

Dear alumni of the College of Education and Allied Professions,

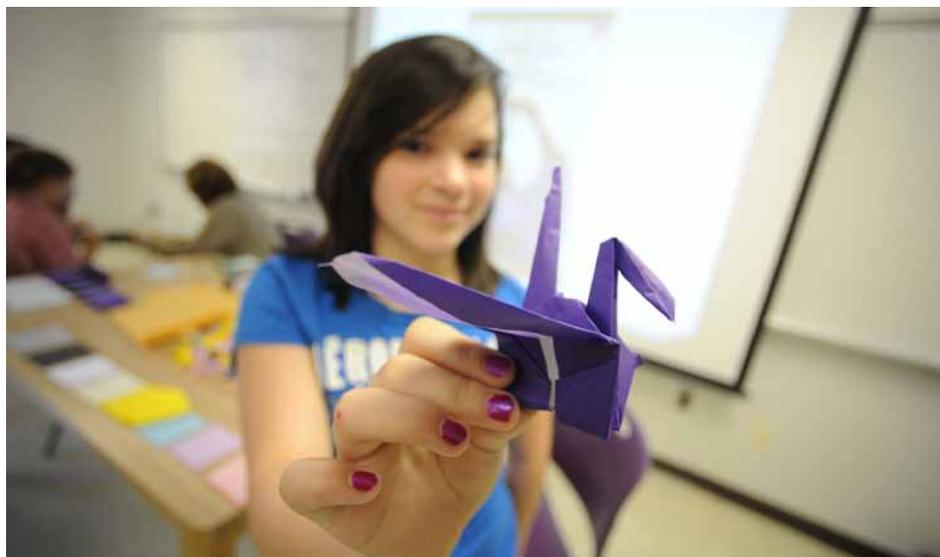
This is something new. We've never tried an electronic newsletter before. But we figured that a lot of you might be interested in finding out what's been going on in the college, or more specifically, your old department.

There are a lot of you out there. We recently came across a report that said the WCU College of Education and Allied Professions currently has the following alumni in the North Carolina public schools: 3,561 teachers, 111 assistant principals and 131 principals. And while we don't have specific numbers, we also have a large number of alumni from our college across the state in our allied professions.

A lot has happened in the College of Education and Allied Professions over the last few years. Some of our departments have been reorganized, and we have a new dean. So if you want to know what's been happening in your old college, please read on.

David Claxton

Assistant to the Dean for Development



WCU joins schoolchildren's efforts to raise money for sick classmate

The campus community at Western Carolina University pitched in recently to raise money for a family whose child is sick with cancer.

Madison Hornbuckle, a fifth-grade student at Cullowhee Valley School, suffers from glioblastoma multiforme, a common and aggressive type of brain tumor. She and her mother, Stephanie Hornbuckle, often travel from their home in Cullowhee to spend weeks at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where Madison receives treatment.

Inspired by a nonfiction book in which a sick Japanese girl believes folding paper cranes will help her recover, Madison's classmates initiated a drive to fold 1,000 paper cranes in her honor, enlisting students in other grades to contribute. Encouraged by quick progress and an enthusiastic response, Madison's classmates decided to turn their talent for crane-folding toward raising money to help pay for their friend's travel and other expenses. The idea: to fold cranes out of \$1,000 in paper money.

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Schoon Named New CEAP Dean

Dr. Perry L. Schoon, formerly senior associate dean of the College of Education at the University of Texas at Arlington, became the dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions at Western Carolina University in June 2009.

Schoon's appointment came after a nearly yearlong, nationwide search. Schoon, who also has served as associate dean for assessment and technology at the University of Texas at Arlington, took over the reins from Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions since July 1998 and a faculty member at WCU since 1976. For the full story, [click here](#).



THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT has been supporting the university's mission of stewardship of place through active engagement. We have been attending to the voices of our surrounding community and attempting to assist with issues that the community faces and deems important. We have been using genuine collaboration and exchange in the form of dialogue and mutual application of knowledge and expertise. We have been working with our neighbors to build a bridge that globally and locally has potential to benefit all. Here are a few of the highlights of our recent faculty involvement.

