

## WESTERN CAROLINA ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Western Carolina University is committed to helping its student-athletes both on and off the playing field. WCU is proud of the tradition of its athletic teams and realizes the important role that sport plays in the lives of our student-athletes. However, this represents only one part of the individual's college experience.

Western's Academic Support Service makes a strong commitment to its student-athletes, collaborating with the athletics department to meet their unique needs. Academic Support Services ensures each student-athlete continues to make academic progress towards graduation and remain athletically eligible, provides the student-athlete with the necessary resources needed to be academically successful and strives to assist each student-athlete with reaching their fullest potential in achieving their career and life goals.

All freshmen athletes are advised by the academic advisor for athletes through enrollment in USI 130, Academic and Career Planning, a one-hour elective-credit course. Through this course, students learn about WCU academic programs and policies and NCAA academic regulations, gain a better understanding of the meaning of higher education, learn more about themselves, and make new friends.

Other freshmen and sophomore athletes and first semester transfers are also advised by the athletic advisor until they formally declare a major. Progress reports are sent to all instructors each semester and those athletes experiencing difficulty in a class meet with the director of academics services and their coach to plan appropriate plans of action. Catamount student-athletes have their own computer lab that is equipped with modern hardware and software. Through the campus network, they are able to access all the programs they need for their classes and they can connect to the World Wide Web. Notebook computers are also available for check-out.

Study hall is required of all first semester freshmen and transfers and any athlete whose grade point average is below a 2.30. Other services available to all student-athletes include a summer orientation program, tutoring, career and personal counseling, and eligibility information.

The university and the Southern Conference have established several awards to recognize academic achievement.

The Athletic Director's Academic Achievement Award recognizes student-athletes each semester who earn a 3.0 grade point average or higher (on a 4.0 scale).

The Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll honors student-athletes who have participated in at least one sport and have earned a 3.0 or better grade point average during the past academic year. The league also presents the Barrett-Bonner Award to the school that places the highest percentage of its student-athletes on the conference's academic honor roll, and presents the Graduation Rate Award to the member institution with the highest graduation rate for its student-athletes over the previous five years. In addition, the conference awards four \$2,000 postgraduate scholarships as selected by a committee of faculty athletics representatives and athletic directors.

The past two spring semesters have been milestones for WCU in the classroom. In the Spring of 2001, WCU's student-athletes posted a 3.01 GPA for the semester, the highest GPA in recent history. At the completion of the Spring 2002 semester, WCU student-athletes had a combined cumulative GPA of 2.973 and 97 Catamounts made the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll.

## UNIVERSITY PROFILE

**Character:** A regional comprehensive university and member of the 16-institution University of North Carolina system

**Approximate Enrollment:** Undergraduate 5,660; Graduate 1,370 — Total 7,030

**Academic Programs:** More than 120 undergraduate majors and areas of concentration.

**Graduate degrees in more than 50 areas of study.**

**Campus:** 265 acres of rolling hills in a scenic mountain valley between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains.

**Calendar:** Two semesters

**Faculty:** 335 full-time members — **Student/Faculty ratio:** 15:1

**Computers:** A fully networked campus with 6, 00 Internet connections, including two in each residence hall room.

**A Growing Campus:** Western Carolina University is now beginning a \$130 million building boom that will include a fine and performing arts center, a high-tech center, additional athletics facilities, movie theater and expanded foor court.

## THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

The Southern Conference, which enters its 83rd season of intercollegiate competition in 2002, has become known as one of the nation's leaders in emphasizing the development of the student-athlete and defining the leagues role in helping to build lifelong leaders and role models.

The Southern Conference has excelled as the premier Division I-AA football conference since earning that classification in 1981. The Conference currently consists of 12 members in five states throughout the Southeast and sponsors 19 varsity sports and championships that produce participants for NCAA Championships.

The Southern Conference is the nation's fourth oldest collegiate athletic association. Only the Big Ten (1896), the Missouri Valley (1907), and the Pac-10 (1915) conferences are older in terms of origination.

