

# IMAGINE

WCU HONORS COLLEGE MAGAZINE 2014



WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

## A BREAKFAST AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

One fall morning in 2008 at Buck's Coffee Café in Highlands, North Carolina, **Mark Whitehead** and **E.J. Tarbox** talked about sending WCU students abroad. Both world travelers themselves and founding members of The Honors College Advisory Board, they knew that global travel is a natural part of a world-class education. They knew, too, that the cost of airfare often proved an insurmountable barrier for some students trying to study abroad.

That morning they decided to create The Honors College Study Abroad Fund, which would provide \$1,000 grants to Honors students to defray the cost of airfare. Mark and E.J. donated the initial funding, which was followed by donations from other Board members (including **Judy Brinson, Carole Light, James Hogan, Hugh Normile, Bob May, Bill McMillan, Jack Miller, Donald Mullen, and Kathy Whitehead**).

Thanks to that morning coffee and all that came after, 71 students have been able to learn abroad from institutions in 24 countries, including Australia, Botswana, Chile, China, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Japan, South Africa, Spain, and South Korea.

The Study Abroad Fund resulted in more student travel, as well as more journals in which travelers write daily about what they learned inside and outside of class while living in another country. I have the pleasure of reading all of them (to assign Honors credit). One of the earliest journals, written by **Worth Allen** (BS Criminal Justice, 2001) during his travels in Kenya and Tanzania, sums up the whole point of all of this travel: "I started looking around me through the wide, eager eyes of a child, instead of the half-closed eyes of a college sophomore raised in America . . . Combining the best of these two perceptions encouraged experiences to be devoured with an all-consuming intensity and then, when they were done, to be analyzed by a reflective mind."

Thanks to two men one morning in a café, there are a lot more young and reflective minds loose in the world out there.



Brian Railsback, Dean  
The Honors College  
June 6, 2014



# IMAGINE MAGAZINE STAFF

**BACK ROW:** Dr. Brian Railsback (Dean, The Honors College), Brandon Key, Aaron Bowman, Lauren Thomas, Devin Carlson, Faith Foster, Robin Tanz, Kasey Cooke, Alexandra Pate, Deidre Elliott (faculty advisor)

**FRONT ROW:** Matthew Jordan, David Fenimore, Crystal Squires, El Haynes, Abby Emrey, Elizabeth Sample, Krista LaPlante

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# All Her Energy

By Crystal Squires and Elizabeth Sample



Chelsea Miller says, “If you want to be a teacher, you should always be learning.” That is exactly what she does every day at the Green Energy Park, a Dillsboro facility that utilizes methane gas produced by the underlying landfill to create power for artistic equipment such as pottery kilns, metal forges, glass forges, and a metal foundry. “I’ve learned a lot at the Green Energy Park (GEP) and I enjoy it,” she says. “My life consists of school and the park.”

Chelsea, a senior originally from Homestead, Fla., plans to graduate in fall 2014 with a B.S. Ed. in art education and a B.F.A. in visual art. When she arrived as a first-year student in 2010, she declared as an art education major, but she was unsure of which direction she wanted to take her degree. However, when she attended Professor Erin Tapley’s Integral Arts freshman seminar, she was introduced to the idea of volunteering at GEP. This opportunity sparked her current deep commitment and involvement with the park.

In 2010, Chelsea volunteered at the Green Energy Park Youth Arts Festival, an annual event which encourages youth exploration of arts and crafts. In September 2013, she helped plan the festival. Professor Tapley refers to Chelsea as “a student who has always been very giving of her time with regard to community involvement.”

Chelsea had been contributing to GEP for four years when Timm Muth, manager of the park, offered her a position running the gallery, leading

“My life consists of school and the park.”

tours, and assisting the artists who use the park’s rental spaces. Since then, she has learned about the basic operations of all types of equipment as well as various artistic techniques.

Over the years, Chelsea has delved into blacksmithing, glass work, pottery and welding. For her Introduction to Sculpture course at WCU, she welded a cast-iron sculpture from automotive brake rotors using the emblem of the park’s logo as inspiration. This sculpture can now be seen at the park.

Chelsea says that the benefits of working at the Green Energy Park include learning new techniques and making professional connections. She has met artists such as **Shane Fero**, a glass torch worker; **Fritz Dreisbach**, a pioneer in the glass studio movement who worked with **Joan Byrd**, WCU ceramics professor; and **Elizabeth Brim**, a blacksmith who wears ribbons and pearls as she works because her mother once said that blacksmithing was not ladylike. Making these

connections has furthered her thirst for knowledge. Professor Tapley notes, “Chelsea has an inquisitive personality and is able to focus on daunting tasks with confidence.”

Chelsea’s responsibilities at the park have risen to managing when Muth is away, helping plan and run events and continuing to refine her artistic talents. She hopes to remain working with GEP after graduation and anticipates eventually teaching art classes there.

She loves her job and adds, “At Green Energy Park, you never know what to expect or what will happen.”



