rivers Street anytime of the day. I'm forced to dodge traffic just to make it to class on time," sophomore criminal justice major Tara J. Cecconi said.

The Appalachian State University Police Department is working towards reducing the number of speeders on Rivers Street and other roadways intersecting campus. Appalachian State University Police, in conjunction with the Boone Police, periodically

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## Walk for Awareness to be held Sept. 7

**CRYSTAL GENES**  
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and community members are preparing for Boone's fifteenth annual Walk for Awareness to be held Sept. 7 at 9:00 p.m. on Sanford Mall.

According to Dean of Students Susie L. Greene, "The march was organized 15 years ago by Dean of Students Barbara Daye and other members on campus following the abduction, rape and murder of university employee Jeni Gray; and Lee Cooper Wallace who several weeks later was abducted and was able to

escape." Daniel Brian Lee, a local resident, pleaded guilty to the kidnapping and rape of Wallace and the murder of Gray.

"[Wallace] kind of broke the silence," said Greene, "She was able to identify him, testify against him and was a speaker at Walk for Awareness for many years. In my point of view she was a real hero."

"The march is really to name, to honor and to remember all those who have been or are victims of any type of violence, and to increase awareness for safety and for our role in help-

ing people to stop the violence."

The silent march through campus will begin at Sanford Mall, cross Rivers Street, and end at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

"They walk in silence so that during the period of time they are walking they can reflect and remember people they know personally who have been victims, and to think about what each individual can do to make a difference," said Greene, "I've learned that silence is much more powerful than using words."

Lois Star Brackin, senior secondary English major

from Atlanta, GA, feels that the silence of the march is not an effective way to raise awareness and promote change.

Appalachian State University's chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) also disagrees with the concept of the silence and has protested at the march before.

Although Brackin is not a member, she has walked alongside ASU NOW during the march for several years shouting out facts and statistics about rape and why the march should not be silent.

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Map of new free speech

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## IN FOCUS



Palmer experiences positive efforts from ASU

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## ENTERTAINMENT



Turchin Center's new exhibit

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## SPORTS



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## WEATHER



Mostly  
Cloudy

High 76° F  
Low 59° F

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