

Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

2023-2024



FACULTY OFFICERS



FACULTY CHAIR/
SENATE CHAIR
Dr. Yancey Gulley
Associate Professor
Human Services



CHAIR - ELECT
Dr. Peter Tay
Professor
School of Engineering +
Technology



PAST - CHAIR
Dr. Kae Livsey
Professor
School of Nursing

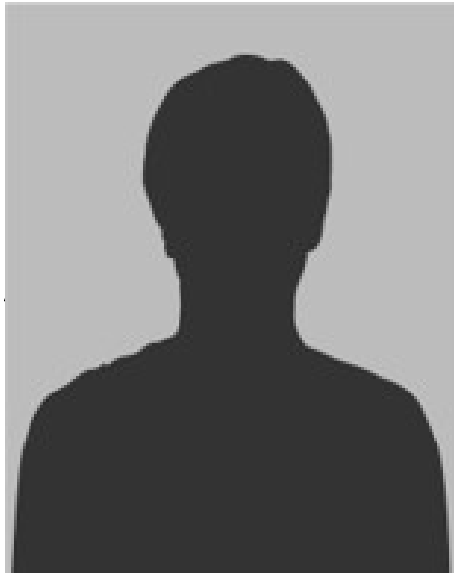


SECRETARY
Dr. William Kreaehling
Associate Professor
Mathematics and
Computer Science

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY

Mary Adams



Associate Professor
English
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: madams@wcu.edu
828-227-3929
At WCU since 1995

Education:

Ph.D
M.F.A
B.A

University of Houston
University of Iowa
Smith College

Teaching/Research:

Early Modern British Literature (Shakespeare), Creative Writing, Contemporary poetry
Shakespeare, poetry writing, tech writing

Personal Interests: I run ARF, the local animal rescue. Also, a lifelong Trekkie.

Favorite student success story: David Joy told me I had ruined poetry for him. Now he's a famous novelist.

Heather Coan



Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, & H.F. and Katherine P. Robinson Professor

Biology

College of Arts and Sciences

Email: hacoan@wcu.edu

828-227-3665

At WCU since 2013

Education:

BA

Appalachian State University

PhD

Wake Forest University School of Medicine at the Institute for Regenerative Medicine

Postdoctoral Studies

Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Teaching/Research:

Biochemistry

Molecular Medicine

Studies in Stem Cell Biomaterial Interactions

Introductory Biology

Stem cell biomaterial interactions during wound healing, autophagy induction/modulation via biomaterials, keratin (human hair derived) biomaterials

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: I am one of three faculty leaders at WCU on a multi-institutional NSF LSAMP grant aimed at increasing underrepresented group and minority participation and retention in STEM fields. After 4 years of working with teams from UNCG, App State, UNCW, WFU, and ECU, we just found out that it has been recommended for funding! Barring funding changes, I look forward to the impact we can make with these funds over the next five years.

Personal Interests: Travel, hiking, wild edible foraging, crossfit, reading, good food, good wine, good beer, playing outside with my kids, spending time with my husband and sweet pups!

Favorite student success story: There are so many. I often hear from students that are in their chosen professional program (medical school, dental school, biomedical sciences graduate programs, etc) that get in touch specifically to thank me for the content they learned in biochemistry because they felt well prepared. I also love to track my research students as they go on to do wonderful and amazing things in life.

Gael Graham



Professor
History
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: graham@wcu.edu
828-227-3865
At WCU since 1990

Education:	BA	University of California-Santa Cruz
	MA	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
	PhD	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Teaching/Research:	Global/world	
	Modern Asia	
	Modern China	
	Modern India	
	WWII in South Asia	

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Switching from teaching US history after 25 years to becoming a world historian

Personal Interests: Music, fitness, murder mysteries

Favorite student success story: Too many to just focus on one.