Throughout its history, the Southern Conference has been an innovator in college athletics. The Southern Conference was the first "super conference" with its charter membership including the likes of Alabama, Auburn and North Carolina. The SoCon, as it has come to be known by headline writers throughout the country, is the league that gave birth to the three-point shot in college basketball and was the college home of such sporting greats as Arnold Palmer, Jerry West and Dick Groat.

Academic excellence has been a major part of the Southern Conference's tradition. League athletes have been recognized countless times on Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-America and district teams. And last year, Western Carolina shortstop Ryan Schade was named first team Academic All-America. Eighteen Rhodes-Scholar winners have been selected from the conference.

The Southern Conference currently declares champions in 10 men's sports — football, soccer, cross country, basketball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, wrestling, baseball, tennis and golf — and nine women's sports — soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, tennis, golf and softball.

## WCU INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ROLE AND MISSION

*The Department of Athletics at Western Carolina University is an integral program of the institution and exists solely to complement the central University mission of teaching and learning. The University seeks to create a community of scholarship in which the activities of its members are consistent with the highest standards of knowledge and practice in their disciplines. The athletics program reflects this commitment to highest standards and shares the responsibility of achieving the goals of the University.*

*The activities of the athletics program provide an environment in which student, coaches, faculty, staff and administrators jointly assume the responsibility for the success on and off the field of play. The athletics program embraces the concept that student-athletes are first and foremost students — possessing academic goals, personal interests, and vocational ambitions not unlike those of any other student. The athletics program complements other University programs by enhancing the educational, social, career and athletic opportunities of the students who participate in athletics. This environment also fosters a commitment to high standards of personal and professional conduct by all members of the athletic community manifested in the highest level of sportsmanship.*

*Western Carolina University is committed to ensuring equitable participation and treatment of men and women of all races and ethnic origins. The athletics program actively promotes an environment in which fair and equitable distribution of athletic opportunities, benefits, and resources are available to all athletics program participants, and in which any person is free from discrimination.*

*The athletics program provides significant contributions to the University by enhancing loyalty to the alma mater, strengthening the pride and enthusiasm of alumni, fostering a strong sense of community, and serving as a positive public relations tool for the University.*

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OFFICE STAFF

**Commissioner:** ..... Daniel Morrison, Jr.  
**Senior Associate Commissioner:** ..... Geoff Cabe  
**Associate Commissioner:** ..... Sue Arakas  
**Assistant Commissioner/Public Affairs:** ..... Steve Shutt  
**Assistant Commissioner/Marketing:** ..... Pete Moore  
**Assistant Director/Public Affairs:** ..... Mandi Copeland  
**External Affairs:** ..... Josh Bryson  
**Public Affairs Assistant:** ..... Aime Mitchell  
**Coordinator of Baseball Umpires:** ..... Tony Thompson

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ADDRESS:

905 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302-2149

Phone: (864) 591-5100  
Media Fax: (864) 591-3448  
Main Fax: (864) 591-4282

Website: [www.SoConSports.com](http://www.SoConSports.com)  
Email: (first initial)(lastname)@socon.org



## Dr. John W. Bardo

Western Carolina University Chancellor

Dr. John W. Bardo, Western's chancellor since 1995, has propelled WCU into the national spotlight as a university that is preparing students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Since becoming the 10th chief executive officer in Western's history, Dr. Bardo has been a driving force in the university's growing status across North Carolina and the nation as a leader in the application of the tools of technology to teaching and learning. Through his efforts, Western Carolina University has obtained National Merit Scholar status and has twice been

named one of the 100 "most wired" universities by Yahoo! Internet Life magazine.

It was at Dr. Bardo's suggestion that the university's faculty, staff, student body and board of trustees began to consider the issue of whether to require incoming freshmen to have a networkable computer as a way to ensure that graduates of Western have the basic skills necessary to compete in an economy that will rely increasingly on information management.

