

Walker Center Announced Schedule For Acoustic Series

The John A. Walker Community Center, located on the Wilkes Community College Campus, was pleased to announce the Pre-Festival Fall and Winter Acoustic Series with the presentation of five concerts beginning in October and ending in March. The Acoustic Series is a precursor to the upcoming Merle Watson Memorial Festival which takes place April 28, 29, 30, and May 1.

The first concert took place on Sunday, October 31 at 6:30 p.m. called "Masters of the Banjo". This concert features several "masters" touring together for this exciting presentation including bluegrass legend, Ralph Stanley; Seleshe Damessae, master of the ancient Ethiopian krar which sounds much like the Appalachian fretless banjo; Seamus Egan, master of the Irish tenor banjo; Will Keys who plays the banjo in the old-time, two-finger style; Carroll Best who plays banjo three-finger style; Kirk Sutphin, a clawhammer-style performer; and Tony Ellis performing original banjo compositions incorporating old-time and bluegrass elements.

Accompanying these banjo greats was champion fiddle player and vocalist, Laurie Lewis; lead singer and guitarist for the renowned bluegrass band, Johnson Mountain Boys, Dudley Connell; and Jimmy Trivett a tenor singer who is also an accomplished bass player.

The second concert in the series features The Dutton Family on Wednesday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. Each child in the family plays at least three instruments with proficiency including fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, bass cello, viola, and keyboard. They exhibit superb vocal harmony which is enhanced by the fact that they are siblings. The nine-member family plays a wide variety of music that includes bluegrass, country and classical.

Doc Watson and his grandson Richard Watson will perform with the International Bluegrass Music Association's award-winning Nashville Bluegrass Band in the third segment of the series on Friday, January 28 at 8:00 p.m. The legendary guitarist from Deep Gap, NC, Doc Watson, is joined by Merle's son, Richard, who is becoming well-known for his own talented guitar style.

The Nashville Bluegrass Band will join Doc and Richard, making a unique experience that parallels that of the Merle Watson Festival. The Nashville Bluegrass Band has a fresh new sound that combines bluesy vocal harmonies and soulful, highly rhythmic picking. The band consists of the talented Alan O'Bryant, lead vocals and banjo; Pat Enright, lead vocals, guitar; Stuart Duncan, fiddle and mandolin; Roland White, Mandolin; Gene Libbea, acoustic bass. The music created by this dynamic group is vibrant and contemporary, yet firmly rooted in the classic bluegrass tradition.

Maura O'Connell, a Western North Carolina favorite, will perform on Friday, February 18 at 8:00 p.m. Ms. O'Connell reached notoriety during a two year stint as lead vocalist for the supergroup De Danaan. Since branching out on her own as a soloist in 1983, Ms. O'Connell has worked with such top-notch musicians as Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Mark O'Connor, Russ Barenberg and Jerry Douglas. Her voice is an instrument in itself and her song selection is a mixture of pop, country, folk, Irish, bluegrass and showtunes.

The final concert of the series features The Tony Rice Unit on Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 p.m. Tony Rice is a perennial favorite at the annual Merle Watson Festival both on the mainstage and as host of the Midnight Jam. He consistently amazes the audience with his unique and flawless guitar style. The Tony Rice Unit consists of equally talented musicians Jimmy Gaudreau, mandolin and vocals; Rickie Simpkins, fiddle; Ronnie Simpkins, acoustic bass; and Wyatt Rice, guitar. The group performs a repertoire of hard-driven bluegrass, folk classics and original instrumentals.

Discount Series tickets went on sale to the general public for \$40.00 on October 1 and continued through October 22, after which time the series price went up to \$45.00.

Series and advance price single tickets went on sale Monday, October 25 and will be available until one week prior to the day of the show.

For more information, contact the John A. Walker Community Center at 910-651-8666.

WCC's Phi Theta Kappa

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They assisted prospective students and visiting college representatives around campus.