Myron Jackson



Assistant Professor
Philosophy & Religion
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: mmjackson@wcu.edu
828-227-3853
At WCU since 2021

Education:	BA	Southern Illinois University
	MA	Southern Illinois University
	PhD	Southern Illinois University

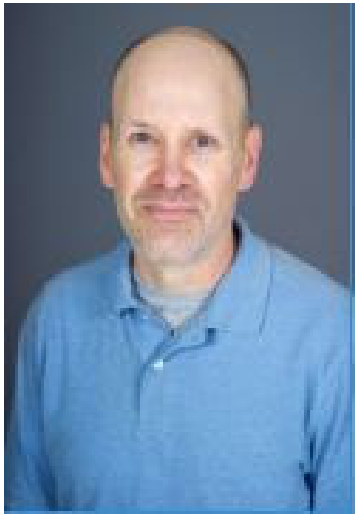
Teaching/Research: Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of Race, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Culture (broadly construed), Philosophy of Science, Value Theory, History of Political Thought, Philosophy and Religion
History of Western Philosophy, Ethics, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Law, Process Metaphysics, Metaphilosophy,
German Idealism, Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Religion, History of Ideas

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Having an article on Bonhoeffer and King, Jr. translated and published as the only American in a 2015 Danish philosophy book; Editing a special issue on the Philosophy of Race with Eidos, a prominent international journal out of Poland in 2022, working with scholars from all over the world.

Personal Interests: Traveling, Writing, and Cooking. Spirituality. Watching and Playing Sports, including Chess and Trivia. Spending time with Friends and Family.

Favorite student success story: Witnessing several of my former students being accepted into top programs for graduate and law schools. When difficult students turn it around or come to realize they appreciate philosophical reflection.

William Krehling, Secretary



Associate Professor, Faculty Secretary
Mathematics & Computer Science
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: wkrehling@wcu.edu
828-227-3944
At WCU since 2005

Education:	BS	Appalachian State University
	MS	Appalachian State University
	PhD	The Florida State University

Teaching/Research:	Introduction to Python/Java
	Computer Organization
	Data Structures and Algorithms
	Computer Networking
	Operating Systems
	Linux
	Operating Systems
	Mobile Applications

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: I have been program director of the Computer Science program (off and on for over 10 years) at Western. Being part of the team to get ABET accreditation for the Computer Science program at Western

Personal Interests: Reading, baking.

Favorite student success story: I have had many students enter the CS program at Western not really sure of what they wanted to do and having no knowledge of what Computer Science is. Seeing them blossom in the program and now be successful, with careers and families is incredibly rewarding.

Undugodage Don “Nuwan” Perera



Assistant Professor, Forensic Science Program
Chemistry and Physics
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: uperera@wcu.edu
828-227-2644
At WCU since 2017

Education:	BSc	University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
	PhD	Oklahoma State University Stillwater

Teaching/Research:	Forensic Chemistry
	General Chemistry

My research is focused on the development of new analytical methods to assist forensic examinations. Current research projects include automotive paint analysis for forensic purposes, classification of drugs of abuse using spectrometric data for identification of unknown drugs, and human decomposition odor analysis.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: I am proud that I have mentored more than 20 graduate and undergraduate research students during the past four years at WCU.

Personal Interests: Music, travel, and food

Favorite student success story: It is exciting to see how my undergraduate research students develop their research skills under my supervision. All my current graduate students have started their research education as undergraduate researchers in my lab.

Matthew Rave



Associate Professor
Chemistry and Physics
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: mrave@wcu.edu
828-227-2606
At WCU since 2007

Education:	BA	Wake Forest University
	MS	Wake Forest University
	PhD	Wake Forest University

Teaching/Research: Physics

Theoretical solid state physics; geometric phase; classical mechanics; math education; control theory; x-ray crystallography

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Papers about curling, amusement park rides, Tarzan, and clocks

Personal interests: reading; chess

Favorite student success story: My most-cited paper was cowritten with a middle-school science teacher

Heather Rimes



Associate Professor, Director of the Masters of Public Affairs Program
Political Science and Public Affairs
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: hnrimes@wcu.edu
828-227-3494
At WCU since 2015

Education:	BS	Georgia Institute of Technology
	MPA	University of South Alabama
	PhD	University of Georgia

Teaching/Research: Public Affairs, Political Science, Nonprofit Management

Public and Non-profit management: public values; managerial role development; managerial capacity; cross-sector collaboration; co-production; volunteer utilization; innovation; public engagement

Public policy: science and technology policy; technology transfer; scientific research collaboration

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Being a part of connecting our MPA students and program to regional partners and seeing the fruits of the mutual benefits of those relationships in terms of student job placements as well as successful internships and capstones for sponsoring organizations.