## Power of the Park

Methane is a potentially harmful gas 20 times more dangerous than carbon dioxide. It is associated with environmental damage due to the global Greenhouse Effect. However, at GEP this landfill byproduct is harnessed and converted to fuel in order to operate the park’s artistic equipment. For more information on GEP: [www.jcgep.org](http://www.jcgep.org)



# THE EXTRA STEP

## ði: 'EKSTRƏ 'STEP

BY ABBY EMREY AND FAITH FOSTER

As a nontraditional WCU Honors student, Angela Chapman had a lot on her plate, balancing school, work and two young sons. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Angela initially found herself at WCU studying early childhood development. However, after working with a speech-language pathologist to write a paper on autism, she was inspired to change her major to communication sciences and disorders.

As part of her new major's curriculum, Angela was required to take CSD 370: Phonetics with **Dr. Georgia Hambrecht**. In this course Angela learned how to transcribe human speech into the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Intrigued by this topic, she decided to do an honors contract with Dr. Hambrecht that involved researching the three different ways that students learn visually, aurally, and kinesthetically and relating this to the IPA. Her research included administering a survey to her fellow phonetics students to assess how they best learned the IPA. Surprisingly, she found that the students who learned mostly by sight were best able to wrap their heads around the concept of the IPA.

Dr. Hambrecht saw potential in this project and encouraged Angela to

take her research to the next level by applying to present her work at the annual convention for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. ASHA is a professional organization of speech, language and hearing scientists. Her application was accepted, and in November 2013, Angela presented a poster at the ASHA convention in Chicago, Ill. While there, she viewed exhibits by other researchers and attended information sessions. She found it thrilling for professionals to visit her exhibit and express interest in her work. Looking back, Angela says, "I didn't think my research would go as far as it did."

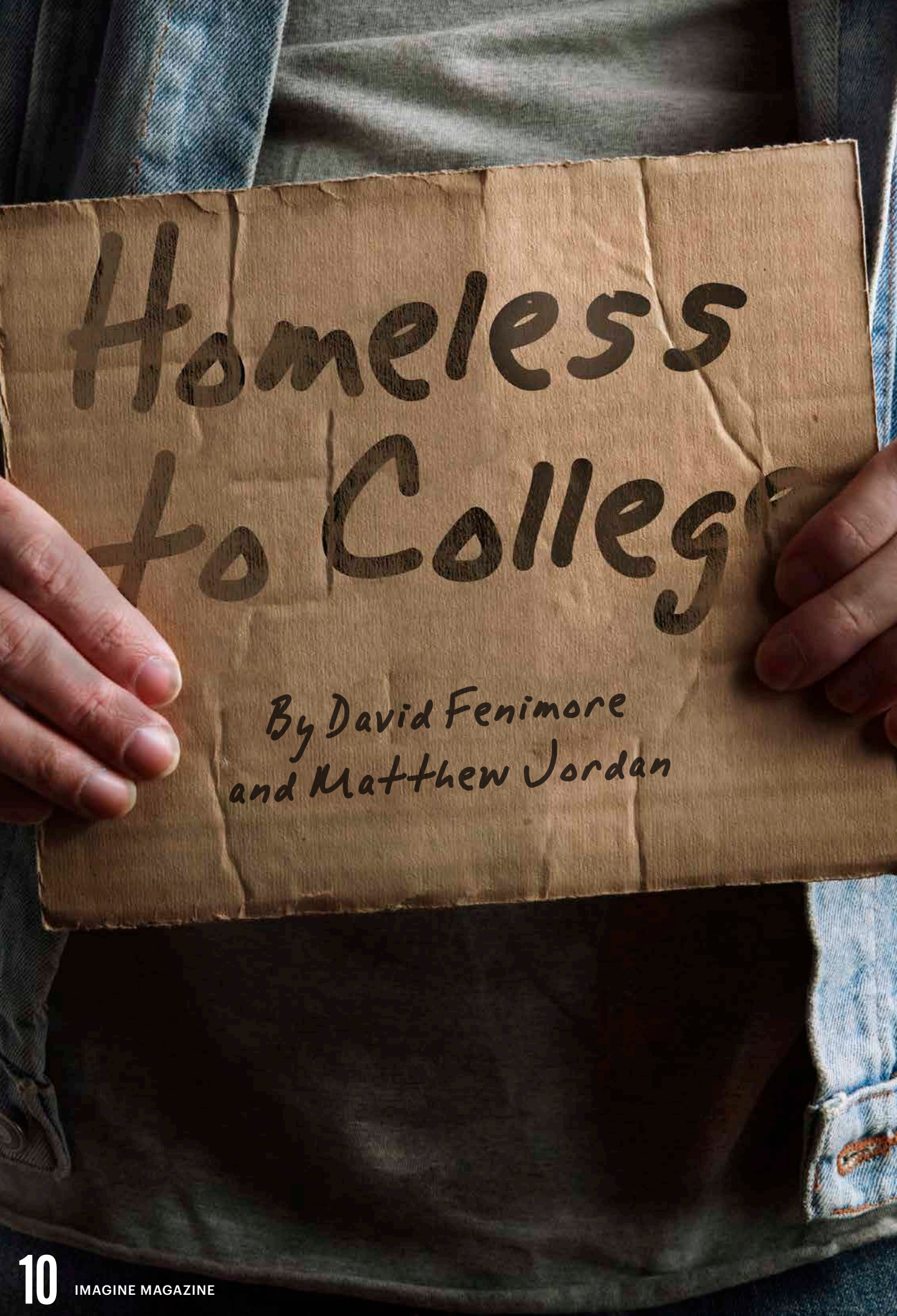
Angela was accepted to the competitive communication sciences and disorders masters' program at WCU. She wants to use her master's degree to become officially certified by ASHA as a