Following months of study, Western in November 1997 took the bold step of becoming the first in the University of North Carolina system to adopt such a requirement. Other UNC institutions, including UNC Chapel Hill, have since announced similar requirements.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Bardo also has engineered a university wide effort to "raise the bar" of academic standards at Western. Faculty members have increased their expectations of student performance, and students are rising to meet those expectations. That emphasis on increased academic quality is earning the attention of some of North Carolina's brightest young scholars, improving the average SAT score of entering freshmen, and increasing the number of National Merit finalists and high school valedictorians interested in Western.

Other academic improvements at Western that have taken place under Dr. Bardo's watch include the creation of a broad-based assessment program of the performance of its senior-level students and the establishment of a residential Honors College for top academic performers.

Under Dr. Bardo's leadership, the university has increasingly turned its attention toward promoting economic development as a means of improving the quality of life for residents of Western North Carolina. The \$8 million Workforce Leadership Development Center, now under construction, is designed to address critical labor force issues facing the region by providing educational programs that will support emerging high-tech, "new economy" industries. In the meantime, Western has formed strategic partnerships with several regional universities in the fields of biotechnology, bioinformatics and micro-optics. As construction also continues on Western's \$30 million Fine and Performing Arts Center, the university is taking numerous steps to boost heritage and cultural tourism in the mountain region, including the establishment this year of a new summer festival of music and art.

Prior to his appointment at WCU, Dr. Bardo had been vice president for academic affairs at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts since 1990. He assumed the dual role of provost of the public institution in 1993. Like Western Carolina, Bridgewater State was founded in the 19th century as a normal school for the training of teachers and today is a state-supported regional, comprehensive institution. Bridgewater has some 3,800 students.

Before moving to Massachusetts, Dr. Bardo held senior administrative posts at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, serving as assistant to the president for planning and as provost and vice president for academic affairs. A sociologist, he had previously accumulated a decade of teaching and administrative experience at Southwest Texas State University and Wichita State University in Kansas.

Dr. Bardo graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1970 with a degree in economics. He holds a master's degree in sociology from Ohio University, and earned a doctorate in the field from The Ohio State University. A graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University, he also has been a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Monash University in Australia and a guest visiting professor at the University College of Wales at Swansea.

Dr. Bardo has written extensively and lectured widely on urban and community sociology, higher education, organizational behavior, economic development, quantitative methods, and the educational applications of technology. In 1994, he was president of the Society for Applied Multivariate Research, and he has been listed in numerous biographical reference books, including Jaycees' Outstanding Young Men in America, Directory of Distinguished Americans, Community Leaders of America, and Who's Who in America.

Dr. Bardo and his wife, Deborah, have one son, Christopher.



## Jeff Compher

Western Carolina University Director of Athletics

C. Jeffrey Compher enters his third year as Western Carolina University director of athletics, coming to Cullowhee in the spring of 2000.

In his short tenure, Compher has made an immediate impact on Cata-mountain athletics. The athletic department will have seen its scholarship allocation from the University increase by over \$500,000, which shall benefit each of WCU's 14 sports. Compher has also played a key role in growth of the Catamount Club, WCU's fund-raising branch, with the addition of over 500 new members.

Through Compher's leadership, Western athletes have every opportunity to have well-rounded experience. Student-athletes have steadily improved in the classroom each semester, posting the highest cumulative grade point average (3.01) in recent memory during the spring of 2001. At the conclusion of the 2002 spring semester, WCU's student-athletes combined cumulative GPA was 2.973. Also, through the CHAMPS/Life Skills program, student-athletes are prepared for life after college, learning such things as how to prepare resumes and how to interview for jobs. While learning to excel off the field, on the field, Catamount teams won more games overall and versus Southern Conference competition than they had in each of the previous two years.

Also under Compher's watch, Western Carolina facilities have undergone significant improvement, including a new state-of-the-art football playing surface, renovation of Camp Lab Gym — now known as the Cata-mountain Athletic Center — irrigation and a resurfacing of the grass football practice field and irrigation and new sod added to the soccer field. Compher has also played a major role in the athletics department's vision for the future with the formation of a strategic plan to make WCU the model program in the Southern Conference.