Personal interests: Hiking, Trail running, enjoying time with my family.

Favorite student success story: When MPA students attribute their career progress or placements to their time in the MPA program.

Katerina Spasovska



Associate Professor
Communication
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: kspasovska@wcu.edu
828-227-2730
At WCU since 2010

Education:	BA	University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia
	MA	University of Missouri-Columbia
	PhD	University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Teaching/Research: Teaching news writing; media and professional development classes. Adviser for the Western Carolina Journalist, student run news website, and the WCU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Journalism and media development in South - East Europe; minority media; local media and news deserts.

Mesfin Woldeyohannes



Associate Professor
Chemistry and Physics
College of Arts and Sciences
Email: woldeyohan@wcu.edu
828-227-3678
At WCU since 2005

Education:	BS	Physics, Addis Ababa University, Physics
	MSc	Applied Optics, Reading University
	MSc	Physics, University of Toronto
	PhD	Physics, University of Toronto

Teaching/Research: Physics

Quantum optics in Photonic Band Gap (PBG) materials

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Published research papers & teaching awards and nominations.

Personal Interests: Running

Favorite student success story: All my publications at WCU involve WCU students.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY

Vittal Anantatmula



Professor
School of Economics, Management, and Project Management
College of Business
Email: vittal@wcu.edu
At WCU since 2005

Education:	BS	Andhra University, India
	MS	George Washington University
	MBA	Management Development Institute and Indian Institute of Management, India
	DSc	George Washington University

Teaching/Research: Project Management, risk management, knowledge management, teams and leadership

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by:

Endeavour Executive Fellow: Department of Education and Training, Australia
University Scholar Award, WCU: 2017
Excellence in Research Award, College of Business, WCU: 2012
Graduate Faculty Teaching Award, College of Business, WCU: 2011
Global Guest Professor, Keio University, Japan: 2015-20
Visiting Professor, Skema Business School, France
Served Project Management Institute's Global Accreditation Center as a board member (2016-2021 and currently serve as a member of the Academic Insight Team (since 2022)

Personal Interests: Reading about spirituality, travel, and watching sports

Favorite student success story: I co-authored and published six journal papers with my students.
My students use my teachings and project management concepts in their workplaces (many organizations)

Richard “Todd” Creasy



Professor
School of Economics, Management, and Project Management
College of Business
Email: rtcreasy@wcu.edu
At WCU since 2011

Education:	BBA	University of Memphis
	MS	University of Memphis
	MBA	University of Memphis
	DBA	Case Western Reserve University

Teaching/Research: Project management, operations management, human resources, team dynamics, professional bullying, and personality dimension impact on professional duties

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Appeared on Fox Business Network discussing new operational performance techniques.

Personal Interests: Antiques, World War 2, college football, anything my teenagers/early 20s say is important to them!

Favorite student success story: Received an email from a former graduate student saying he presented his manual developed in my class to his senior management team at his work and they adopted the manual in its entirety.

Heidi Grappendorf



Professor

School of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Sport Management, and Hospitality and Tourism Management

College of Business

Email: hgrappendorf@wcu.edu

At WCU since 2018

Education:

BA

Dana College

MS

University of Northern Colorado

PhD

University of New Mexico

Teaching/Research:

Global Issues in Sport, Diversity in Sport, Sport Management

My research interests include how gender role conflict impacts women's careers in the management and leadership of sport organizations, women's career progression, and the overall underrepresentation of women in sport.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: North American Society of Sport Management (NASSM) Diversity Award Winner 2015; Founder of Women In NASSM (WIN)

Personal Interests: Travel, hiking, exercise, craft beer, hanging out with my family.

Favorite student success story: Co-authoring a book chapter with a former student.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS



Kia Asberg



Associate Professor, Department Head
Psychology
College of Education and Allied Professions
Email: kasberg@wcu.edu
828-227-3451
At WCU since 2008

Education:	BS	Florida State University
	MS	University of Central Florida
	PhD	University of Central Florida

Teaching/Research: Clinical psychology

Stress and health, substance use in the context of child maltreatment and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs); improving services for survivors of interpersonal violence.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: To see the variety of careers that my undergraduate and graduate students have pursued. Two of my former students are now my colleagues on the psychology faculty!