speech-language pathologist. With a soft spot for children, Angela hopes to work with them after graduate school. Eventually, she wants to get her Ph.D. in communication sciences and disorders, but before that, she plans to gain some practical experience in the workforce.

According to Dr. Hambrecht, Angela is an independent worker and she notes that Angela has developed a very strong background in her field, thanks to her devotion to her research. Dr. Hambrecht adds, "If you're willing to put in the extra effort, you'll get wonderful payoff!" Similarly, Angela believes that it is important to "focus and try hard," because having more knowledge about your field than your competitors greatly improves your chances for success. She urges students to "take that extra step."

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT [ˈWɛstərn ˈkærələɪnə ʃuːnɪˈvɜːrsɪti] MEANS?

*That is the IPA phonetic transcription for "Western Carolina University."  
For additional IPA resources, go to [www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics](http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics).*



Average students begin their college careers soon after graduating from high school when they are in their late teens to early 20s. However, this is not who **Venice Mason** is. She is on a much different track. She is a single mother, 43-years old, and never graduated from high school. Now, she is an Honors College graduate and has been accepted to the Master of Health Sciences program at WCU.

Her path to college success has not been easy. Venice grew up in New Mexico and California. Her mother was unable to care for her due to health issues and her adoptive father, an abusive alcoholic, was unwilling to care for her. As a result, she was placed in foster care. When her mother's parental rights were severed, Venice ran away, leaving her homeless and without a high school diploma.

Eventually, Venice earned her General Educational Development credential in Fresno, California. She needed the GED to get a job in order to rise out of poverty. She firmly believes that "education is the key to escaping poverty." Following her own advice, she went back to school again in 1995 and earned an A.A. degree from Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, as well as a certificate in the art and science of

botanical medicine from the Oregon School of Herbal Studies. This led to a one-year herbal apprenticeship in Ireland in 2004. The apprenticeship became a healing experience for Venice and helped her gain wisdom that she uses today.

Later on, after losing two different jobs due to the economic downturn, Venice decided to pursue additional education.

Once again, she needed more education to help her to find a

job. She now lives in Sylva and is an anthropology major at WCU with an indigenous studies minor. She is also studying the Cherokee language so that she can make a stronger connection with her Cherokee ancestors. Venice says, "WCU is my Harvard." She still lives below the

federal poverty line, but she understands that a master's degree in health science will help to improve her financial situation.

Venice works on campus in the Academic Success Program, which is designed to help conditionally accepted students acclimate to college through different programs and projects. Among these is a

summer session that teaches strategies for academic success and offers service-learning opportunities.

**"Education is the key to escaping poverty."**

Venice is a program assistant to **Janina DeHart**, assistant director for Academic Transitions and Success, and helps plan and implement programs, including a day of service during the summer session. DeHart says, "Based on the diversity and depth of her experience, she brings valuable perspective to the services and support that we provide to our students. Venice has been integral to adapting program models and activities to address student concerns."

Venice enjoys working at the ASP and says, "It gives the students an experience that I didn't have the privilege of having."



**Interested in the Academic Success Program?**

For more information, visit [academicsuccess.wcu.edu](http://academicsuccess.wcu.edu)

# Beyond Limits

By Robin Tanz and Kasey Cooke

**Cameron Honour** helps people with disabilities learn to ski, a task that would prove challenging for most instructors. He works as an adaptive ski instructor at Cataloochee Ski Area near Maggie Valley in Western North Carolina. The overall goal for adaptive skiing is to help people who are disabled progress to the point where they can ski without an instructor assisting them, but Cameron does much more than that.

Originally from Raleigh, he didn't start working with individuals with disabilities until he moved to Asheville. Cameron had decided that he wanted to work with disabled individuals after babysitting for an autistic child. In Asheville he worked with Mountain Area Community Services where he helped mentally challenged individuals run errands and accomplish daily-living activities.

To take his job a step further, Cameron enrolled at Western Carolina University as a recreational therapy major with a minor in parks and recreation management. Now,

on top of being a senior at WCU, he also works at Still Blessed, an adaptive skiing company based at Cataloochee. He has been there for two years.