Over the next two years, Western's campus will show dramatic changes with multi-phase projects to athletic's facilities. First, the sports medicine offices have undergone major renovations to accommodate the Carolina West Sports Medicine clinic. Also, a new team meeting room will be operational for the fall of 2002. Projects more visible include expansion and renovation of the Jordan-Phillips Field House, lights for the baseball program at Hennon Stadium/Childress Field and construction of stands on the west side of Whitmire Stadium/Waters Field. Phase two will include a track/soccer/tennis complex and renovations to the baseball playing surface. Also, Compher will oversee the addition of a women's varsity sport within the next three-to-four years.

"The university is moving forward and gaining recognition on many fronts. (With the hiring of Jeff), we are taking an important step to assure that the University's intercollegiate athletics program not only keeps pace, but perhaps steps up the pace and leads the way," stated Chancellor John W. Bardo.

"We searched for a person who understands the academic and athletic stature to which this university aspires. We have found one (in Jeff). We searched for a person who would embrace our goals: To compete for nothing short of the conference championship in every sport, every year; to have our student-athletes graduate at rates as good or better than any institution in the conference; to run a clean program, in full compliance with all Southern Conference and NCAA rules and regulations; to increase attention to the welfare of all student-athletes; and to be in full compliance with the letter and the spirit of all laws and regulations involving gender equity. Again, we have found the person for which we searched."

Compher's career in intercollegiate athletics administration began at North Carolina State in 1986 when he joined the staff of then athletic director Todd Turner. As assistant director of athletics, Compher played a major role in establishing the university's first student-athlete life skills program and in developing such organizations as the Captain's Table and the Varsity Club to give current and former student-athletes a voice in the department.

Compher served as assistant director of athletics at N.C. State until 1992, when he began a brief stint in pharmaceutical sales. He returned to higher education in 1993 as director of the Chancellor's Circle at N.C. State, a fund- and friend-raising organization in the university's advancement division. In 1994, he was selected by then-Chancellor Larry K. Monteith to serve as assistant to the chancellor, a key administrative post.

Compher remained in that position at N.C. State through 1996, when he accepted the position of associate director of athletics at Vanderbilt, joining his former athletics department supervisor at N.C. State, Todd Turner. He was promoted to senior associate director of athletics at Vanderbilt in 1998.

At Vanderbilt, Compher was credited with revamping the university's NCAA compliance program and opening up lines of communication within the athletics department, inviting input from coaches, students, student-athletes, staff, alumni and supporters.

Compher was responsible for overall management of all external components within Vanderbilt's athletics program, including annual giving through the National Commodore Club, media relations, marketing and promotions, corporate sponsorship sales, radio and television properties and broadcast rights and ticket sales. He also supervised the merchandising and licensing efforts.

In 1998, he was promoted to senior associate director, where he oversaw weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings for all athletics department administrators and coaches, and he had direct supervision, budget preparation and line responsibilities for several programs, including NCAA compliance, academic support, life skills for student-athletes, strength and conditioning, and equipment.

He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from James Madison University and a master's degree in counseling and student personnel services from Shippensburg University.

He and his wife, Cathy, have two sons, C.J. (10) and David (8).



### CAROLINA WEST SPORTS MEDICINE

A new collaboration between Western Carolina University, Sylva Orthopaedic Associates, PA, and WestCare Health System was formed this past year, called Carolina West Sports Medicine. The program incorporates physicians, physical therapists and athletic trainers and has been designed to evaluate and treat sports-related injuries to athletes of all ages — from youths to weekend warriors — in Western North Carolina.

Clinics are held in the newly renovated and expanded WCU athletics training room of the Ramsey Center on Mondays and Saturdays from 8:30 am to Noon. On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Carolina West Sports Medicine clinic is held in WestCare Medical Park of Sylva from 1-5 pm. Appointments may be made by calling the clinic at (828) 586-7934 or toll-free at (866) 283-3036.

