

April 28, 1999

Plemmons Leadership Medallion Awarded To Atkins, Daye, Huntley and Riggsbee

BOONE--The Appalachian State University Board of Trustees has recognized four individuals for their campus leadership.

Student leader Erin Atkins, Associate Dean of the Graduate School Edelma Huntley, Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Development Barbara Daye and Director of Student Orientation Micki Riggsbee are recipients of the W.H. Plemmons Leadership Medallion.

The awards will be presented at the university's convocation ceremony Sept. 9. Established in 1996, as many as five individuals including students of junior standing or above, student development educators and other faculty and staff may receive the recognition annually.

"These individuals have dedicated their time, energy and skills to enrich the quality of student life significantly and to enhance the learning environment at Appalachian," said Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski.

Atkins, the daughter of Roger and Judy Atkins of Jonesboro, Ga., is currently a member of the W.H. Plemmons Leader Fellows Program, a \$1,000 renewable scholarship and leadership development program offered annually. Additionally, she is an Appalachian Ambassador, a member of both the Resident Student Association and Campus Resident Student Association, and a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary. She serves on a variety of campus committees including the university cultural affairs committee and the academic policies and procedures committee. She is president

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of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honorary at Appalachian.

Atkins provides both a leadership and creative role with the Appalachian Dance Ensemble. She is a regular participant in the "Pieces of She" program each spring, which highlights women in the arts.

"Erin has not necessarily sought out visible leadership roles for her own recognition, but rather has chosen to make her contribution to the Appalachian community through hard work," said Dino DiBernardi, director for the center for student involvement and leadership in his nomination letter. "Her nomination for this prestigious award is a testament that she has been influential in the lives of students on our campus."

Atkins will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in English. Following graduation, she will attend Mercer Law School in Macon, Ga. She plans to study constitutional law and civil rights.

"It is an honor for me to be recognized with such a wonderful group of women," Atkins said.

Huntley has served the university for 21 years. The past four years she has served as associate dean of the graduate school. With varied responsibilities in the graduate school, she continues to teach in the Department of English, direct theses of graduate students, and has completed one book and has another book under contract. She works extensively with the two graduate student associations on campus, manages scholarship and fellowship budgets, and has played an instrumental role in developing the graduate school's annual research day.

"She has been a role model to all students, who aspire to academic careers and wish to combine academic and administrative responsibilities," writes Graduate School Dean Judith Domer in her nomination letter. "She's a role model to women students in particular, who want to balance careers with interests outside of their work."

Daye has served the university for nearly 30 years. She began her association with Appalachian as a student and later returned as a staff member. Serving in the student development division, Daye has held leadership positions such as dean of women, dean

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of students, associate vice chancellor and acting vice chancellor.

“Barbara has consistently demonstrated a caring and compassionate attitude to our students,” writes DiBernardi in his nomination letter. “Barbara has always worked to insure that student opinions are not only sought out but also integrated into the decision making of the university.”

Daye works with students and their parents to resolve crises and campus emergencies. She also chairs or works with various university committees dealing with student welfare.

Daye played an important part in the development of many programs including the parent’s association, judicial affairs, residence life and the parent’s orientation program.

Riggsbee works in the Office of General Studies Academic Advising Center. She has 23 years of service with the state and 16 of those years have been at Appalachian.

In her job coordinating student orientation programs for freshmen and transfer students, she often deals directly with students.

“She provides constructive feedback that provides students with the knowledge and understanding of what is expected of them,” writes Paul Gibson in his nomination letter. Riggsbee influenced Gibson while he was working as a student orientation leader.

“She opens her ears and her heart, making students feel as though their words are being heard and understood. In return she offers specific suggestions best suited to their needs.”

Award winners receive a medallion depicting former Appalachian President Dr. William Plemmons, which they are authorized to wear at suitable university ceremonies and celebrations.

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