Personal interests: Spending time outdoors, taking vacations and staycation with my fiancé and our boys, and putting books on my "reading list" (and daydreaming of the day when I can find the time to read them).

Favorite student success story: I am most proud of the students who persevered and graduated most recently (during a pandemic that forever changed us).

Aarti Bellara



Assistant Professor
Human Services
College of Education and Allied Professions
Email: abellara@wcu.edu
At WCU since 2022

Education:	BA	University of Connecticut
	MAT	Sacred Heart University
	PhD	University of South Florida

Teaching/Research: Research design, Quantitative Methods, Program Evaluation, Measurement
Instrument Validation, Classroom Assessment for Teachers, Pathways to Leadership, Causal Inference

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: I am truly most proud of my students and all of their success.
I was very proud when I was awarded a multi-million dollar grant by the Department of Education.
I was also very proud and humbled to receive the Dean's Research Award in the Spring of 2023.

Personal interests: Bollywood Music, Reading, Traveling, and Spending Time with Family

Favorite student success story: A student once messaged me 2 years after graduation and said the following:
"I'm not sure if you remember me, but I was in your class and I just finished my first year of teaching and I wanted to let you know that your class was the most helpful to me in my first year of teaching. I didn't realize then how important and useful what you were teaching was until I became a teacher. Thank you for helping to make my first year of teaching a success"

Needham “Yancey” Gulley, Faculty Chair



Associate Professor, Higher Education Student Affairs Program Director, LEAD Minor, Faculty Chair
Human Services

College of Education and Allied Professions

Email: nygulley@wcu.edu

828-227-3372

At WCU since 2014

Education:

AA

Louisburg College

BA

University of North Carolina Wilmington

MED

North Carolina State University

PhD

University of Georgia

Teaching/Research:

In the Higher Education Student Affairs program, Yancey teaches courses related to history, diversity, assessment, law, and administration. He also teaches a variety of special topics courses related to Community College leadership in the Educational Leadership doctoral program along with electives in the university's undergraduate Leadership Minor.

Yancey focuses on three primary areas of research/scholarship. The first area has to do with various aspects of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the context of higher education. A second area of interest is community colleges and the various ways that these institutions impact the larger context of higher education. The third area is related to assessment in higher education.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: In August 2022, my second book (first solo edited text) was released by Routledge. "Multiple Perspectives on College Students: Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities" is available now.

Personal interests: Travel, Theatre, Reading, Interior Design, Spending time with his husband, Corey, and his French Bulldog, Sedgwick.

Favorite student success story: Yancey's favorite success story is not about one particular student but all of the thousands of graduates of the community colleges where he served as an administrator for much of his career. Seeing these folk walk across the stage when many did not think college was for them is something that continues to sustain his work in higher education.

Lisen Roberts



Associate Professor, Department Head
Human Services
College of Education and Allied Professions
Email: lroberts@wcu.edu
828-227-2291

Education:	BS	Keene State College
	MED	Keene State College
	PhD	University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Teaching/Research: Counseling Practicum and Internship; School Counseling; Career Development; Ethical Issues in Counseling; Cross-Cultural Counseling

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Children's Literature in School Counseling; Ethical Issues in Counseling

Charmion Rush



Associate Professor of Inclusive and Special Education, Senior Faculty Assembly Delegate
School of Teaching and Learning
College of Education and Allied Professions
Email: cbrush@wcu.edu
828-227-339

Education:	BS	Special Education/Learning Disabilities, Winston-Salem University
	BS	Therapeutic Recreation, Winston-Salem University
	MA	Special Education/Cross Categorical, Appalachian State University
	PhD	Special Education/Teacher Education and Development, UNC at Greensboro
	EdS	Higher Education/Community College and University Leadership, Appalachian State University

Teaching/Research:	Inclusive and Special Education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Issues related to culture and diversity, as well as and their impact on students with disabilities in the classroom (i.e., culture relevant pedagogy, teacher preparation, disproportionate representation, and implicit bias)Instructional strategies for students with disabilities (i.e., literacy and inclusion practices)

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Program Director of Cal Me MiSTER at WCU
<https://www.wcu.edu/stories/posts/News/2022/07/call-me-mister-holds-orientation-begins-second-cohort-at-wcu.aspx>