The organization began its pre-order bake sale in October. Orders are currently being taken from college faculty and staff who are too busy to do holiday baking. Volunteers bake and deliver the goods before each of the three holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The bake sale is an annual fundraising event for PTK students that raises money for several of their projects. It helps send PTK students to conferences they need to attend to accomplish the five-star rating, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas projects that help needy children and families.

The organization held its annual Teacher Appreciation Day on Nov. 3. Some of the bake sale money was used to honor WCC faculty and staff. This year, the organization purchased two bushels of golden delicious apples and distributed them to each office.

A number of PTK students are working on the current yearbook. This project earns the group service and fellowship credit toward the five-star rating. The students design, write, and do all photography with the exception of student portraits.

Plans for November include a juried art competition based on the Honor Study Theme, "Our Complex World: Balancing Unity and Diversity." Entrants may write an essay or create a piece of artwork that expresses the theme. The works will be displayed at the John A. Walker Community Center from Nov. 15 through Nov. 30 with judging on Nov. 15.

PTK is an honorary scholastic fraternity for American community, junior and technical colleges that recognizes and encourages scholarship, leadership and service among two-year college students.

Members of Phi Theta Kappa for this academic year are Julie Absher, Janet Adams, Joan Baity, Anita B. Blackburn, Donald Blevins, Jr., Cynthia Bumgarner, Michael Carpenter, Laura Caudill, Kristi Coffey, Brian Collins, Craig Daganhardt, Shirlene Dillard, Edward Farmer, Gloria Graybeal, William Harrison, Rayford Hill, Darien Huffman, Thelma Kastl, Kimberly Lawson, Tad Leeds, Betty Jo Leftwich, Melanie Leftwich, Melanie Lovette, Krystal Martin, Julie Mincey, Melissa Mulholland, Dina M. Ormond, Constance Pruitt, Jeffrey Sauers, Harley Settle, Autumn Taylor, Brent Triplett, David Turnmire, Donald Whitten, Leslie Wiggins, Penny Wiles and Robert Woodside. WCC advisors for the fraternity are Dr. Josephine Hendrix and Dr. Barbara Holt.

Strange Turn of Events

It was the twelfth of October. A novel charity drive brainstormed by Kathron Richards and directed by members of the Student Government Association took over the Thompson Hall Commons. At approximately 12:30, students, staff, and faculty members participated in the first WCC *Twister*® Tournament. Contestants were asked to donate one dollar to participate. The viewing audience were also requested to donate either a dollar or canned goods to watch. All proceeds were forwarded to S.A.F.E. Incorporated. The total cash donation was twenty dollars. No report of the canned goods donation is available.

Rules were first discussed. Participants were to keep hands and feet on the playing surface continuously. Cinchy! Players were required to place hands and feet onto colored circles as directed by the Master of Ceremony. Fine! Player's hands and feet must maintain constant placement on specific colored circles until directed elsewhere. Ow! Did you say "left hand blue"? Players were not to allow elbows, knees, heads or butts to rest on the floor. Hmm! Can you say pretzel!

The first round eliminated six severely contorted contestants after only five minutes of play. As the game progressed, several tactics were developed to inconvenience, unbalance, demoralize, and generally disorient opponents. Possibly the most spectacular round of elimination was the semifinal round that lasted nearly twenty minutes. Semifinalists employed many highly polished tactics such as "artful persuasion" (pushing), "territorial expansion" (hogging the playing field), and "stability enhancement" (sitting on opponents). Mastery of like tactics and a final five minute round of competition qualified Joe Correll and Angela Blair as the most twisted people on WCC's campus.

Angela received ten dollars and Joe was awarded a rainforest t-shirt for their championship effort. Local businesses and residents of the Wilkes community donated all prizes awarded to the four finalists. Stan and Renee Foster donated ten dollars and the WCC Bookstore donated the rainforest t-shirt used as first place awards. Western Steer gave the steak dinner and Beijing gave the five dollar gift certificate awarded to the runners up. All semifinalists received a consolation *Twister*® game for their (ouch) efforts.

Question of the Month

Readin', writin', and 'rithmatic are fundamental to a decent education, but isn't thinkin' equally important?