The purpose of Carolina West Sports Medicine is to have sports medicine physicians evaluate injuries within 48 hours of initial contact, utilizing all necessary diagnostics. Based on the evaluation, appropriate steps are taken, which may include surgery, casting, bracing or rehabilitation. If rehabilitation is required, a physical therapist will be present at all clinics to begin and program and outline further steps to recovery. Carolina West Sports Medicine will also administer an outreach program, placing athletic trainers in area schools. This program is a much-needed and critical service as many schools do not have such personnel available to evaluate and treat sports injuries on staff.

"We see this as a real positive partnership with two organizations that have been providing service to us for a long time," said WCU Director of Athletics Jeff Compher. "This will allow our relationship to be an integral service for both student-athletes and the community. We are proud to be associated with this group that will ultimately benefit everyone involved."

Physicians staffing the clinics include orthopaedic surgeons Clifford Faull, M.D.; Quayle Neslen, Jr., M.D.; and Paul Pflueger, M.D., of Sylva Orthopaedic Associates, PA, and Daryl Rosenbaum, M.D., a primary care physician with sports medicine training, from The Center for Family Medicine in Franklin. Carlyle Schomberg is a physical therapist and interim director of the program. He returns to Sylva after three years in Birmingham, Ala., where he worked in a sports medicine facility.



Dr. Jeff Davis  
WCU Physician



Dr. Clifford Faull  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Dr. Richard Jones  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Dr. Quayle Neslen  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Dr. Paul Pflueger  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Dr. Daryl Rosenbaum  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Carlyle Schomberg  
Carolina West Sports Medicine



Dr. Larry Supik  
Carolina West Sports Medicine

# WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1889, Western Carolina University is one of 16 senior public institutions of The University of North Carolina. A comprehensive university offering a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs, Western Carolina is recognized as a national leader in the application of computer technology in education.

Western attracts students from across North Carolina and the United States, and from around the world, yet the university holds a special sense of responsibility for the people of Western North Carolina. Teaching and learning constitute the central mission of Western. The university seeks to create a community of scholarship in which the activities of its members are consistent with the highest standards of knowledge and practice in their disciplines. As a major public resource for the region, the university assists individuals and agencies through the expertise of its students, faculty and staff.

The 265-acre campus is located in the community of Cullowhee, N.C., in a picturesque valley of the Tuckasegee River between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountain ranges, 52 miles west of Asheville. The university lies close to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and some of the nation's most beautiful national forest lands.

The university's academic structure is composed of four undergraduate colleges -- Applied Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and Allied Professions -- and the Honors College and Graduate School. The Honors College, a community of high-achieving students, is the first of its kind in North Carolina, with accepted students invited to live in one of two honors residences.

Undergraduate students who enroll at WCU may choose from more than 120 majors and areas of concentration. Students interested in careers in engineering, law, medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine and pharmacy may enroll in pre-professional programs.

Through the Graduate School, the university offers graduate degree programs leading to the Master of Accountancy, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Business Administration, Master of Health Sciences, Master of Physical Therapy, Master of Project Management, Master of Public Affairs, Master of School Administration,

Master of Science, Master of Science in Nursing, the Education Specialist in Educational Leadership, and the Doctor of Education.



Western's rigorous academic program is led by a full-time faculty of about 335, providing a student-faculty ratio of 15 to 1 for the student body of about 6,700 students. The university also operates resident-credit centers in Asheville and Cherokee. Through credit and noncredit instructional courses, continuing education offerings, and workshop, conference and service programs, the university serves nearly 12,000 people each year.

Western has the distinction of being the first fully networked campus in The University of North Carolina system, and has received widespread acclaim for being on the national cutting edge in the use of computer technology in education. In fall of 1998, WCU became the first public university in North Carolina, and one of the first six public universities nationwide, to require freshmen students to come to campus with personal computers.

Two computer ports in each residence hall room allow students to connect to the Internet and university computer system from the comfort of their rooms. The use of 10 multimedia electronic classrooms on campus puts WCU at the forefront of educational technology. Western was named one of the nation's 100 "most-wired" university campuses by Yahoo! Internet Life magazine in spring 2000.

Also, in spring of 2000, WCU was officially designated a National Merit sponsoring university, and now is just the fifth institution of higher education in North Carolina, public or private, to receive that distinction.