Council for Exceptional Children Board of Directors
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/about-us/board-directors>

Personal Interests: Supporting my daughter, Jordyn Singletary, a Jr. at UNCG
<https://uncgspartans.com/sports/track-and-field/roster/jordyn-singletary/4841>

Favorite student success story: "Inclusive Education Students Receive Certification" 2017
<https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/about-the-college/blog/posts/inclusive-ed-certification.aspx>

Recent presentation (4/22) from two former students (Taylor Webb & Amber Henry)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

John Hildreth



Kimmel Distinguished Professor/Endowed Professor
The Kimmel School of Construction Management
College of Engineering and Technology
Email: jhildreth@wcu.edu
828-227-2519
At WCU since 2019

Education:	BS	Civil Engineering, West Virginia University
	MS	Civil Engineering, West Virginia University
	PhD	Civil Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Teaching/Research:	Cost estimating
	Construction scheduling
	Equipment planning and management
	Statistics (for engineers)
	Fleet and Equipment Management
	Transportation Asset Management
	Construction Productivity

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of the Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. All the times students have said "thanks for what you do" over the years

Personal Interests: Family, church, fishing, cooking, woodworking

Favorite student success story: All of them. The students get all the credit for their success. I'm just glad to be part of the story.

Hugh Jack



Distinguished Professor
School of Engineering and Technology
College of Engineering and Technology
Email: hughjack@wcu.edu
828-227-2150
At WCU since 2015

Education:	BESc	Electrical Engineering, University of Western Ontario
	MESc	Mechanical Engineering, University of Western Ontario
	PhD	Mechanical Engineering, University of Western Ontario

Teaching/Research:	Electronics, Computers, Design, and Manufacturing
	Robotics, Automation, Design, Internet of Things, and Education

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: 2nd Textbook Edition in 2022

Favorite student success story: I have so many great former students it is hard to pick.

Peter Tay, Chair-Elect



Professor, Faculty Chair-Elect
School of Engineering and Technology
College of Engineering and Technology
Email: ptay@wcu.edu
828-227-2161
At WCU since 2007

Education:	BS	University of Oklahoma
	MA	University of Oklahoma
	PhD	University of Oklahoma

Teaching/Research:	Computer Engineering
	Image Processing

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: ORISE Research Fellow

Inventor of the Squeeze Box Filter to despeckle ultrasound images.

General theory of the Multiple Channel Maximally Decimated Filterbank (work in progress)

Personal Interests: Mountain biking and snowboarding

Favorite student success story: As a post doc at UVA advised numerous students in their Ph.D. pursuits. These former students are doing cutting edge research in the computer and medical fields.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

Susan Braithwaite



Assistant Professor
School of Health Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences
Email: sbraithwaite@wcu.edu
828-227-2899
At WCU since 2012

Education:	BS	Western Carolina University
	MEd	North Carolina State University, Raleigh
	EdD	North Carolina State University, Raleigh

Teaching/Research: Cardiology, Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation, Trauma, ECG Interpretation

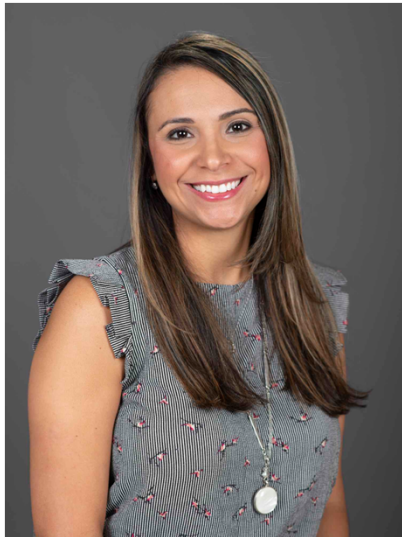
Paramedic Ethical Decision Making, PTSD in EMS, Learning styles- specifically drawing for retention

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: College of Health and Human Science Innovative Teaching Award 2023
36 years of service as a paramedic

Personal Interests: My husband and I breed Cardigan Welsh Corgis. I enjoy quilting. My husband brews beer and I enjoy drinking it. We enjoy camping.

Favorite student success story: The many students that tell me they are finally able to succeed, and no longer feel stupid when they use my drawing for retention method. Quotes from my most recent SAI's: One student states, "I have NEVER smiled in my academic career like I do when Dr. B does her thing on the board," another states, "Dr. B's teaching style is one of the only I have ever found to truly work for me".

