

# News from Appalachian

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By Nancy Nelson

Plemmons Leadership Medallion Awarded  
To Little, Jackson and McCaskey

News Bureau  
PO Box 32100  
Appalachian State University  
Boone, North Carolina 28608-2100  
828-262-2092

The Appalachian State University Board of Trustees has recognized three  
Individuals for leadership outside of the classroom.

Student Government Association President Fernando Little, Director of Student  
Judicial Affairs Lee McCaskey and Professor of Leadership and Educational Studies  
Dr. James Jackson are recipients of the W. H. Plemmons Leadership Medallion.

The awards will be presented at the university's convocation ceremony Sept. 15.

This is the first time the medallion, established in 1996, will be given. As many as  
five individuals including students of junior standing or above, student development  
educators and other faculty and staff members may receive the recognition annually.

According to the resolution establishing the award, it "recognizes the time,  
energy, skills and commitment of students, faculty, student development educators and  
staff who exceed their peers in providing leadership that enriches the quality of student  
life and advances the education of students."

This year's recipients were chosen from 14 nominees.

Little, the son of Gregory and Fannie Little of Charlotte, is currently a member of

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the W.H. Plemmons Leader Fellows Program, a \$1,000 renewable scholarship and leadership development program offered annually. Additionally, he is an Appalachian Ambassador, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, pianist for the university's Gospel Choir and an officer for the Appalachian Popular Programming Society (A.P.P.S.).

He became involved in A.P.P.S. through the university's Committee for Cultural Awareness, a group he helped found. As first chairman of the committee, Little worked to establish the group's influence on A.P.P.S. programming.

A.P.P.S. is Appalachian's largest student-run organization. It is responsible for organizing a film series on campus in addition to coordinating live entertainers. The group sponsors popular concerts, comedians and hypnotists among others.

Little will graduate in December 1998 with a bachelors degree in business administration. Following graduation, he hopes to join the management associate program at NationsBank where he has interned in Charlotte for the past four summers. He also plans to attend graduate school within the next few years to pursue his MBA or a masters in human resources.

"It is an honor for me to be honored in the same fashion as true Appalachian State role models such as Dr. Jackson and Lee McCaskey," said Little.

McCaskey is celebrating his 30th anniversary at Appalachian this year. He first

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came to the university in 1968 as director of student activities. He served as director of student development from 1970-75, but left that position to become director of complementary education. As director, he advised and coordinated programs such as the student judiciary committee and the Student Government Association. He also organized programming at the Plemmons Student Union and Farthing Auditorium.

Through that role he helped create Appalachian's first tutoring program and many current residence life services such as resident assistants and residential programming.

In 1991, he became director of student judicial affairs. The Pittsburgh, Pa., native served as advisor to the Student Government Association for 17 years and helped develop the student judicial system.

"It is truly fitting that (McCaskey) receives this award because Dr. Plemmons hired Lee back in 1968," said Dino DiBernardi, director for the center for student involvement and leadership in his nomination letter. "Lee dedicated his whole professional life to his students and their personal and professional development. He is, in my mind, most responsible for the design, development, and the resource accumulation of what is now student development at Appalachian."

The Plemmons Leadership Medallion is just one of many awards Jackson has won in his 29 years at Appalachian.

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