

Mace is hand-crafted for WPCC inaugural

A hand-crafted academic mace has been created by Western Piedmont Community College faculty members in preparation for the April 19 inauguration ceremonies of college President Wilmon H. Droze.

English Department Chairman Roy McGalliard designed the mace, which is 27 inches long and crafted out of the North Carolina state wood, black walnut. Resembling a torch, the mace is crowned by a finial in the shape of an acorn and is banded by ribbons of four colors. Supporting the acorn is a block of tooled aluminum, inset with the seals of the State of North Carolina, Burke County, the N.C. Department of Community Colleges and Western Piedmont Community College.

"The entire mace is symbolic," according to McGalliard. "The black walnut has rich historic significance for our state; the lathework represents our furniture industry, just as the tooled aluminum represents the growth of machine industry; the acorn is symbolic of the potential in education; the green and blue ribbons suggest the mountains and waters of Western North Carolina, and the blue and white represent WPCC."

Creation of the mace was a joint effort among McGalliard, Roger Carter and Shirley Smith. Carter and Smith, both faculty members of the Engineering Department, executed the aluminum cube. McGalliard did the lathe work on the wood.

An academic mace is traditional in academic ceremony, according to Alex Huppe, WPCC information officer. It is usually carried by the dean or by the senior faculty member, and represents the authority and independence of scholarship. The mace is a descendant of the medieval battle mace and the regal scepter.



Mace will be used at WPCC inaugural.

In the April 19 ceremony, the mace will be carried by Ruby Harbison, the senior instructional faculty member at the college. Joining her in the

ceremony will be representatives of almost 50 different institutions of higher education, all dressed in colorful academic regalia.