

Blank says farewell

By SUSAN USHER
News Herald Staff Writer

Dr. Gordon C. Blank shared snapshots from his mental album during commencement exercises Friday night at Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC).

In probably his last major appearance as president of the college, Dr. Blank was greeted with a standing ovation at the podium following a laudatory introduction by W. Stanley Moore, editor emeritus of The News Herald. Moore was chairman of the board of trustees at WPCC for eight of the 11 years Dr. Blank has served as college president.

Dr. Blank, who leaves in June for Glens Falls, N.Y., and Adirondack Community College, shared the honors of the evening with the 194 graduates. A

reception in his honor was held in the college cafeteria following graduation exercises.

From his album of thoughts, Dr. Blank talked with gratitude of the people with whom he has worked for 13 years and the community in which he has lived.

Morganton, Burke County and western North Carolina shall always be home for the Blank family, he said.

In his third mental snapshot, Dr. Blank compared the conferring of degrees and diplomas to the passing of the baton from one generation to the next.

In passing the symbolic staff, he offered his ideas of what the degree or diploma should mean to the graduate.

"I hope it means you are the kind of person who has an appetite for change;

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194 graduate from WPCC

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one who has learned how to learn.

"I hope you are a person who is in tune with the 20th century and is aware of ideas, issues and events. I hope your degree means that you have developed a skepticism about overly simplistic solutions to complex problems," he said.

Warning the knowledge will decay if not used, he added, "I hope your degree means that you know the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Wisdom and knowledge are not synonymous."

As important as they are, Dr. Blank said, "I would like to think that, above all, the college degree means that you the graduates have a heart."

In his final mental snapshot, that of leaving Western Piedmont, he admonished taxpayers and legislators "not to sell the college short."

"To the trustees, faculty and staff, I would like to say that we may have quarrelled occasionally, disagreed sometimes, disputed enjoyably many times, but respected one another and cared for the college and its students always...My family and I thank you for having made these years meaningful and significant to us," Dr. Blank continued.

And to the graduates, "We leave the college, but the college will never leave us."

Following a second standing ovation from the crowd of students, faculty and friends of the college, winners of awards and scholarships were announced.

Commencement marshal Terry Lynn Jordan received both the English department scholarship and the Michael C. Whalen Memorial Scholarship.

From the business department, Diane Cook received the Wall Street Journal award and Jerry Wornack received the Paul Hutchins Memorial Scholarship.

From the Mental Health Club, the Wilbur Hollifield Memorial Award went to Cathy Phillips for outstanding contributions to the field of mental health. Miss Phillips and Connie Williard were recognized for academic excellence.

From the department of natural sciences and mathematics, James K. Hardy received the Freshman Achievement Award in chemistry given each year by the Chemical Rubber Co.

Assisting with the program were Thad M. Poteat, chairman of the college board of trustees; Sheila D. Stevens, president of the student government association; the Rev. Kenneth W. Albright, a WPCC student and pastor of Rain Hill Wesleyan Church; H.D. Moretz, dean of the college; and James A. Reed, registrar.

Students awarded degrees and diplomas were:

Associate in arts:

Gregory McDowell Baird; Kenneth Walton Baker; Leonard Ernest Baker; Judy Lee Clark; Susan Rene Cline; Diane Hudson Eurey; Lynda Chambers Fleeman, High Honors; David Lynn Gibson; Thomas Martin Johnson, High Honors; Charles Dean Kincaid; Doris Gail Lawrence; Paula Marie Mason; Teresa Ann McCall, Honors; James Brian Morgan; David S. Mull, Honors; Wendell Vann Mull; Donald Eugene Norman; Nathan Bower Mull, Honors; Stuart Wayne Robinson; Sandra Kaye Sain; Timothy Clarence Saunders, Honors; and Robert William Wiseman.

Associate in science: Michael Andrew Devine; Gene Emerson Monday; Bradley Deran Rufus McCall, High Honors; William Carvas Parton Jr.; Karen Talbert Smith, Honors; Deborah Ann Sowers; Robert Eugene Tolbert, Honors; and Timothy Ellis Workman.

Associate in arts and associate in science: Larry Dewain Burnette; William Andrew Hill; Cheryl Ann Hoffman, High Honors; Sonya Rae Scott; and Dennis Banks Wilson, High Honors.

Associate in applied science:

Accounting:

Diane Hildebran Cook; Karen Evelyn Goff, High Honors; Dennis Alan Hildebran, Honors; Peggy Dianne Huffman; Jerry Dallard Lewis; Rebecca Lynn Penland, Honors; Nell Soward Ragsdale; Vivian Alberta Stump, High Honors; and Samuel Junior Wallace.

Business Administration: Manford Gaston Farr; James Robert King; Douglas Bryan Peeler; Claude Lee Queen; Gloria June Roupe; Deborah Williams Saulman, High Honors; Ted Wilson Summers, Honors; and William Edward Wootton.

Legal secretary: Alicia Shirleen Wallace, Honors.

Medical secretary: Teresa Nannette Cornett; Linda Ann Graybeal; Deborah Marie Rogers; Susan Camille Roper.

