Members of the Solar Vehicle Team with The Apperion, on Sanford Mall on Earth Day. The team will compete in a pre-qualifier for the American Solar Challenge this July.
Sustainability

The last six weeks of spring semester were bookended by Earth Month and graduation. Both events are reminders of our commitment to sustainability — in the way we operate our campus, educate our students and prepare them to be responsible and engaged citizens. During the short time our students are with us, it is a top priority for the faculty and staff to educate them about the three Es that must co-exist in a sustainable world: environmental protection and resource conservation, economic prosperity and continuity and social well-being and equity. This academic year we initiated an on-going research project that will track the Sustainability IQ of our students over their four years at Appalachian. Since 2009 we have encouraged graduating students to sign a national sustainability pledge. In 2015, Chancellor Everts signed the newly revamped Second Nature Climate Commitment as well as the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge. More than 100 faculty members have already pledged to doing what they can to help students understand the ecological and social consequences of climate change and to evaluate appropriate responses. Nearly 20% of Appalachian students, faculty and staff offset their commute to campus by purchasing carbon offsets at the time of registering their vehicle with the office of Parking & Traffic. And, also in 2015, we retained our gold status on sustainability achievements by STARS, given to us from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. We are ranked second in the nation for this achievement.

University bookshelf

In July, Appalachian will host the 5th Annual Energy Summit — a collective effort by the 17 institutions in the UNC system, on target to save North Carolina $2 billion in avoided energy costs by 2025. Appalachian has facilitated this system-wide effort; without the efforts of Appalachian campus leadership this remarkable initiative would not have come to fruition. Our keynote speaker, July 18, is 2013 Ghandi Peace Prize winner Bill McKibben, an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. “Oil and Honey” is his most recent publication.
Faculty spotlight

Dr. Lee J. Ball Jr. assumed the position of Interim Director of the Office of Sustainability little over one year ago. Working with his team, Ball has checked off a number of items on his bucket list and added a few:

• Rescued 70,000 discarded library books and is offering them for sale at a penny each in the Office of Sustainability
• Expanded campus Zero Waste efforts by refining the purchasing stream and increasing on-campus composting
• Initiated a green office certification program
• Launched a cigarette butt clean up campaign
• Embedded eco representatives in every residence hall
• Worked with faculty on integrating social justice in the classroom

“Last spring, we did a gap analysis and a needs assessment of what we are not doing that our peers are,” Ball said. “We are leaders in many ways but there is room for improvement in waste reduction, reuse and recycling, mindful economics and social justice issues. To that end, we have sustainability representatives in every college. We hope to increase communication, alleviate disconnect and identify common goals. The representatives are charged with identifying and organizing sustainability efforts within their college. I’m not in the business of defining sustainability. I like to help people find their personal and professional connections with sustainability.”

On the mountain

President of the University of North Carolina Margaret Spellings came to the High Country in mid-April, as part of her 100-day tour of the state and 17 institutions in the system. Spellings and Appalachian State University Chancellor Sheri N. Everts spent a significant portion of the visit talking to key constituencies of faculty, staff and students and listening to their ideas and concerns.

Over the course of a full 24-hour schedule, Spellings met with the chancellor and her council, and toured the campus with stops at the Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts, Belk Library and Information Commons, Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Walker College of Business and the Transportation Insight Center for Entrepreneurship. Read more: news.appstate.edu/site-dedication and news.appstate.edu/spellings

Left: Appalachian Regional Healthcare System President and CEO Richard Sparks presents UNC President Margaret Spellings and Chancellor Sheri N. Everts with the land deed for the new Beaver Health and Sciences building site. Right: Spellings visits with a student in the College of Business while Chancellor Everts looks on.