Mariana Da Costa



Assistant Professor, DNP, Faculty Assembly Alternate
School of Nursing
College of Health and Human Sciences
Email: mdfisher@wcu.edu
828-227-7467
At WCU since 2014

Education:	BA	University of Florida
	BSN	University of Miami
	MSN	East Tennessee State University
	DNP	Duke University

Teaching/Research: Adult Nursing Concepts, Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, Nursing Leadership

Tobacco prevention in vulnerable populations, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Health Professions.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Supporting students in pursuing higher education. Being a faculty advisor for the PEN Scholars program.

Personal Interests: Family, health, yoga, reading, running, Latin dance, and live music.

Favorite student success story: Had a nursing student fail out of the program, reapply and get denied, reapply again and get denied. I continued to mentor her and support her in pursuing her dream to become a nurse. She has recently graduated from a bridge program and will complete her BSN at WCU in the Spring of 2023. She also passed her national boards on the first try.

Tim Eckard



Assistant Professor
Physical Therapy
College of Health and Human Sciences
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828-227-2288
At WCU since 2018

Education:	BS	James Madison University
	DPT	Baylor University
	PhD	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Teaching/Research: Foundational sciences and interpretation of research & statistics for use in clinical practice

Screening and prevention of lower body injuries during military basic training and in NCAA sports

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Serving in Iraq as a medical officer in a combat support hospital in support Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn. I had the privilege of working to return Soldiers to the battlefield who had injuries caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) who were not wounded badly enough to be MEDEVAC'd. I was extremely proud to help alleviate their suffering and keep them in the fight.

Personal Interests: Reading, cooking, road bicycle riding, spending time with my children

Favorite student success story: I can't single one out but find the most joy with working with first-generation students who come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. It gives me a great feeling to help each one of them work towards a degree that will provide their families with a sustaining, stable income.

Kae Livsey, Past-Chair



Professor, Faculty Past-Chair
School of Nursing
College of Health and Human Sciences
Email: klivsey@wcu.edu
703-403-2468
At WCU since 2013

Education: BSN UNC Chapel Hill
 MPH Leadership and Policy, Emory University
 PhD Education Certificate, George Mason University
Certified by US Chamber of Commerce Institution for Organization Management (IOM)

Teaching/Research: Community focused nursing practice, leadership, policy and advocacy

Advancing the role of RNs in primary care, community needs assessment, care coordination and care management, professional development of nurses

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Serving on the National Advisory Council for Nurse Education and Practice which advises the US Congress and Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters related to nursing education and practice.

Personal Interests: Gardening, college basketball, thrifting!

Favorite student success story: Watching students engage and serve the community-

April Messer



Assistant Professor
School of Nursing
College of Health and Human Sciences
Email: awmesser@wcu.edu
828-227-6525
At WCU since 2014

Education:

BS	University of Arizona
BSN	Western Carolina University
MSN	Western Carolina University

(Currently defended Ph.D., University of North Carolina Greensboro)

Teaching/Research Interests:

Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Pathophysiology

Care of people with substance use disorders who are hospitalized for acute care illnesses

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: I still work at the bedside, caring for veterans in an intensive care unit. I love teaching and research, but I love that I have the opportunity to continue caring for patients:)

Personal Interests: Running, hiking, spending time with my four kids

Favorite student success story: I have seen so many students go on to become fantastic nurses. I am always honored to be a part of educating future nurses.

**DAVID ORR BELCHER
COLLEGE OF FINE AND
PERFORMING ARTS**

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

Shelby Hicks



Assistant Professor
School of Art and Design
David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts
Email: sshicks@wcu.edu
828-227-2058
At WCU since 2017

Education:	BS	Granite State College (UNH)
	MFA	Endicott College

Teaching/Research: Interior Design, sustainability, health, social justice in the built environment

Design for Health: From an interdisciplinary lens, Design for Health aims to provide creative solutions related to the complex challenges inherent in the social determinants of health with individualized, human centered health, wellness, and improved quality of life strategies in Western NC.

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: My two grown children. As an educator, my nomination by students for the International Interior Design Association Carolinas Educator Award which I have been nominated and won two years in a row!