Legal secretary and executive secretary: Janice Jones Fox; Nancy

Lowman Gragg; Vicky Ann Hildebran; Patricia Cannon Knox, High Honors; Jackie Marie Secrest, Honors; and Rita Faye Smith.

Fire science technology: James Floyd Bradshaw; Vance Turner Carson, High Honors; Claude Jeffrey Coggins, and Joseph Leo Doll; Clifford Thomas Lafond, High Honors; George Calvin Ross; and Cecil Sanford Sain Jr., High Honors.

Industrial engineer technology: Danny Ray Barus; Walter Robert Calahan; Paul Henry Deal; Carl Lester Duncan; Janet G. Foxx; Jeanie Kelly Justus, Honors; Archie Ferrill Lowman, Honors; George William Patton, Honors; Dennis Michael Pendley; and Eric Dean Pittman.

Medical laboratory technician: Conchita Arrowood, High Honors; Joan Denise Clark, High Honors; Margaret Jimison Finley, High Honors; Patricia Lynne Gardner, High Honors; Bina Jain Gupta, High Honors; Larry Douglas Hoover, Honors; Shashi Jain, High Honors; Carolyn Louise Keisler, High Honors; Teresa Anne Lane, High Honors; Doris Carol Lawing, High Honors; Rita Gwyn Miller, High Honors; Jimmy Lee Powell; Debra Izzo Rhyne, High Honors; Ronda Elaine Rockett, Honors; Susan Weiler Rumpf, High Honors; Miquel Eduardo Viso, High Honors; Sherry Dawn Waters, High Honors; and Nancy Fullam Whitener, High Honors.

Mental Health Associate: Ronda Sherie Baldwin; Debra Ann Bright; Steve Hugh Caldwell; Pamela Diane Church; Phillip Eugene Ervin; Judy Kaye Helms, Honors; Brenda Travis Lloyd, High Honors; Kathy Darlene Miller, High Honors; Sandra Kay Ricketts; Joseph Keith Satterwhite, Honors; Edith Duckworth Stamey, Honors; James Tate; and Connie Elizabeth Williard, High Honors.

Medical office assisting: Judy Marlene Barnes; Vanessa Jan Brookshire, High Honors; Laura Devonne Clawson, High Honors; Marilyn Lindsay Conover; Marilyn Sue Martin; Marie Zimmerman McClure, High Honors; Kathie Harbison McCurry, High Honors; Mary Neva Moore; Rita Ann Dale Poteat, Honors; Mary Elizabeth Hunt Stith, High Honors;

Nursing: Cynthia Gail Pursseley Atkins; Debra Kay Bartlett Bailey; Keith Alan Baker; Gary Wesley Barger; Debra Ann Barlowe; Rebecca Jean Beck, Honors; Reba Gail Bivens; Marie Helene van Lidth de Jeude Bouraoui; Helen Meade Bright; Deborah Jane Buchanan; Deborah Searcy Calhoun; Nancy Lynn Long Carmack; Christy Lynn orders Carswell; Lena Marie Cole; Benjamin Franklin Connelly; Deborah Hawkins Cook, Honors; Bobbie Jo Fortenberry Duncan; Reba Fay Pritchard Freeman; Kathleen Rose Gouge; Donald Michael Grinar; Mary Frances Pruitt Hall; Mary Louise Houpe; Brenda Gail Huffman; Sherry Duckworth Huffman; Sally Maxwell Impastato, High Honors; Veda Lingerfelt Jackson; Brenda Gail Davis Kayga; Eleanor Harvey Marxen; Karen Sue Kirkman McKinney; Teresa Darlene Shook Mosley; Marilyn Mae S. Patrick, Honors; Terry Reid Peeler; Robin Suzette Randall; Mary Louise Roseboro; Linda Joann Heavner Short, Honors; Cathy Eleanor Tisdale, Kathy Prince Warner; Sandra Byrd Wilson; and Daphne Juanita Winters.

Corrections: Daniel Alan Bagwell; Vickie Bradshaw Deal; Billy Homer Gibbs; Dudley Marvin Greene, High Honors; Robert Paul Hendren; Linda Faye Houser, Honors; Ronnie Zane Richards; and David Earl Whiteside.

Police science: Thomas Lee Adams, Honors; David Arthur Beam, Honors; Barbara Groves Cox, High Honors; Randy Earl Eckard; Daniel George Foster, Honors; Kevin Dean Gantt; Joseph Harrington; Luther Ray Hathcock; George Earl Haydt, High Honors; Rodney Bruce Kirk; Kathleen Monroe; Roy Allen Orders, Honors; Donna Carpenter Patton, Honors; Thomas Allan Paulson; Donald Seagle Reichard; Robert Allen Smith; Jackie Franklin Warlick; Rhonda Lee Watts; and Terry Mac Wilson.

Police science and corrections: Earl Douglas Lambert.

Automotive mechanics: Clarence Conrad Mingle, Honors; Claude Clayton Owens; and Robert Rassie Ross Jr.