Dr. Lee J. Ball Jr. taught in the Department of Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment for 14 years. He will co-lead a sustainability-focused trip to Peru in May.
Spotlight on - Wild Turkey Awards
Each year Appalachian’s Sustainability Council’s presents the Wild Turkey Awards to honor members of the campus community who have made significant contributions to sustainability. Read more: sustain.appstate.edu/wildturkey

Spotlight on - Peter Thompson
Troubled by the ethics of banking in Nigeria, and despite his parents’ dismay that he would leave a lucrative career, Peter Thompson ’16 chose Appalachian for his graduate studies because of our reputation for sustainability. He hopes to return to Nigeria and make a difference. Read more: chancellor.appstate.edu/newsletter/id/8

It was a perfect spring day for our Earth Day celebration on April 20. Students and clubs gathered on Sanford Mall with save the earth ideas and inspiration.

West African dance music performers Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba were among the many performers scheduled throughout the daylong Diversity Celebration on April 5.

Several river clean-ups were scheduled around Boone during Earth Month.
University Changes
new hires (permanent employees), departures, promotions and changes

Change is expected and embraced on our campus. New staff, administration and faculty bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our community. Sadly, valued members of our Appalachian family move on to new horizons, adventures and experiences. We welcome our newest members and extend our best wishes to those who are departing.

New Hires (permanent employees)
Roselia Acquino, Food Services Technician
Karen Admire, Administrative Support Associate
Bruce Bromberger, Facilities Superintendent
Kimberly Coffey, Food Services Supervisor
Kendra Craven, Administrative Support Specialist-Records
Alan Daniel, Director of Annual Giving for Athletics
Robert Dixon, Facility Maintenance Technician-Mechanical Trades
Willie Fleming, Chief Diversity Officer
Rachel Fried, Gear Up Campus Program Coordinator
William Gillison, Administrative Support Specialist
Isaac Harmon, Technology Support Analyst
Ryan Harvey, Systems Programmer/Analyst
Troy McNeil, Support Services Associate
Leigh Miller, Accounting Technician
Clayde Morgan, Building & Environmental Services Technician
April Pardue, Building & Environmental Services Technician
James Richardson, Building & Environmental Services Technician
Jonathan Rudicill, Facilities Technician-Mechanical Trades
Courtney Scholl, Food Services Technician
Taylor Sherwin, Assistant Volleyball Coach
Theresa Wilkie, Support Services Supervisor
Wendy Wilt, Administrative Support Specialist

Departures
Joseph Ball, Building & Environmental Services Technician
Christopher Benfield, Public Safety Supervisor
Tammy Click, Food Services Supervisor
Patrick Crothers, Head Women’s Tennis Coach
Sydney Dehus, Business Services Coordinator
Gary Fifield, Director of Women’s Basketball Operations
Melissa Foster, Building & Environmental Services Technician
Pamela Grubb, Food Services Supervisor
Paula Hall, Administrative Support Specialist
Joshua Harmon, Food Services Technician
David Jackson, Associate Athletics Director for External Relations
Brian Jones, Property Security Officer
Gregory Lovins, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
Stephanie Marshall, Administrative Support Specialist

Promotions and Changes
Thomas Anderson, Facility Maintenance Technician-Mechanical Trades
Timothy Burwell, Interim Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs
Rebecca Cameron, Building & Environmental Services Technician
Melody Campbell, Accounting Technician
Steve Day, Support Services Associate
Daniel Devine, University Library Specialist
James Eller, Facility Maintenance Technician-Mechanical Trades
Courtney Goodman, Research Scientist
Jordan Gragg, Horticultural Specialist
Myra Hayler, Accounting Technician
Anthony Jones, Director, Financial Aid
Lida Keber, Administrative Support Specialist
Leah McManus, Administrative Support Specialist
Erica Norris, Food Services Supervisor
Erin Pearce, Administrative Support Specialist
Thomas Van Gilder, Interim Director of Learning Technology Services
Alicia Vest, Associate Dir. of University Housing for Student/Adm. Services
Paul Ward, Administrative Support Supervisor-OSP

*These changes reflect personnel adjustments made between March 16 and May 31, 2016