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# Can we take a ride?

AMANDA FOWLER  
Staff Writer

Daniel Cook drives the Mountaineer Escort van to Cone Residence Hall. Five girls hop in on their way across campus. "Hi Daniel," they all say enthusiastically. "How's your day?"

Cook, who has worked for Mountaineer Escort on and off for over three years, said that getting to know people is his favorite part of the job.

"I'm a people person so I like meeting new people," Cook said. "You probably meet two dozen new people every night you drive and then you've got the regulars at the same time. People know you on a first name basis."

Being able to carry on conversation with passengers keeps Cook going. Although he has to be the one to start the conversation at times, Cook finds that the overwhelming majority of passengers are friendly. He said it is very rare that he finds a rude person.

Any job dealing with the public can have its interesting moments and Cook's is no different.

People's not-so-conservative nature makes Cook privy to a lot of otherwise private information. Just because students are on the Mountaineer Escort van does not mean their other conversations stop.

Cook said many students tell their life story or vent about their problems and ask for advice.

Cook said he has experienced being in the middle of relationship problems numerous times. When couples ride the van together, their arguments do

not stop at the door.

Cook has been present during couple's scuffles that can at times become heated.

"A lot of the times I try to say 'Ya'll calm down,' without stepping too far out of my place," Cook said.

Cook is also forced to overhear a lot of phone conversations held on his van.

He said he hears conversations where people complain about a friend, then he sees that same person get on the van later with the friend.

Apart from the periodic rude rider and relationship issues, Cook enjoys what he does. His enthusiasm for his work is apparent as he warmly greets passengers when they enter the van and wishes them a good night upon exit.

However, an easy-going nature is almost a job requirement when remembering pick-ups, drop-offs and listening to the radio that is used to communicate information between Mountaineer Escort's base and drivers.

"You have to be able to multitask," Cook said.

Though the job can be stressful at times, Cook said he always works his hardest to cater to the needs of his passengers. He understands that Mountaineer Escort is a vital service to the working of Appalachian's campus.

"Mountaineer Escort was started as a safety service," Cook said. Cook understands that safety is the biggest requirement of the job, and therefore takes his job very seriously.

He knows students use the service



Molly Milroy | The Appalachian  
Daniel Cook has driven for Mountaineer Escort for over three years.

because many do not feel comfortable walking across campus at night or waiting around dark off-campus parking lots where they park their cars.

Some students misuse the escort service, he said.

It's hard to take students from their dorm to the cafeteria when there is a student waiting in an off-campus parking lot, Cook said.

There is also a common misconception that Mountaineer Escort gets a lot of intoxicated passengers. Cook said this happens less frequently than one might imagine, but when it does happen it ties back into the safety aspect of escort.

"There's quite a few intoxicated stu-

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## Now accepting applications for head Mountaineer

JUSTIN BOULMAY  
Senior Staff Writer  
CHRIS ZALUSKI  
Staff Writer

"Our job is to find the best person we can possibly find to run [the athletic program]."

DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT  
JERRY L. HUTCHENS

The newly announced athletic director search committee will have its first meeting Feb. 21, beginning a process that will result in filling Appalachian State University's top athletic position.

"Our job is to find the best person we can possibly find to run [the athletic] program," Director of University Advancement Jerry L. Hutchens said.

Associate Athletics Director for Public Affairs David M. Jackson said the group was a melting pot of representatives from Appalachian.

Both Hutchens and Jackson are committee members.

"It's a very broad group as you can tell by the number of people, but also the backgrounds," Jackson said. "A lot of people in business, a lot of people on campus and coaches, athletics administrators and what not."

Jackson said the group's first order of business is coming together to figure out what their time frame will be. The time frame will be included in the charge from the chancellor.

"It'll be a national search," Jackson said. "Most positions like this are Appalachian, I think, has a great draw [regarding] its size and position within the state system like the UNC system, it's a Division 1 program, athletics has a pretty good tradition. There's a great feeling between campus and athletics."

Dr. Alan J. Hauser, a professor in the department of philosophy and religion, will serve as committee chair. Hauser is also the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA.

Hauser said one thing the athletic director must improve is the educational opportunities for athletes.

"I think at Appalachian, we've always done that, but I think there's always room for improvement," he said.

The athletic director also needs to understand the collegiate athletic program and then move it forward, Hauser said. Such moves go beyond construction projects, such as building a new Owens Field House.

Jackson said there was always the possibility of outsiders trying to influence the group members to make a certain decision.

"There'll be outside influences trying to affect everybody," he said. "What the committee's got to do is to just make sure that they steer clear of that and understand that we've got a direction from the chancellor and that's what we're going to be operating from."

Hauser said rumors are spread during a significant search that the committee will only appoint who the administration wants in the position.

"I would say that whenever you have a significant vacancy in a university position like this, the rumors fly hot and heavy."

Women's basketball coach and committee member Adrienne Shuler said the best candidate will know and understand where Appalachian wants to go.

"They need to understand where we are as an athletic department and have future goals in mind," Shuler said.