THE MIDDLE GRADES PROGRAM has been involved in course development in conjunction with a 2+2 Grant and has developed online courses that provide greater individual access to students all over the region, state and beyond. To facilitate, develop and offer these innovative online courses, curriculum design specialists worked with the faculty to design and field test nine courses.

DR. RUSS BINKLEY AND DR. VICKI FAIRCLOTH both are very involved in the PeaceJam project at Cullowhee Valley School, Waynesville Middle School and Randolph Learning Center. Faircloth and Binkley successfully acquired a CEAP Scholarship of Application Mini-Grant to support undergraduate students in our department and groups of middle-school learners develop PeaceJam curriculum. These eighth-graders, along with their teacher-candidate mentors, are working on peace projects that include the following: beginning recycling programs; educating elementary school kids about bullying; putting on an anti-racism fair; raising money for clean water in an African village; assembling hygiene kits for homeless and low-income people; developing alternative energy sources (solar panels); and collecting items for shelters for victims of domestic violence. Ten other undergrads are leading kindergarteners in activities on character traits of peacemakers. Binkley and Dr. Terre Folger are working on a project that



Nichols in Second Year as Department Head

As classes began in the fall, Dr. Dee Nichols began his second year as EMGE department head. Nichols earned his doctorate in Educational Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University and came to Western Carolina from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

helps teacher candidates in the literacy courses develop relationships with children of diverse backgrounds through online domains in an attempt to help pre-service teachers come to terms with their attitudes and dispositions toward diversity.

JAMEL ANDERSON RUFF has been providing book and other resources to Cullowhee Valley School related to African-American History Month and assisting the teachers at the school in making selections of new texts to provide information on various cultures.

DR. PATRICIA BRICKER offered a graduate entrepreneurial class titled "Content Area Reading in Science and Mathematics" for grades six through 12 last summer. The course was designed to allow teachers to continue their professional development and increase positive attitudes toward scientific inquiry. Bricker also recently won a Chancellor's Meritorious Award for Engaged Teaching and the Jo Duckett Wallace Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service in Science Education at the Elementary Level. She also is the principal investigator for a NC Quest Grant, "Project 2020: Preparing Future-Ready Students for a Global Society," that helps support teachers and school systems in the areas of science education. Bricker and Binkley also are currently writing with

Susan Sachs, an education specialist with the National Park Service, about ozone biomonitoring protocol that would be suitable for middle grades students. This work documents a citizen science project implemented in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

DR. DAVID STRAHAN AND ASHEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER MELISSA HEDT recently had an article accepted to Research in Middle Level Education Online titled "Teaching and Teaming More Responsively: Case Studies in Professional Growth at the Middle Level." This case study examined the experiences of two middle-level teachers as they worked with a literacy coach and university partners in an instructional improvement initiative. Across the three years of the study, they collaborated with the literacy coach to integrate reading and writing across the curriculum and to create connections with reluctant students. Analysis of observations, interviews and archival documents showed that professional growth accelerated with discussions of instructional practices and student performance, guided by informal assessments of student achievement. Patterns of professional growth and student accomplishment document the power of collaboration and suggest possibilities for supporting professional development more productively through interdisciplinary teamwork.

FOLGER WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S NOMINEE for the Botner Award for Superior Teaching. Folger has been providing after school reading tutorials with her students enrolled in the reading practicum at Cullowhee Valley School, Fairview School, and Scotts Creek School.

DR. JANE PERLMUTTER AND FOLGER just had their article "Pre-Kindergarteners Learn to Write: A 'Play on Words'" accepted for publication in *Childhood Education*. The scholarship/research gleaned from this article is being continued this semester as they extend this work with an approved research project involving a kindergarten teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School.

FOLGER, BINKLEY, DR. BOB HOUGHTON and Jamel Anderson Ruff also have received approval for a project that will involve preservice teachers e-mailing elementary students about reading, using questions from the Burke Reading Interview as a guide. This project will be completed with a fourth-grade teacher at Cherokee Elementary School.

PERLMUTTER, IN AN ONGOING collaboration, spends one morning a week in Marylee Sease's kindergarten classroom at Hazelwood Elementary School. Perlmutter, Folger and Dr. Lisa Bloom of the Human Services Department plan to investigate the children's acquisition of literacy.