At Still Blessed, he is the lead instructor and the only employee certified by the American Association of Snowboard Instructors. With certification as a level one adaptive snowboard instructor, his duties include marketing, volunteer management, gear management, scheduling, and, of course, teaching clients to ski. Cameron enjoys the close-knit staff that he works with at Still Blessed. With only five employees, they know each other well and enjoy being together.

**Dr. Jennifer Hinton**, recreational therapy program director at WCU, adds, "Cameron doesn't hesitate to be a leader when he has the needed skills."

When teaching a client to ski, the first step is to assess the individual's abilities. If the client is missing a limb, that client would use a three-

or-four track stand-up ski. If the client is paraplegic, he or she would use a mono ski, with the skier in a sitting position. Cameron is tethered to the client to help with stability and steering.

Clients may have physical or mental disabilities, but spinal cord injuries are the most common. Cameron says that his favorite people to work with are "wounded or disabled veterans because they will do anything." He adds that some of the people who come to Still Blessed "haven't been out of their wheelchairs in ten years." Nevertheless Cameron gets them up and out on the slopes in no time. He says, "Another special part of my job comes when families get to see their relatives succeed in something that they never thought possible."

Because of his daring clients and close-knit co-workers, Cameron loves his work. He makes it possible for people with disabilities to surpass expectations while offering them an exciting adventure.



# WHAT'S YOUR 'WHY'?

By Krista LaPlante and El Haynes

**Aaron Marshall**, a senior from Gastonia, N.C., had no idea what changes would take place in his life when he got involved with WCU's Center for Service Learning. What he experienced by offering assistance after four natural disasters would result in a change of his major—and his life.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING:  
[SERVICE.LEARNING.WCU.EDU](http://SERVICE.LEARNING.WCU.EDU)  
OR 828-227-7184

TEAM RUBICON:  
[TEAMRUBICONUSA.ORG](http://TEAMRUBICONUSA.ORG)

Aaron is now a double major in sociology and international studies with a minor in emergency and disaster management.

The changes began in the office of **Dr. Lane Perry**, Director of the Center for Service Learning, when Aaron was searching for a service-learning opportunity and signed up for a two-week trip to Rockaway Queens, N.Y. In December 2012, he headed to New York to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief. There he helped tear down and then rebuild damaged homes. On that first trip, Aaron realized that he yearned to lead a life of service.

When he returned, Aaron began clinicals in athletic training in Georgia. He received a call in February 2013 from **Dee Clancy** of Team Rubicon, a national service organization comprised of veterans, paramedics and firefighters who focus on repurposing their skills

and experiences through disaster relief service. Clancy asked Aaron to join Team Rubicon for a tornado relief project in Adairsville, Georgia. Aaron, a certified paramedic, set aside schoolwork, including the clinicals, to volunteer for four days.

From that moment on, he began devoting more of his time to serving others. In April 2013, he joined Team Rubicon for tornado relief in Madisonville, Tennessee. In May and June 2013, Aaron and Team Rubicon aided in yet another tornado relief project in Moore, Oklahoma, where a 1.3-mile wide, EF-5 tornado left 23 people dead and 377 injured.

While Aaron was helping to clean up destroyed homes in Oklahoma, a woman named Mia approached him. "I don't know what's going on with my life," she sobbed. She had lost everything in the tornado. Aaron recalls, "It wasn't that I did

anything. I didn't save her life. All I did was show up and give her a hug." Through such experiences, he has learned that it's not so much what you do for people, it's more about being there for them.

Aaron realized that the disaster relief work that had begun in Adairsville had come full circle. He says, "Service is why I live. It is literally why I get up in the morning and breathe. Service is a way of life. Service saved me, because I was lost when I didn't have it."

Dr. Perry adds, "Aaron has continually donated his time and energy to revolutionizing the paradigm of student-oriented community engagement in a post-disaster climate and in the developing world."

Aaron believes that if you give 100 percent, if you really make service your lifestyle, you can become more than your wildest dreams. He says, "Many people go for the 'what' of college; I went for the 'why' of college." Aaron advises, "When you find your 'why,' harness it, embrace it, and use it to improve yourself and inspire others. Use it to engage in change."