Dr. Linda K. Robinson, formerly the director of the Equity Office, was named interim director of athletics in December after the former director, Roachel J. Laney, resigned.

## Students forced to slip, slide to class

ANNA OAKES  
Senior Staff Writer

After slipping, sliding and a few falls on the ice, several Appalachian State University students were left wondering why class was not delayed on the morning of Feb. 3.

University administrators decided to run classes on a regular schedule Feb. 3 despite icy morning conditions.

Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Bill H. Ward said because AppalCART was running, there was no reason to cancel class.

"I really don't think the recent weather we had was sufficient reason to cancel class," Ward said.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock, in consultation with university vice chancellors, made the decision, Ward said.

The Physical Plant makes every effort to make the campus safe for students in adverse weather, he said.

"If we cancelled classes every time there's weather, we wouldn't have class all spring [semester]," Ward said.

Freshman elementary education major Kristen Gardner was visiting her boyfriend at University Highlands Student Apartments when she slipped and fell on ice-covered stairs.

Gardner went to Student Health Services and health officials told her she had a bruised arm and damaged muscle, she said.

"I went to the infirmary [because] I was afraid [my arm] was broken," Gardner said.

Icy conditions caused another Appalachian student to fall and hit her head at University Highlands that day.

The student went to the hospital but sustained no serious injury, University Highlands General Manager Ron Branch said.

"She fell and went to the hospital to get checked," Branch said. "She was okay."

Branch said the student called to let him know about the incident, but she did not leave her name.

Branch said workers used a mixture of salt and pot ash to dissolve ice that morning, but ice will not melt below certain temperatures.

"We try real hard to prevent [these conditions]," he said.

According to Ray's Weather Center, the low temperature Feb. 3 was around 4 a.m. and was 25.6 degrees. Temperatures reached 37.7 degrees by 2 p.m.

Junior economics major Jeb W. McRary is a tenant at

University Highlands.

McRary said the entire Highlands parking lot was covered in ice Thursday.

"It was very slippery and took a lot longer to walk to the bus stop than normal," McRary said. McRary said he did not notice any salt on the ground that morning. Conditions had improved by that afternoon, though, he said.

"People fall all the time. It was like an ice skating rink on Thursday," McRary said.

Elizabeth Harris, an administrative assistant with the Boone Police Department, said last Thursday was a relatively "slow" day.

Harris said only two traffic accidents were reported. Both involved parked cars and ice was likely a factor in both, Harris said. No paramedics were called and there were no serious injuries, she said.

## Wax on



Peter Larkins | Chief Photographer  
Jillian N. Potts has her wax mold removed by Nick V. Eller (spintacular entertainment). APPS Special Events sponsored a free hand waxing done by Spintacular Entertainment Wednesday afternoon.

## SGA introduces new cabinet members

ANNA OAKES  
Senior Staff Writer

After two months of resignations, a dismissal and interviews, Appalachian State University's Student Government Association once again has a full cabinet.

Junior Elizabeth A. Cort was hired as treasurer, a position left open when Liam W. Cox resigned in January. Senior Gary J. McCoy was selected as director of state and national affairs, formerly held by Howard Schreiber, who also resigned.

"When I saw the position [of treasurer] was open, I thought, 'wow, that would be perfect for me,'" Cort said.

Cort is an accounting major from Asheville. This is her first experience with SGA. Cort said she will utilize her knowledge of accounting systems, budgets, financial statements and Microsoft Excel and hopes to improve the system already in place.

She said one of her goals is to update the transition notebook for future SGA treasurers to make it easier to understand.

"I knew I'd do a good job - I'm very organized and

math-minded," Cort said.

As treasurer, Cort approves money for SGA projects and serves on the university Budget Council, which approves funding for clubs and organizations on campus.

"The treasurer is to be a responsible steward of student money," SGA President Miriam N. Makhayoun said. "Not only does Elizabeth have strong credentials in mathematics, [but] she has the confidence which enables her to jump in mid-stream and perform successfully," Makhayoun said.

McCoy is a political science major from Salisbury.

"I thought I could be the most effective advocate for students in this position," McCoy said.

McCoy said he has the ability to build good rapport with state and national organizations. McCoy said he hopes to create a state litmus for elected officials showing how they relate to students and their voting patterns on student issues.

In addition, McCoy would like to see the creation of a state-wide organization specifically designed to lobby for student issues to legislators.



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

New Student Government Association cabinet members (l-r) Elizabeth Cort (Treasurer), David Humphrey (Student Affairs), and Gary McCoy (State and National Affairs). Not pictured Jason Radford (External Affairs)

"Gary stood out as someone of vision," Makhayoun said. "He took the initiative to participate in Students' Day at the Capitol before ever applying and showed up informed and determined, which had a tremendous appeal."

Makhayoun said the director of state and national affairs must have a background in issues concerning higher education as well as good public speaking skills.

Jason S. Radford replaced Jud Watkins as director of external affairs Jan. 19.

"I've been very busy ... I kind of had to start from scratch," Radford said. "I'm feeling out the position and looking for needs that need to be filled."

Radford said he is working on several issues, including student transportation, re-vamping the student discount card and off-campus housing.