HOUGHTON CONTINUES TO BE involved in leading the application of the mostly completed WNC EdNet's school network to the professional development of seven school districts, two community colleges and WCU. This consortium is offering 16 professional development events to the region's 2,000-plus teachers using a variety of delivery systems that mix face-to-face and Net-based activity. More information about this project can be found at www.wcu.edu/ceap/houghton/i2/EdNet-digital-literacy.html. This research project is using live Web conferencing software to explore teachers' team-teaching live with each other's classrooms.

NICHOLS, A RECENT RECIPIENT of the dean's research award, also spends one morning a week in a kindergarten class at Cullowhee Valley School providing read-alouds over a wide variety of thematic texts. This work has led to informal professional development with the kindergarten teacher, Debbi Madill, where the two have discussed topics such as phonemic awareness, phonetic analysis, differentiated reading instruction and spelling development. Nichols also has had several collaborative articles published in refereed journals, including "Fluency in learning to read for meaning: Going beyond repeated readings"; "Integrating phonics and fluency in a balanced reading program"; "Two essential ingredients: Phonics and fluency getting to know each other"; "Synergistic phonics and fluency instruction: The magic of rhyming poetry!"; "Effective reading instruction for struggling readers: The role of direct/explicit teaching"; "Explicit vocabulary instruction for the struggling reader"; and "Language and culture in literacy instruction: Where have they gone?"

Click here to learn more about the Elementary and Middle Grades Education Department.

WCU joins schoolchildren's efforts Continued from cover

One of the students leading the effort, Annalyse Nichols, is the daughter of William Dee Nichols, a professor and head of the department of elementary and middle grades education in WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions. When the children's teacher, Lori Scott, asked Nichols if he would like to join the effort as a WCU service project, he quickly agreed.

"Western Carolina is proud to support projects like these," Nichols said. "It is part of the WCU mission, and it's what separates us from other universities. We truly see this as our role, to provide services like these for others in the community."

Each of the five departments in the College of Education and Allied Professions collected money for the effort, and faculty and students contacted Nichols to ask how they can get involved. The Phi Sigma Pi honors fraternity collected money for the cause as a service project. "As initiates, we're required to do a service, and this is so

local, it's immediately helping someone," said Emma Miller, a junior majoring in special education who, as an initiate in the fraternity, suggested the idea. When Scott and nine of her students visited classrooms in WCU's Killian Building on Oct. 14, members of the campus community even learned the art of folding a paper crane.

The paper crane project "mushroomed into something beyond anything I'd imagined," said Scott, a teacher at Cullowhee Valley for eight years who earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at WCU and is earning her doctorate in education at the university. The effort has so far raised about \$300, which Madison received Oct. 15, at the school.

The community's response to her daughter's illness overwhelmed the family, said Stephanie Hornbuckle. "We know how blessed we are," said Hornbuckle, adding that 80 percent of Madison's tumor has been removed and the remainder is shrinking.

IN 2007 THE DEPARTMENT changed its name back to the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department when restructuring of many programs across the university moved the recreational therapy program to the College of Health and Human Sciences and the sport management program to the College of Business.

THE HPER FACULTY have constructed and submitted for approval a new curriculum for physical education students. Embracing the national trend to reunite health and physical education as a way to fight the obesity epidemic and to prevent the early onset of diseases such as diabetes, osteoporosis and heart disease, students majoring in health and physical education will take a significant number of classes in both physical education and health. This new curriculum meets the expectations of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for university programs preparing health and physical education

teachers. As far as we know, the HPER department at Western Carolina University is the first program in the state to embrace the new emphasis on combining the two majors.

IN FACULTY NEWS, Dr. Dan Grube now teaches one class per semester in physical education while he also serves as the interim associate dean in the College of Education and Allied Professions. Grube also is the president of the Physical Education Association in the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Grube is a co-author of an article titled "Signal-to-noise ratio in physical education settings" that will be published very soon in the Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport. He also made a presentation at the AAHPERD national convention in April 2009 titled "Adventure-based physical education: Meeting standards for teacher education."

DR. DAVID CLAXTON, IN ADDITION TO TEACHING in the department, has been appointed assistant to the dean for development in the College of Education and Allied Professions. Claxton currently is serving as secretary and member of the executive board of the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education.