**"If you really make service your lifestyle, you can become more than your wildest dreams."**



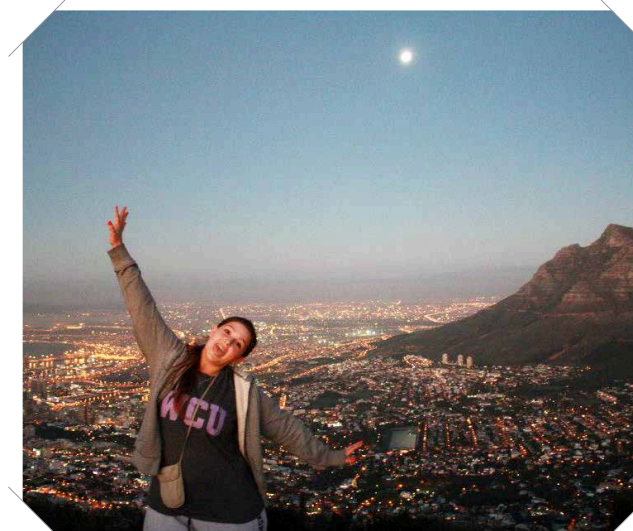
# INTERNS BEYOND BORDERS

BY DEVIN CARLSON, BRANDON KEY & AARON BOWMAN

“Interns represent Western Carolina University and the United States as well – **Megan Bailey** and **Sarah Sheehan** are two of our best,” says **Deidre Elliott**, associate professor and director of the professional writing concentration in WCU’s English department. The two adventurous young Honors students were eager to step outside their personal borders to serve writing internships abroad coordinated with the office of Career Services on campus. Megan undertook an internship in New Zealand. Sarah completed two internships, one in South Africa and one in India. Their trips, like their personalities, could not have been more different.



**Megan Bailey**



**Sarah Sheehan**

Megan explains why she is an English major with a concentration in professional writing, saying “I was the girl who always had her nose in a book, so I thought, ‘What if I could sit at a desk and read books all day? Wouldn’t that be the perfect job?’” A senior from Wilkes County, N.C., Megan completed her internship with the New Zealand Society of Authors in Auckland. This organization advocates for authors’ interests and provides information on the writing process, publishing and other career advice.

During her internship, Megan worked on a booklet about social media networking. She researched which

social networks were popular in New Zealand and how they could be used to promote books. Her favorite part of the internship was editing the Society’s website. “The main reason I wanted to go [to New Zealand] was because I am a huge *Lord of the Rings* nerd and I wanted to see where the movie was filmed,” Megan says. She hopes to eventually move to New Zealand.

Sarah is from Gloucester, N.C. She graduated with dual degrees in psychology and international studies. Sarah traveled to India and South Africa from May to July 2013 to participate in two internships. In Mumbai, India, she worked with women who were victims of acid attacks.

In Cape Town, South Africa, she worked at Valkenberg Hospital. Her work at this psychiatric facility focused on marketing and media, but she also helped with a literary program. After the internship ended, Sarah says, “It was hard to be back in a classroom, because you just want to put your degree to work.”

The internships for both Megan and Sarah were life changing. Professor Elliott says, “Internships are a bridge from the university to the outside world. Interns must be able to work independently. Both Megan and Sarah were ready.”

===== To Find Your Own Internship =====  
Contact Career Services: [careers.wcu.edu](http://careers.wcu.edu) or 828-227-7133



# NEW HOPE

BY ALEXANDRA PATE  
& LAUREN THOMAS

Before pursuing her B.S.N. degree in nursing, WCU grad **Jennifer Lepkowski** acquired two undergraduate degrees: one in civil engineering and one in photography. Originally from New York, she worked for five years as an engineering consultant, but then decided to go to law school. After taking the LSAT (Law School Admission Test), she decided against law school and obtained a degree in photography instead. Then she met **Clay Collins**, her future husband and a WCU alumnus, discovered that his daughter had cystic fibrosis, and went back to school to obtain a nursing degree.

Nursing majors are required to complete a service-learning project as part of their clinical rotations. **Dr. Elizabeth Sexton**, assistant professor of nursing, says, "As part of her clinical in fall 2013, Jennifer completed a 20-hour service learning project with two of her classmates. This involved doing surveys among the homeless in Buncombe County to learn their views about the flu vaccine, and then developing a social marketing campaign to promote the vaccine among this vulnerable population."

Jennifer and her classmates, **Eric Dorsey** and **Sally Mitchell**, discovered several reasons why the homeless resisted the vaccines, including the expense, lack of insurance, lack of transportation, and even paranoia that the government might use flu vaccines as a way to track people. Once all of the results



"WE TEND TO PLACE THE HOMELESS IN A BOX AND JUST SHUT THEM OUT OF OUR MINDS."

were tabulated, the students held a health fair to distribute information. Jennifer and her classmates then traveled to many homeless shelters in Buncombe County and provided education to counteract the areas of informational weakness that had been identified.

Finally, the students collaborated with the Buncombe County Health Department and AHOPE Day Center, a homeless shelter, to administer the flu vaccine. Professor Sexton says, "Jennifer's warm and friendly demeanor encouraged the clients to get flu shots with several of them saying that they would only do it if Jennifer gave it to them." People unable to attend were given vouchers to receive a free flu vaccine later on at the health department.

Jennifer discovered many rewards while completing this project.

The biggest reward was simply working with people and building relationships. "I think we tend to place the homeless in a box and just shut them out of our minds," she says. She explains that most of the homeless people she encountered were very appreciative to simply have a conversation with someone.

Jennifer considers her service-learning experience to be an overwhelming success, even though complicated scheduling and undergoing a major surgery herself made the project challenging. After graduation in December 2013, she hoped to continue working at Mission Hospital in Asheville on the cardiac floor. She plans to work full-time for a year or two before transitioning into a part-time position and returning to school once again to earn her doctorate as a nurse practitioner.

