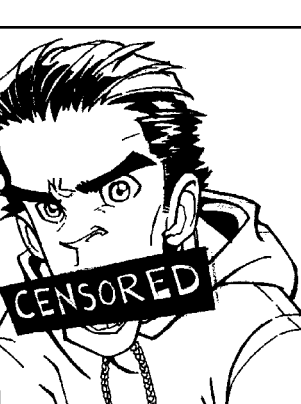


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Foundation sets record with \$9.3 million in 2003-04 gifts

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

The Appalachian State University Foundation set a record in gift amounts made to the university this past year. The foundation raised \$9.38 million in cash and gifts throughout the 2003-2004 fiscal year, greatly exceeding the \$8.25 million goal set by the Foundation Board of Directors, Interim Vice Chancellor of University Advancement Jerry L. Hutchens said.

In 1970, the university set up the Appalachian State University Foundation in order to have an organizational system that collects and directs private funds to promote the university and its goals, according to the University Foundation Web site.

The donations are separated into two categories restricted and unrestricted gifts. The majority of the gifts the university receives are restricted, meaning donors can direct their gifts to a certain area of the university or de-

termine a particular way the money should be spent such as scholarships or programs. Donors can also give an unrestricted gift, which is distributed throughout the campus and helps fund such programs as Fall Convocation, staff and faculty retirement luncheons, international studies, North Carolina's Band of Distinction and Appalachian Ambassadors, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Development Geoff L. Graham said.

"Although we are a state-funded university, the state doesn't support things such as Convocation or artwork around the campus and if you took things like that out it would be a lot different," Hutchens said.

"It is interesting we had such a great year because the overall mood nationally in charitable giving is down because we are still feeling the effects of people worried about the economy," Graham said.

"Particularly in North Carolina, in whole with the

economy and job loss, I really think it's a credit to the institution that we have such a good year."

One of the major gifts the university received was a 140-acre plot of land that will be used by the Department of Biology for research projects.

Other gifts include \$1.1 million to Belk Library, \$586,737 towards athletic scholarships, \$200,000 for the Walker College of Business's Business Study in China program and an \$870,000 estate gift for the College of Arts and Sciences, Graham said.

"Our fundraising successes, to me, are a direct reflection of what a loyal alumni base we have. It is also a direct reflection on the experiences they've had at Appalachian," Graham said.

"We can sit here and pat ourselves on the back that we raised all this money and that we did such a great job, but none of it is possible without the loyalty of the alumni and the great experience they had."

Caulk problems set back Solarium opening

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

The earliest possible opening date for the Solarium, the addition to Plemmons Student Union, would be at the end of October, Project Manager W. Kelley Ingram said.

Ingram said two weeks ago the building could be done by the first of October but since then problems have been unearthed.

"Essentially the nature of a lot of it is the contractors were to fire caulk all penetrations through the firewalls," Ingram said. "In some cases, we're finding they didn't get all that properly taken care of," Ingram said.

The university had been told at the time that those issues were taken care of, Ingram said.

Ingram said most of the blame falls to Crossley Con-

struction Company, the general contractor that was defaulted over the summer.

"It sets back the dominoes. We have a cleaning company doing cleaning and because of the impending additional work that may have to be done we had to put them on hold," Ingram said.

The other contractors still have contracts with the university and are currently working to fix the problem, Ingram said.

"Since they're responsible it's their responsibility to fix it and that's what's happening right now," Ingram said.

Once the work is finished, the building will need to be recertified by Simplex, the fire alarm company, and by Optima Engineering before it undergoes a state inspection. It usually takes two weeks after scheduling for an inspector to visit the site, Ingram said.

Director of Student Programs David L. Robertson said ideas are being formulated for the Solarium grand opening, but a lack of an opening date makes it hard to plan for.

"One thing I've learned in all the years we've been adding onto or renovating the student union is we have never attempted to plan any grand opening activity, knowing that the contractor deadlines are moving targets," Robertson said.

"We talked about what we want to do, but we can't actually identify who's going to do it," he said. "Without a date, we don't know if a given performer will be available."

A committee, of which some students are a part, came up with different ideas, including having the first

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Workers in front of Plemmons Student Union additions take a break for lunch. File Photo

Salsa without chips



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian
Catalina Enciso (right) a junior pre-law major from Colombia, dances with Luis Lazaballes (left) from Lees-McRae during B-GLAAD's salsa party. For more see page 2.

