

Brandon Bess—continued from page 7

students' voice. The students can't be heard without someone to speak for them. I'll voice my opinion and be honest. You can't get anywhere without being honest."

One of his biggest challenges as SGA president will be serving a diverse student body that includes all ages from high school students in the Afternoon College program to those well past age fifty, from traditional college track students like himself to those coming back to school at middle age for retraining. Plus, Wilkes Community College includes campuses in Ashe and Alleghany in addition to several off campus centers serving the community. Bess says he plans to use his well developed people skills to overcome this. "I'm going to outreach, to talk to different students, as many as I can. The more ideas I hear, the more I can incorporate them into student life. I talk to all age groups and types of WCC students. I aim to be well rounded. Outreach to the Ashe and Alleghany campuses involves phone, email, and visiting them with Scott Johnson. I want to get students there involved with the Wilkes campus so that they can take advantage of the enrichment opportunities here."

"Brandon's record of service and involvement make it evident that he is committed to improving his campus and that he has a strong desire to be a leader," Johnson notes. "During his second year of enrollment at WCC, Brandon will continue to make a positive and lasting impact on the campus through the various leadership roles he has assumed."

Brandon Bess may be young, but as a leader he is already the real deal.

Dr. Walt Plexico—continued from page 3

I want to end this piece with a series of quotes from this week's edition of the *Wilkes Rotarian* the clubs weekly newsletter, edited by Chuck Parker.

It read: "There is so much we could say about this unique and remarkable man. His contributions to mankind, higher education, Rotary and his community are unique, powerful, and irreplaceable. He was a husband, a father, a Rotarian, a leader, a scholar, a teacher, an advisor, a mentor and a good friend to generations. We will always remember this thought he left with us... 'As we stop at the stations of life, we should remember those around us, both friends and family.' We celebrate the life of this exceptional man."

In Memoriam

Dr. Walter Moore Plexico, Jr.
(1945-2005)

A ROTARACT CLUB WELCOME TO WCC!!

By Cindy Smith

WCC offers students the opportunity to belong to Rotaract, a worldwide organization of young college men and women who believe they can make a difference. Through community and international service projects, club members help improve the lives of the people around them. In doing so, they develop leadership and professional skills and establish a network of friends. Consider joining your collegiate peers in this service organization. For more information contact Cindy Smith, Instructor, at extension 6425.

WCC To Host Interactive Success Presentation for First-Year Students

WCC will host "The Ultimate Road Trip: Campus2Career," a free success presentation for first-year college students, at **12 noon on Monday, August 29, at the Pit (located in Thompson Hall)**. The presentation will be delivered on campuses across the nation this fall to more than 350,000 students.

The program emphasizes the importance of academics, time management, setting goals, and maximizing opportunities both in college and in future careers.

"Currently, only 75% of college freshmen progress to their sophomore year," said JR Cifani, Vice President of Making It Count. "Couple that with the fact that only 50% of students entering college will graduate within five years and the importance of the program becomes very clear. We are providing students with a map to realize their goals and ambitions."

Ninety-nine percent of students who attended the program in 2004 indicated that their peers would benefit from the presentation.

More information about the presentation can be found online at www.makingitcount.com.

This is the first program in a series of 9 events that are a part of the WCC Student Success Series. Door prizes will be distributed at each event and more information is available on Campus Cruiser.