TO HELP THE HOMELESS

CONTACT AHOPE DAY CENTER AT [WWW.HOMEWARDBOUNDWNC.ORG/CONTACT](http://WWW.HOMEWARDBOUNDWNC.ORG/CONTACT)

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2014

Below are the projects accepted, titles, student presenters and their sponsors for NCUR28 in Lexington, Kentucky. In terms of presentations accepted at the conference, Western Carolina University tied for second in the nation, with Virginia Commonwealth University.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

If Only I Had A Chance: Chicago Restriction in Richard Wright's Native Son  
*Sara Green, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

Dissemblance in Toni Morrison's Beloved and the Slave Narrative of Dora Franks  
*Catherine Stiers, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

## ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHEOLOGY

Compression Testing of Deer Femora as an Animal Model for Automobile Accidents  
*Jennie Coffel, presenter | Martin Tanaka, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Steffen, sponsors*

From the Creek Bed to the Laboratory: An Experimental Analysis of Temper in Pigeon and Connestee Series Ceramics  
*Paige Tester, presenter | Jane Eastman, sponsor*

## ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

Redefining Ergonomics: Helping Students Achieve the Best  
*Christopher Wilson, presenter | Erin Adams, sponsor*

## ART STUDIO (VISUAL ARTS)

Liminal Landscapes: A Photographic Exploration  
*Amelia Holmes, presenter | Susan Martin, sponsor*

Vessels of Light: An Exploration of Porcelain and Life  
*Amanda Janes, presenter | Joan Byrd, sponsor*

Light and Time  
*Gina Ricciardelli, presenter | Richard Tichich, sponsor*

## BIOCHEMISTRY

Determination of Antimicrobial Activity of Europium Metal Complexes  
*Kristy Martin Rogers, presenter | Channa De Silva, sponsor*

## BIOLOGY

Making an RNA Interference (RNAi) Library to Screen Virulence Phenotypes In the Pathogenic Yeast, *Cryptococcus Neoformans*  
*Matthew Alexander, presenter | Indrani Bose, sponsor*

Canopy Openness Effects on Vegetation Richness  
*McKenzye DeHart-McCoyle, presenter | Beverly Collins, sponsor*

## BUSINESS/FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

No Accounting for Global Financials  
*Dianna Almond, presenter | Lorrie Willey, sponsor*

## CELL & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Annotation of A DNA Contig from the Dot Chromosome of *Drosophila Biarmipes*  
*McKenzye DeHart-McCoyle, presenter | Indrani Bose, sponsor*

Method Development: Direct Amplification of the Entire Human Mitochondrial Genome  
*Meghan Lawler, presenter | Mark Wilson, sponsor*

## CHEMISTRY

Synthesis and Characterization of Europium-Based Nanoparticles with Enhanced Luminescent Properties  
*Austin Allen, presenter | Channa De Silva, sponsor*

Surface Enhanced Luminescence of a Rare Earth Complex by Silver Nanoparticles  
*James Beimbom II, presenter | David Evanoff, sponsor*

Complexation of Boroxines and Boronates with Amine N-Oxides  
*Elicha Benfield, Meghan Lawler presenters | Bill Kwochka, sponsor*

Synthesis, Materials Characterization, and Toxicological Evaluation of Eu(III) doped-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles Using YPEN Rat Endothelial Cells  
*Kortney Schumann, presenter | Channa De Silva, sponsor*

## COMMUNICATIONS

What Is Your Number?  
*Monica Papworth, presenter | Melissa English, sponsor*

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

TranTracker: A Tracking System for Campus Shuttles  
*Christopher Ward, presenter | Mark Holliday, sponsor*

## CRIMINOLOGY

Why the American Public Is Blaming the Victim: Preliminary Support for Moral Judgment Theory  
*Ashley Hemsath, presenter | Albert Kopak, sponsor*

Police Corruption in South Africa and the United States: A Cross-Cultural Comparison  
*Mary Hannah Hughes, presenter | Cyndy Hughes, sponsor*

Patterns and Causes of Higher Homosexual Drug Use  
*Wesley Myers, presenter | Frederick Hawley, sponsor*

## EDUCATION

The Effect of Community Service on Western Carolina University  
*Peyton Finchum, presenter | Brenda Marques, sponsor*

Who Gets the Last Word? Literature of Immigration in the Secondary English Language Arts Classroom  
*Jill West, presenter | Eleanor Petrone, sponsor*

## ENGLISH

Realization of the Castration Anxiety: Psychoanalysis of The Sun Also Rises  
*Aaron Cole, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

How Colonialism 'Tainted' Cultural Identity: A New Historicist Analysis of Thrall  
*Stephany McCann, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor*

Feste of Twelfth Night: Shakespeare's Indispensable "Corrupter of Words"  
*Leah Rhodes, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor*

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SCIENCES

Looking at Crime Through a Public Health Lense  
*Mary Hannah Hughes, presenter | Tracy Zontek, sponsor*

Evaluating Sustainability of Commuter Transportation at Western Carolina University  
*William Wood, presenter | Laura DeWald, sponsor*