DR. GAYLE WELLS, assistant professor whose primary area is teaching health education and overseeing the required liberal studies health classes, won the College of Education and Allied Professions' highest teaching award in the spring, the Botner Award for Superior Teaching.

CLAXTON AND WELLS had an article published last spring in the Journal of Physical Activity and Health titled "The effect of physical activity homework on physical activity among college students." Their study showed that students who were assigned physical activity as part of an academic class engaged in greater amounts of physical activity throughout the week than those who had no similar assignments.

CLAXTON HAD AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED in Strategies titled "Data for principals, parents, and other stakeholders in physical education: Statistical assessment made easy with Excel."

ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT SIDE of the department, Dr. Maurice Phipps led an eight-day expedition course locally last summer, which gave Wilderness Education Association national certifications to the students. He also published two chapters in the book "Teaching Adventure Education Theory: Best Practices" and worked on a book about outdoor instruction while on sabbatical last spring. Phipps will also receive the Presidents Advisory Council for the Wilderness Education Association Award this spring.



THIS FALL, Phipps organized the Citizens Canoe Slalom event on the Tuckaseegee River in Cullowhee to support the nonprofit Cullowhee Revitalization Effort. The event drew 43 boat entries, which translated into about 60 participants. *(pictured at right)*

ALSO THIS FALL, two continuing education workshops were offered to teachers across Western North Carolina. Marvin Schade, Gayle Wells and Debby Singleton presented activities and lessons involving health and physical education in the classroom. They encouraged participants to share ideas on how to get students interested in health education. Chris Tuten and Justin Menickelli led a Disc Golf Field Day that brought physical education teachers from the region to Western Carolina University for a day of fun, fitness and education. The goal was to provide physical education teachers with the knowledge and basic skills necessary to teach disc golf and to encourage schools in our region to include disc golf in their school's physical education curricula.

MARVIN SCHADE RECENTLY PUBLISHED a book called "The Simple Truths for Teachers." When he is not supervising student teachers, he is actively planning for the next health and physical education clinic to be offered in the spring.



A boating event organized by CEAP faculty member Maurice Phipps raised money for Cullowhee revitalization.

GAYLE WELLS PRESENTED to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators her research titled "Does Religiosity and Religious Life Curb Alcohol Use: Results From A Research Study of Four Colleges and Universities in the South." She also spoke to the Southern College Health Association about "The WCU Health Corps: College Students Teaching Health to Children." The WCU Health Corps in an initiative that Wells created and she has received multiple grants for.

DR. JUSTIN MENICKELLI, BOB BEAUDET AND DAN GRUBE gave a presentation at the American Alliance for Health Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance 2009 national conference titled "Impact of a Sport Education Season on Cardiovascular Fitness."

FOR OUR ALUMS who like to keep up with our retired faculty, note that Dr. Jim "Doc" Hamilton is still running and comes by Reid Gymnasium almost every day. Dr. Otto Spilker still co-teaches a class in the department and is in his office every day. Dr. Bob Ray lives in Cullowhee and is still an avid fisherman. Dr. Jim Bryant is now living in Watkinsville, Ga., and stops by once in awhile to let us know that he's doing well. Sue Persons still lives in Tuckaseegee and is on campus regularly working with the Fine and Performing Arts Center. She is still active with Boy Scouts of America. Chris Friesner, June Benson and Betty Peele also are still in the Cullowhee area.



Department Head Enters Third Year

Dr. Bob Beudet began his third year as department head in HPER when classes began in the fall. Beudet, who earned his doctorate in physical education from Florida State University, had been on the HPER faculty for several years before stepping in as department head when former department head David Claxton moved to full-time faculty status in 2007.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department.

FACULTY MEMBERS in the Human Services Department made several presentations at the American Counseling Association's annual conference in Charlotte last spring. Following is a synopsis:

DRS. RUSS CURTIS AND PHYLLIS ROBERTSON, along with private therapist Jill Van Horne, presented at the poster session. Their session described the research behind a four-year implementation of a schoolwide positive behavioral support, or SWPBS, program at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Henderson County. The study showed that the SWPBS program resulted in significant decreases in behavioral referrals by 47.8 percent over the four year period. Out of school suspension decreased 67 percent and instructional days lost decreased 56.5 percent. Furthermore, the program provided schoolwide consistency for behavior that positively affected students with behavioral/emotional disorders. Academic performance improvements were also noted over the four years. The session received the attention of many participants from across the country.