Personal interests: gardening, hiking, swimming, health/wellness, travel, culture/heritage

Favorite student success story: All the students who struggle and overcome challenges to achieve their dream of becoming the best version of themselves. All the students who put the hard work in and overcome their own "imposter", their doubt of talent, and succeed.

Colin Wasmund



Assistant Professor
School of Stage and Screen
David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts
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828-227-3162
At WCU since 2016

Education:	BA	Southwest State University
	MFA	Western Illinois University

Teaching/Research: Acting, Shakespeare, and Comedic Improvisation

Theatrical, Film, Television, Commercial, and Voice Acting

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: After two years of establishing myself in the SE Market, I have appeared as a principal actor in 5 commercials (4 Nationally distributed).

Personal Interests: Film, Tennis, Baseball, Baking

Favorite student success story: A 2022 graduate recently completed additional training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in the UK. This took numerous rounds of auditions to be accepted and countless hours of fundraising – all driven by this student. I'm so very proud of her talent, hard work, resourcefulness, and initiative.

HUNTER LIBRARY

Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY

Scottie Kapel



Scholarly Communication Librarian

Hunter Library

Email: skapel@wcu.edu

828-227-3416

Education:

BA University of North Florida

MLIS University of Pittsburgh

Teaching/Research Interest:

Information literacy, scholarly communications

Role of students as creators, information literacy

Professional accomplishment I'm most proud of / excited by: Working with students preparing for their first experience presenting their research professionally

Personal Interests: Reading, knitting, cooking, running

Favorite student success story: A student I helped one evening at the reference desk approached me several months later to tell me that the resources we found for his research were critical to his first published article. He was thrilled, and I was grateful to be part of that experience.

FACULTY ASSEMBLY DELEGATION - Additions



Charmion Rush, Senior Faculty Assembly Delegate



Associate Professor of Inclusive and Special Education, Senior Faculty Assembly Delegate

School of Teaching and Learning

College of Education and Allied Professions

Email: cbrush@wcu.edu

828-227-339

Education:	BS	Special Education/Learning Disabilities, Winston-Salem University
	BS	Therapeutic Recreation, Winston-Salem University
	MA	Special Education/Cross Categorical, Appalachian State University
	PhD	Special Education/Teacher Education and Development, UNC at Greensboro
	EdS	Higher Education/Community College and University Leadership, Appalachian State University

Teaching/Research: Special Education/Teacher Education and Development Teaching Interests

Dr. Rush's teaching focuses on preparing educators to teach diverse populations, with an emphasis on the ethnic and minority students enrolled in special education.

Dr. Rush's areas of research include culture relevant pedagogy, disproportionate representation, implicit bias, inclusion, and literacy practices.

Todd Collins, Faculty Assembly Delegate



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JD
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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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University of Georgia

Elizabeth Wall-Bassett, Faculty Assembly Alternate

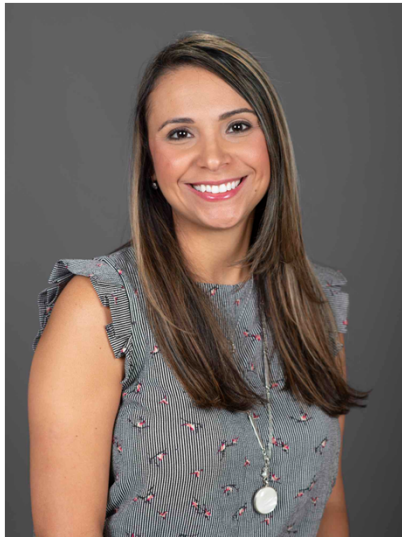


Professor
School of Health Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences
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Education: PhD Clemson University

Teaching/Research Interest: Food insecurity, Service-Learning

Mariana Da Costa, Faculty Assembly Alternate



Assistant Professor, DNP
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At WCU since 2014

Education:

BA	University of Florida
BSN	University of Miami
MSN	East Tennessee State University
DNP	Duke University

Teaching/Research:

Medical Surgical Nursing, Nursing Leadership, Intensive Care Nursing, Emergency Care Nursing, End-of-life Care

Student Resiliency, Incorporating Evidence Based Research, Vaping/Tobacco use among vulnerable populations, student success, JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion).



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