## FILM STUDIES

Living and Dying in Murderhouse: Abigail Hobbs in NBC's Hannibal  
*Emily Maesar, presenter | Elizabeth Heffelfinger, sponsor*

Harry Potter and the Theory of Film  
*Luiz Rosa Lippel, presenter | Margaret Bruder, sponsor*

## GEOGRAPHY & EARTH SCIENCES

Paleoenvironmental Study of Late Holocene, Organic-Rich Deposits Recovered from Pink Beds, a Southern Appalachian Wetland in Western NC  
*Michele Coker, presenter | Benjamin Tanner, sponsor*

## HEALTH SCIENCES & PUBLIC HEALTH

Traumatic Knee Injury in a Collegiate Football Player  
*Nichole C. Eads, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

Establishing Specificity of Concussion Special Tests  
*Elena Keretses, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

The Effect of Pulsed Shortwave Diathermy, Moist Hot Pack and Passive Stretching on Hamstring Flexibility  
*Sarah McNamara, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

Osteochondroma of the Distal Tibia in College Ballet Dancer  
*Jenna Neumann, presenter | Tara Peterson, sponsor*

Comparison of Sanitation for Personal UV Lights and Bleach Spray  
*Jessica Ricchio, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor*

## HISTORY

The Concentration of Force: Technological Innovations of Dreadnoughts in the Battle of Jutland  
*Elizabeth Pratt, presenter | David Dorondo, sponsor*

"For Sacred Germany": A History of the German Military Resistance to Adolf Hitler, 1938-1944  
*Adam Ray, presenter | David Dorondo, sponsor*

The Power of the Panther in the Tarheel State: How the Black Panther Party Changed the Role of Race Relations in North Carolina  
*Adam Ray, presenter | Richard Starnes, sponsor*

Appalachian Civility: School Integration in Jackson County, North Carolina  
*Joshua Wilkey, presenter | Robert Hunt Ferguson, sponsor*

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

You Found a Way to Break Out: Self-Love as Revolution in Janelle Mon  e's "The Electric Lady"  
*Amelia Holmes, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

## LINGUISTICS & WORLD LANGUAGES

An Examination of 21st Century Appalachian English  
*Morgan Lancaster, presenter | Erin Callahan, sponsor*

## LITERATURE

Thematic Similarities in George Chapman's "The Memorable Masque" and John Smith's "The Generall Historie"  
*Tyler Auffhammer, presenter | Mary Adams, sponsor*

Shakespeare's Game of Thrones: "Hamlet" and the Elizabethan Succession Question  
*Tyler Auffhammer, presenter | Mary Adams, sponsor*

Undressing Little Red Riding-Hood: Female Sexual Power in Angela Carter's "The Company of Wolves"  
*Christian Rogers, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor*

## MUSIC ORIGINAL COMPOSITION

The Harmony Initiative  
*Justin Beebe, David Myers, Josh Blue presenters | Bruce Frazier, sponsor*

## MUSIC RESEARCH AND/OR ANALYSIS

The Female Orchestra in Auschwitz  
*Candace Rhodes, presenter | Christina Reitz, sponsor*

John Stainer's Contributions to Sacred Music During the Romantic Era  
*Marquita Someliana-Lauer, presenter | Christina Reitz, sponsor*

## NURSING

Training and of Nursing Students in Africa-How Do These Nurses Meet the Needs of the People?  
*Merab Mushfiq, presenter | Sharon Metcalfe, sponsor*

## PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Michael Sandel and Theories of Justice  
*Melissa Bradley, presenter | Daryl Hale, sponsor*

Implications on Selfhood in Alasdair Macintyre's After Virtue  
*Walker Dorsett, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

Cora Diamond and Guantanamo Bay  
*Mandy Long, presenter | Christopher Hoyt, sponsor*

"Jean-Paul Sartre: Insufficient Potentiality", Allen Sewell  
*Allen Sewell, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

Harmony and Justice from Within: The Good Life  
*Tiffany VonVitzthume, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

## PHYSICS

Increase of Ionizing Radiation at the Ppofzer Maximum over the Southern Appalachians  
*Michele Coker, presenter | Enrique Gomez, sponsor*

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Is Western Carolina University Truly Purple?  
*Heather Britt, Matt Rains presenters | Christopher Cooper, sponsor*

Perceived Government Responsiveness as Related to Social Spending  
*Benjamin Fulmer, presenter | Michael McDonald, sponsor*

Discrepancies in Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders With Disabilities  
*Grayson Keating, presenter | Michael McDonald, sponsor*

Table for Two: Why Third-Party Candidates Have a Winning Issue in Congressional Races  
*Gregory Lademann, presenter | Michael McDonald, sponsor*

Internet Access and Political Knowledge  
*Matthew Rains, presenter | Michael McDonald, sponsor*

Gun Laws on Violent Crimes  
*Matthew Turner, presenter | Michael McDonald, sponsor*