CURTIS also presented "Integrated Care: An Emerging Trend in Counseling." The purpose of the presentation was to review the current literature, explain Integrated Care (IC) models of care and discuss the skills needed to enter IC practices. The clinical mental health counseling program in the Human Services Department has been pursuing IC placements for its practicum and internship students.

CATHY GRIST, birth-kindergarten faculty member; Donna Harris, birth-kindergarten graduate student; and Sarah Messer, birth-kindergarten undergraduate student are engaged in the Heads and Tails Program, which is a collaborative project with Qualla Financial. The project concluded in April 2009 at the Dora Reed Head Start Center on the Qualla Boundry. Heads and Tails teaches young children about the basics of finances, which begins with sharing, helping others, making choices and saving. Lessons have been taught on a monthly basis through literacy and art.



Brotherton Named New Department Head

Dr. Dale Brotherton, longtime faculty member in Human Services, took over the role as department head when classes began this fall, taking the place of Dr. Lisa Bloom, who returned to the ranks of full-time faculty.

JANN GRAHAM was invited by the city of Asheville's preschool program to present on the topics of inclusion and adaptation of materials for young children with and without special needs. Sarah Moore, birth-kindergarten graduate student, joined her as they presented "Playing Together" with an active, hands-on approach, to 30 preschool teachers and assistants at the Asheville City Preschool Family Literacy Center. The importance of play and children's friendships were interwoven with the different suggestions for modifications and adaptations that were provided.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM is completely online and attracting students from across North Carolina and the United States! The program now has approximately 100 students and a new Web site, hrprogram.wcu.edu. This site contains information about the HR program and is a great way for alumni to keep up with developments.

AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE to Western Carolina University, the Human Services Department and the human resources program, Dr. Jim Kirk announced his retirement effective December 2009. Kirk has made numerous contributions to the field of human resources through publications, national presentations and innovative teaching strategies. He is a lifelong member of the Phi Alpha Theta honor society and a founding fellow of the

Academy of Human Resources. Kirk is a pioneer in online teaching and learning and has developed numerous teaching materials using the latest technologies. Many of his teaching resources can be found on Merlot. He and his wife, Lynne, are co-authors of two books, "Training Games for Career Development" and "Training Games for the Learning Organization," published by McGraw-Hill. He has been a valued and respected colleague in the College of Education and Allied Professions. Kirk is looking forward to pursuing his love of photography, traveling, writing a family history and just hanging out with family and friends.

DR. MARY DECK retired in spring 2009. Deck, professor of counseling at Western Carolina University, received the 2008 Ruth McSwain Distinguished Professional Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the School Counseling Profession, the highest award given by the North Carolina School Counselor Association. In recognition of her dedication to the profession, a Mary Deck Scholarship Fund is currently being established in recognition of her excellence and dedication.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

KRISTY WAGNER, recent graduate of the gifted education program with a Master of Education, received a research award at the third annual Graduate Student Research Gala at the National Association for Gifted Children annual conference in Tampa, Fla., in November 2008. Wagner's award was given for an action research project on collaboration that she conducted at Rugby Middle School in Hendersonville. Twenty graduate students representing 10 universities received awards at the gala. Wagner, along with colleagues Betsy Yarborough and Rob Young, presented a poster session at the conference. Yarborough is in the AIG licensure program and Young is a recent graduate of the Master of Education program in art.

BLOOM AND DR. SHARON DOLE presented a poster session at the National Association for Gifted Children annual

conference in Tampa, Fla., on their ongoing research on "The Cullowhee Experience," a summer residential program for highly gifted students at WCU from 1958-2000. Dole and Bloom also published "Online Course Design: A Case Study" in the January 2009 issue of The International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

THE GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM sponsored the first Cullowhee Creativity Colloquium in February, featuring Dr. Bonnie Cramond, professor and director of the Torrance Center for Creative Development at the University of Georgia, as keynote speaker. Presenters at breakout sessions included Dr. Bob Houghton; Jonnie Walkingstick and Linda Thoresen, Horizon teachers at Cherokee Elementary School; Wagner, Leah McMinn and Diane Smith, AIG teachers at Rugby Middle School; and Jasmin Poor, gifted teacher at Charles Town Center in Greenville, S.C.

