Eberly College to celebrate 125 years of Woodburn Hall

**By Mark Dalessandro**

**Eberly College of Arts & Sciences**

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Woodburn Hall with a reception in the building’s main hallway from 4:30-6:30 p.m. tomorrow, Feb. 23. The event will also recognize major contributors and the achievements of students, faculty, staff and alumni through new bronze and brass plaques placed throughout the hallways of the building’s main floor.

Speaking at the event will be WVU President David C. Hardesty, Jr.; Eberly College Dean M. Duane Nellis; and political science and finance senior Peter Love, who was named last week to the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team.

"Woodburn Hall has come to be recognized as the academic symbol of West Virginia University, the state’s flagship university, and the building’s distinctive clock tower is the symbol of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, WVU’s flagship college," Nellis said.

The original building on the site of today’s Woodburn Hall predated the establishment of WVU in 1867. The Woodburn Female Seminary was incorporated in 1858 and housed on the site in a home built by Thomas P. Ray.

When the seminary closed in 1866, the property was acquired by the Monogalia Academy, a private men’s school. The academy’s trustees then offered their property, which included a building on the corner of Spruce and Walnut streets, as an inducement for the new state of West Virginia to establish a land-grant educational institution in Morgantown.

On Jan. 25, 1873, the building burned down after sparks from an ember in an open grate or from a lamp in a student’s room ignited a fire.

The state Legislature enacted a five-cent tax on every $100 of taxable property to finance construction of New Hall, later named University Hall, which is now the center portion of today’s Woodburn Hall.

The north wing of Woodburn was completed in 1899, and the south wing was added in 1910.

Woodburn Hall’s interior was extensively renovated in 1977-78, and its exterior was refurbished and restored in the early 1990s. Just last year, the hallways of the main floor were refurbished and commemorative plaques added to the walls.

**ARTIST ON DISPLAY—West Virginia Collection Curator John Cuthbert holds one of 19th century artist David Hunter Strother’s sketch pads. It was for his illustrations of African-Americans that Strother first received critical notice. In honor of Black History Month, the WVU Libraries West Virginia and Regional History Collection is exhibiting a selection of Strother’s work in Colson Hall, second floor.**

**Bits & Bytes opens today at Engineering**

WVU Dining Services will cut the ribbon today, Feb. 22 on their newest campus eatery – Bits & Bytes Café—located in G-69 Engineering Sciences Building.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the ceremony at 4 p.m. and sample Bits & Bytes cuisine. Among those cutting the ribbon on the take-out facility will be computer science and electrical engineering professor Wils Cooley, who named the cafe.

Its location on the ground floor of the Engineering Sciences Building makes Bits & Bytes a convenient dining option for students, faculty and staff in that facility, as well as the nearby College of Mineral and Energy Resources (CMER), Engineering Research, National Research Center for Coal and Energy (NRCC), Evansdale Library and Agricultural Sciences buildings.

"There was basically no food service offered on the hill, so if the students, employees and visitors wanted to have breakfast or lunch they had to leave the hillside," said Cindy Alderson, Dining Services assistant director. "Business has been very good since we opened on Jan. 8, and it’s especially popular with the students."

She describes Bits & Bytes as a combination of McCoy’s in the Mountainlair and the Lyon’s Den Snack Bar in Lyon Tower—two other Dining Services facilities.

The cafe serves a variety of items such as hamburgers, chicken roll-ups, pasta, deli sandwiches, soups, hot poppers, onion rings, baked goods and assorted beverages, including flavored coffee.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Patrons can pay using cash, Visa, MasterCard, Mountie Bounty, Meals Plus or Dining Dollars.

**WVU renews commitment to recycling**

Physical Plant is putting renewed emphasis on recycling in 2001.

BFI has been awarded the contract to collect recyclables on campus, said Lee Comer, Physical Plant director. "BFI has the resources to ensure that our recyclable materials are picked up on the proper schedule," Comer said. "However, for the program to be successful, all members of the campus community must participate."

Awareness is key to a successful program. Making sure that people know which materials can be recycled and the process for recycling is the responsibility of David Dixon, recycling manager. To get the word out, a special notice is being sent to all deans, directors, chairpersons and building supervisors identifying what can and cannot be recycled.

Dixon said he is pleased with the results of the program. Some 750,000 pounds of paper is collected from 55 locations on campus and then recycled. Special pickups are also available for exceptionally large volumes of materials.

Paper isn’t the only material recycled at WVU. A program for scrap metal also exists. In the future, Physical Plant would like to expand the program to plastics and other products.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Dixon at 293-9210 or ddxon2@wvu.edu.

**Math welcomes international scholar**

**By Mark Dalessandro**

**Eberly College of Arts & Sciences**

A new visiting professor in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences has added to the University's international culture. Sergio Macias, a professor of mathematics from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), is currently serving as the John Arndt Eiesland Sabattical Visitor in the Department of Mathematics.

As the Eiesland Sabattical Visitor, Macias is expected to carry out a rigorous program of original research and interact with math faculty and graduate students. Dr. Macias, the first to hold the position, is collaborating on a research project with Professor Sam B. Nadler Jr.

Macias earned his B.A. and M.A. in mathematics at UNAM before earning a Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1992.

"I have spent six months at West Virginia University, and I have found a pleasant environment," Macias said. "I have been doing research with Professor Sam Nadler. It has been a very good experience for me to work with a well-known mathematician."

**U names coordinator of Student Orientation**

Regan Fritsch-Bruni has been named coordinator of New Student Orientation.

Fritsch-Bruni earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WVU. She began working at the University in 1996 as an admissions counselor in the Office of New Student Services. Additionally, she has served as the interim coordinator for New Student Orientation since Fall 1999.

In her new position, she will be responsible for Orientation and Mountaineer Visit Days, and will work closely with University Communications to develop recruitment publications.

"I am pleased that Regan has accepted the offer," said WVU Vice President for Student Affairs Ken Gray. "She understands the importance of Mountaineer Visit Days, as well as the impact our numerous publications have in attracting potential students to WVU. She also recognizes that Orientation is an ongoing and multi-faceted process that provides academic, intellectual and personal development for our new students."