Western's emphasis on involving undergraduate students in research is drawing national attention. In recent years, the university has repeatedly ranked in the nation's top 20 in the number of papers presented at the National Undergraduate Research Conference.

Western Carolina's Hunter Library, the largest library in North Carolina west of Charlotte, contains more than 590,000 books and bound periodical volumes, over 100 online databases, 670 CD-ROMs, and one million units of microform. Approximately 3,000 serial subscriptions are received, and the annual addition rate of new materials is more than 26,000 items.

## RONNIE G. CHILDRESS FIELD AT HENNON STADIUM

The 2003 season will mark the 26th season that the Western Carolina University baseball program has called Ronnie G. Childress Field its home.

The facility was officially renamed Childress Field at Hennon Stadium in a dedication program on April 23, 1994.

The Catamounts moved approximately 200 yards to the east from Haywood Field early in the 1978 season and have won over 71 percent of their home games since then, with a 423-165 record in 25 seasons. Bill Haywood, head baseball coach from 1969 through 1981, and Mr. E.J. Whitmire, longtime supporter and benefactor from Franklin, N.C., were the driving forces behind the building of the facility.



Childress Field, built at an initial cost of \$125,000, was dedicated April 26, 1978, and named in honor of the late Ronnie G. Childress, an avid supporter of WCU athletics and a special friend of the baseball program. Childress, through his family's radio station (WRGC) in Sylva, N.C., pioneered broadcasts of WCU's baseball games. He died in May 1975 as the result of an electrical accident at the radio station. The James B. Childress family established the Ronnie Childress Memorial Fund Scholarships in 1975 and scholarships have been awarded annually to one or more WCU baseball player for the past 26 years.

The facility received a \$500,000-plus face lift over an eight-year time period, thanks in large part to the generosity of Mr. Lamar Hennon of Dalton, Ga., and has become a showplace of Southern Conference baseball. Permanent bleacher seating, grandstand chair-back seats, and the facility's first-ever press box were installed prior to and during the 1990 season. A modern scoreboard, concession stands, rest rooms, and a new infield were added prior to the 1991 season.

The growth of the facility continues as part of Western's new building projects. Lights and a new sound system were added to the ballpark in the Fall of 2002 and Western will pay its first ever night game on March 25 when former WCU head coach Jack Leggett brings his nationally-ranked Clemson club to Cullowhee. This summer, Childress Field will be completely refurbished with nearly \$500,000 worth of improvements, including new drainage and irrigation, a new bermuda playing surface, new infield dirt and a new warning track. The baseball field upgrades are in addition to new stands at the football field, an expanded field house and a track/soccer/tennis complex.

The field's dimensions are 325 feet down each line, 375 feet to the right and left center power alleys and 390 feet to straightaway center field.

WCU hosted the 1984 and 1986 Southern Conference Tournaments at Childress Field and out-of-conference teams representing such schools as Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Clemson, North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, Yale, South Florida and Kent State have played the Catamounts in the facility.

### WESTERN CAROLINA AT CHILDRESS FIELD HENNON STADIUM

SEASON	ALL GAMES	SOCON
2002	20- 6	10- 5
2001	18- 6	11- 4
2000	11-14	7- 9
1999	19- 7	7- 5
1998	19- 3	9- 2
1997	22- 4	11- 2
1996	16-10	7- 5
1995	17-10	8- 4
1994	24- 5	8- 3
1993	16- 6	8- 1
1992	22- 5	11- 1
1991	17-10	6- 3
1990	23- 5	7- 2
1989	13- 9	6- 3
1988	19- 5	5- 1
1987	16- 4	7- 2
1986	18- 9	7- 2
1985	16- 9	6- 2
1984	15-10	6- 2
1983	18- 7	4- 2
1982	21- 3	8- 0
1981	10- 4	5- 3
1980	14- 7	6- 3
1979	7- 5	3- 3
1978	12- 2	5- 2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>423-165</b>	<b>178-71</b>
	<b>.719</b>	<b>.715</b>