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL OF THE SMOKIES, developed by the special education program, is a lifelike school simulation that serves as a resource and support for students in their journey through the professional education program at Western Carolina University. Visitors who would like to explore the resources and information found in the virtual school can gain access by taking the following steps:

- 1 Go to www.wcu.edu
- 2 Select WebCat from the top, horizontal menu
- 3 Click on the WebCat image in upper right corner
- 4 Login using "guest_vscool" as both username and password

College Gains Endowed Scholarships

Three new endowed scholarships have been established over the last two years.

MICHAEL DOUGHERTY FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND: When Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions since 1998, announced that he would retire at the end of the 2008 spring semester, wheels were set in motion to create an endowed scholarship to commemorate his contributions. Through the generous support of Dougherty and his family, as well as others who wanted to show their appreciation

for his years of dedication to the college, a scholarship for CEAP students was fully endowed and now stands at more than \$19,000.

DIXIE L. AND MILES S. MCGINTY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND: The College of Education and Allied Professions was shaken when Dr. Dixie McGinty, professor in the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department, lost a heroic fight with cancer in spring 2009. To commemorate her dedicated service to the university, as well as that of her husband, Miles, who died in 2006, Dixie McGinty's parents, other family members, friends and colleagues contributed to establish a scholarship for students studying in the college. Fully endowed, it now stands at more than \$22,000.

PAMELA M. SEKULOW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND: When Jay Sekulow, the chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, became aware of the excellent job that our college is doing to prepare teachers, he was inspired to endow a scholarship in honor of his wife, Pam, who began her career as a teacher. Sekulow has no formal ties to Western Carolina University but is impressed with what our college is doing. The scholarship now stands at \$10,000.

If you have an interest in establishing an endowed scholarship or would like to contribute to an existing scholarship in the College of Education and Allied Professions, please contact David Claxton, assistant to the dean for development, at claxton@email.wcu.edu.

Three new scholarships will help more students earn their degrees.



DR. JOHN HABEL AND DR. TOM FORD

have received a \$70,000 grant to implement a dropout prevention program in the Asheville City Schools. This project is based at Isaac Dickson Elementary and is designed to help educators learn to create educational environments sensitive to the unique experiences of students who might otherwise be subjected to unintentional racism and the subtle effects of stereotype threat.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY

INVOLVED on several levels with a leading-edge Alzheimer's intervention project at Skyland Care Center in Sylva. Dr. Mickey Randolph organizes and supervises undergraduate interns who are actually providing direct intervention to Alzheimer's patients. We have graduate students who conduct cognitive assessments and collect data for the research aspects of this program. Professor Emeritus William Chovan is the on-site director of this program, which is providing unique experiences for our undergraduate and graduate students as well as being an excellent example of engaged scholarship.

DR. WILL POYNTER, an engineering psychologist on our faculty, has received three patents over the span of his first five years at WCU. These are based on software inventions that measure aspects of visual processing in human. Not many patents are filed with the U.S. Patent Office from departments of psychology.

DR. BRUCE HENDERSON has recently published a book, "Teaching at the People's University," which has made a big splash in the field of higher education. Henderson has been invited to speak at several universities around the country as they tune in to the message in his book. Dr. Hal Herzog is in the final stages of writing his new book, tentatively titled "Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It Is So Hard for People to Think Straight about Animals." It will be released next fall, widely available in a bookstore near you.



Psychology Department Experiences Growth

The Psychology Department now has 18 full-time faculty members, the largest in its history, as well as the largest number of undergraduate majors and the largest number of graduate students. Dr. David McCord continues in his seventh year as department head. We received a very positive report from our external program review this past year, and as a result we are in the process of making some curriculum modifications as well as improving communications procedures.

