Written by Steve Frank
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Lees-McRae College, in partnership with the Avery Chamber of Commerce, presents dinner with cycling legend Greg LeMond Saturday, March 24 on the campus of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk.

This fundraiser for the Lees-McRae College Cycling Program will include a ride with Greg LeMond at 1 p.m. on March 24 and a reception and dinner beginning at 6 p.m.

Greg LeMond is visiting Lees-McRae College as an adjunct professor for the Principles of Cycling course, the foundations course for the College's Cycling Studies curriculum. He will teach three courses during the week.

"We are delighted to have three-time Tour de France champion and business entrepreneur Greg LeMond as an adjunct faculty member at Lees-McRae College. His wealth of experience, both as a cycling competitor and successful businessman, will be invaluable to our Cycling Studies students," said President Barry M. Buxton.

The reception begins at 6 p.m. in the King-Shivell Lounge of the Cannon Student Center with dinner following at 6:30 in Evans Auditorium. The cost of the dinner is $100 per person and includes participation in the ride at 1 p.m. the same day.

The cost for cyclists interested in participating in the ride only is $20. Riders should meet at the Cannon Student Center located at 191 Main Street, Banner Elk at 12:30 p.m. The ride will begin at 1 p.m. and last approximately two hours. The majority of the ride will be on an off-road course, therefore cyclocross or mountain bikes are recommended. Riders must be registered by March 23 to participate.

"Having a cycling icon like Greg LeMond at Lees-McRae is another giant step toward our ultimate goal of being the top college for cycling in America. Our thanks go out to Greg for his recent donation of LeMond Fitness Trainers and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship," said Buxton.

Greg LeMond was the first American and the first non-European to win the Tour de France in 1986, a feat that he repeated in 1989 and 1990. A successful entrepreneur, Greg LeMond founded LeMond Bicycles in 1990 and LeMond Fitness in 2002. LeMond Fitness became a sponsor of the Lees-McRae College Cycling Team last year with the donation of 10 LeMond Revolution trainers and two Rev Master spin cycles.

To register for the ride and/or dinner, mail a check along with the names of participants to Michelle Scott, Lees-McRae College, PO Box 128, Banner Elk, NC 28604. Please indicate LeMond Dinner in the memo line. You may call (828) 898-2489 or email scottmv@lmc.edu to confirm your registration. Online registration will be available March 12 at www.lmc.edu. Registration for the dinner is open until March 20 at midnight. Registration for the ride is open until March 23 at noon.

All proceeds from the dinner and ride will support the Lees-McRae College Cycling Program.