Governor visits Watauga to assess hurricane flood damage

Easley comes to the High Country

JASON SECRET
Staff Writer

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley visited the High Country via the air last week taking a look at damage done by Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Frances.

Easley met with Watauga County Commissioners James Coffey and Jimmy Hodges to discuss damage done in the area and what can be done to clean up.

Watauga County emergency management director Lisa Danner said Hurricane Ivan caused about \$4-\$5 million on damages in Watauga County alone. Hurricane Frances caused about \$2 million in damages.

In Avery County, the biggest problem was damage

caused to private property. Easley told the Watauga Democrat that the state traditionally does not provide funds to people for damage done to private property. However, he said the state has made exceptions in the past and he hopes an exception can be made.

The state is speculating on the possibility of tapping into the state's "rainy day" fund to help flood victims.

Easley also said the state is taking donations to help flood victims and told county officials the state would assist in any way.

Another issue brought up was the effects Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Frances may have on tourism in the High Country, with leaf season approaching.

Easley said business might be affected because tourists may not be able to take their usual routes to the mountains.

North Carolina High Country Host Executive Director Judy Donaghy said there

were concerns about people not visiting the High Country for leaf season this year.

Donaghy said the main concern was the perception people were receiving from the media that the area is being shut down.

Donaghy said that was not the case and that everything was open. There are a few detours to get to some destinations, but everything else is open as normal.

North Carolina High Country Post is sending out press releases to assure people recent weather has not affected tourist attractions for the leaf season.

"There are still leaves on the trees and they will be changing into pretty colors," Donaghy said.

Donaghy said the North Carolina High Country Post has received some calls from people asking about conditions. She said many lodging businesses have also received calls from people asking if they should come to the High Country.

Acceptance of diversity among Peacock plans for campus

STEPHANIE MARSHALL
Staff Writer

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock in his first hundred days is striving to boost Appalachian State University's diversity levels to create a more accepting environment.

Peacock said his plan is to increase diversity on campus starting with students, faculty and staff.

"Appalachian, under previous leadership, started with the Faculty Fellows Program, which we were able to attract to our campus faculty of diversity to come spend a year to see if this is the right fit for them and Appalachian,"

Peacock said.

"We certainly will continue with the Faculty Fellows Program so we will have an opportunity every year to bring and add to the faculty diversity."

Peacock said he hopes to increase diversity among students by recruiting diversity to enrich the environment.

"We have a story to tell. We have a campus that wants to be enriched through having more students of color and cultural backgrounds," Peacock said.

"We have looked at possibilities of summer institutes. I like getting people on campus

in the summertime ... to have individuals come spend time at Appalachian. Then they wouldn't go anywhere else but Appalachian," Peacock said.

Peacock said diversity within the staff of the university is tough due to the lack of drawing population.

"A plan that we came up with last year is to have our international students and students of color that have to have jobs ... instead of always working in the food services, have them out in the departments working with staff, faculty and around students," Peacock said.

"There you learn from each

other and that's important to me."

Peacock said he does not believe Appalachian has enough diversity on campus, whether it's faculty, staff or students, but his goal is to have diversity become woven within the fabric of the campus life.

Peacock has been at Appalachian in some capacity for 22 years. He was named to the position of Chancellor last March by the Board of Governors after having served as interim provost since the departure of Chancellor Frank Borkowski in June 2003.

Associate Vice Chancellor

of Diversity Harry L. Williams said Peacock has always been a strong supporter of diversity.

"The exciting thing to me has been that we have the support. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have the top supporting it. We can be down here in the trenches and believe in it and support it, but it has to filter its way up to the top," Williams said.

"We have that ... from our board of trustees, the chancellor, the provost's office and dean's council. We have it across the boards ... and that's the only way it's going to work by having

that type of comprehensive support across the university campus."

Along with increasing diversity within the faculty members, Peacock hopes to affect the classroom as well.

"We learn a lot from being around individuals of another culture. We learn that we are different and to accept those differences. That is what I want to have in a classroom setting," Peacock said.

"We need to all be aggressive in terms of recruiting faculty, staff and students and to look for every opportunity we can to develop friendships

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