DR. WINDY GORDON was selected by the Student Government Association to be the speaker at the 2009 Last Lecture series. His presentation answered the question, "If this were your last time to address a group of students, what would you say to them?" Gordon is only the second recipient of this very impressive recognition by students.

MANY OF YOU will remember Dr. Scott Minor, who has now retired after an interesting and varied 30-year career at WCU. Minor and his wife, Jane, have moved to the coast and are enjoying their life on the water. Dr. Shawn Acheson resigned after eight very good years at WCU to take a research professorship at Duke University Medical School, and Dr. Lydia Acheson retired after many years of outstanding service to the department, university and region with regard to early childhood mental health issues. We will miss these colleagues but at the same time are excited about new people joining our ranks. Dr. Kia Asberg, clinical psychologist, completed her doctorate at the University of Central Florida and her internship at Yale University Medical School. Dr. Leonardo Bobadilla ("Dr. B" to his students) received his doctorate from Florida State and did his internship at the Federal Correctional Complex at Butner. WCU is the first academic job for both of these people, and they are off to a great start in the

department. This year we welcome Dr. Deborah Racey, a cognitive psychologist who recently completed her doctorate at Southern Illinois University.

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SHOUT-OUT

to our fondly remembered undergraduate student, Chad Lakey, who graduated from WCU, went to the University of Georgia to earn a doctorate in social psychology, and is now on the faculty of East Tennessee State University. Congratulations, Chad!

FINALLY, we want to say a quick hello to our recent M.A. graduates who are now in doctoral programs: Allison Croysdale at Auburn; Lauren Drerup and Danielle Rosnov at Kansas; Steve Proctor, Caleb Corwin and Marisa Sullivan at LSU; Kyle Bewsey and Josh Payne at University of North Texas; Ryan Couillou, Dara Williams and Katie King-Vogel at UGA; Chris Peters at Arkansas; Ross May at Old Dominion; Lauren Golden at Virginia Tech; Shannon Rogers at University of Tennessee; Cameron Miller at Georgia State; Nick Mescia at Miami; Jake Flick at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Kathleen Wheeler at Ball State; Krysta Webster at Oklahoma State.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Psychology Department.

MEMBERS of the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department have seen many other changes in the last few years. They wished good fortune to those who retired: Dr. Robbie Pittman and Dr. Joe Walters. They shared sadness at the loss and celebrated the lives of Dr. Dick Haynes (2007) and Dr. Dixie McGinty (2009). They hired a number of new faculty in the last three years and invite you to visit their Web site at elf.wcu.edu to learn more.

IN FALL 2005, the Master of School Administration became the only online MSA in the UNC system. A parallel program to the MSA is the post-masters certificate in Public School Leadership which leads to principal licensure. Enrollments in the programs have grown from 28 part-time students in spring 2005 to more than 200 today. The students are from across the state of North Carolina, and two students are Americans working in China. Two additionally exciting aspects of these programs are the redesign focusing on the mantra “Live your leadership journey courageously©,” where students are challenged to examine the responsibilities of moral and ethical leaders in our schools. The other aspect is that the MSA is the first graduate program at Western Carolina University to model the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan, which is focused on engaged learning.



Sigler New Head of ELF

As classes began in the fall, ELF had a new department head. Dr. Ellen Sigler replaced Dr. Jacque Jacobs, who had served as the ELF department head since 2006 and rejoined the faculty this fall. Sigler completed her doctorate in Educational Psychology at Texas Tech University and comes to Western Carolina from Indiana University-Kokomo.

IN FALL 2007, the department welcomed the first full-time faculty member dedicated to the college student personnel program. Dr. Cheryl Daly is working to enhance the internships for students in this program and has been involved in developing new curricular offerings to ensure that students are current in the field.

FACULTY IN THE DEPARTMENT’S TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS and the undergraduate foundation courses are actively engaged in program redesigns. The work promises to provide additional opportunities for our students to engage in the field of teaching in new and exciting ways.

PLANS ARE UNDER WAY to engage our graduates in an active alumni association, and we invite you to express your interest in such activities by e-mailing Wilma Nations at wntations@email.wcu.edu. Provide your name, degree and year of completion, and physical and e-mail addresses. Thanks for your interest in and support of the programs in the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department.

Click here to learn more about the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department.