## PSYCHOLOGY

Core Personality Traits as Predictors of Social-Emotional Adjustment and Pre-Literacy Skills in Preschool Children  
*Olivia Lochner, presenter | Cathy Grist, sponsor*

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Connecting the Influences of Scientific Theories and Religious Beliefs  
*Virginia Cohen, presenter | Daryl Hale, sponsor*

Onions, Batkid and Jesus: Living Dostoevsky's Good Life  
*Mackenzie Moody, presenter | James McLachlan, sponsor*

Evils Mockery: Morality and Marring In the Mind of Tolkien  
*Michael Thames, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

## SOCIOLOGY

El Sistema Nacional de Salud de Espa  a: A Look into Spain's Health Care System  
*Jessica McLamb, presenter | Lori Oxford, sponsor*

Changing Social Class Trajectory  
*Hailey Sneed, presenter | Peter Nieckarz, sponsor*

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

A Not So Cinderella Story: Gender Inequality in Anne Sexton's "Cinderella"  
*Elizabeth-Ann Diehl, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor*





# ALUMNI UPDATES

## SARA (BETSY) ABSHER | *by Aaron Bowman*

Sara (Betsy) Absher graduated in the spring of 2013 with a B.S. in nursing. She then moved to Winston-Salem to work as a registered nurse in general pediatrics at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Betsy misses being on the WCU campus and living in the mountains. She fondly remembers the sense of friendship and community that she felt while at WCU, and advises current students that, while they should focus primarily on their studies, they also need to enjoy the time they have at such a wonderful school.

## LINDSEY CLINE | *by Kasey Cooke*

Lindsey Cline graduated magna cum laude in 2013 with a B.F.A. and a concentration in musical theater. Directly after graduation, she performed in musicals at Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Then Lindsey moved to New York City where she now works as a tour guide for Madison Square Garden and is auditioning for musicals. During her years at WCU, she participated in Greek life as a member of Alpha Chi Omega. Lindsey advises future graduates to “Be brave, work hard, and good things will happen.”

## RUBY FLOYD | *by Abby Emrey*

After graduating with a B.S. in athletic training in 2013, Ruby Floyd chose to continue her studies at WCU by enrolling in the Master of Health Sciences online degree program. As a certified athletic trainer, Ruby attended the National Athletic Trainers' Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, shortly after receiving her bachelor's degree. She currently participates in the Galland Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Post-Professional Athletic Training Residency Program in Henderson, N.C., in order to gain clinical experience. Her involvement in this program allows her to provide medical services to high schools that could not otherwise afford a certified athletic trainer.

## MEREDITH GASAWAY | *by Elizabeth Sample*

Meredith Gasaway graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.A. in English (with a concentration in professional writing) and a B.A. in philosophy (with a concentration in religion). Currently, she is attending graduate school at WCU, pursuing her M.Ed., and she is also working as a graduate assistant in the Department of Intercultural Affairs. She is closely involved with the Safe Zone Program, a program designed to increase awareness and sensitivity about the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community. This opportunity is helping her to work toward her dream of becoming an LGBT resource advisor for college students. Meredith encourages current students to explore the many majors and opportunities available at WCU, because she says, “Plans can change, life changes, and people change.”

## ALYSSA GILLIKIN | *by David Fenimore*

Alyssa Gillikin graduated from WCU in the spring of 2013, earning her B.S.Ed. in music education. In June 2013, she accepted a position as a chorus teacher at Rosman Middle/High School in Rosman, N.C. Alyssa advises current students to study often, take advantage of any opportunity to improve their education, ask for help when they need it, and party (on occasion).

## ALEX HAMILTON | *by Crystal Squires*

Alex Hamilton graduated in the spring of 2013 with a B.S. in construction management. Alex is currently living in Santa Barbara, Honduras, and volunteering at Hogar de Niños, a local orphanage that is part of a worldwide network run by Reach International. He is serving as a project manager, overseeing the construction of new facilities. During the summer of 2012, Alex completed an internship with AMEC, a global engineering and construction firm. The internship resulted in a job offer with the company that he began in March. Alex enjoys playing the piano, gardening, and staying up-to-date on current events.

## ALICE LAPOINT | *by Lauren Thomas*

Alice Lapoint graduated from Western Carolina University in May 2013 with a B.S. in history and a double minor in art and Cherokee studies. Alice is currently a student and research assistant at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. Alice intends to earn her M.A. degree and eventually her Ph.D. in history. Her most important advice for current students is to live on campus, become involved, and be sure to ask about graduate school deadlines.

## MOLLY LEIKAM | *by Faith Foster*

Molly Leikam graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.S. in psychology and a B.S.W. in social work. She now lives in Raleigh and is in the Master of Social Work program (advanced standing) at N.C. State University. She plans to graduate in May 2014. In her free time, Molly keeps up with friends from WCU, goes for walks, and plays with her dog. She misses her friends at the Wesley Foundation and Cullowhee United Methodist Church and advises current students to “Get involved in an organization that you are passionate about. The people there will become your friends and family, and the memories you share with them will last forever.”

## BRITTANY (BRITT) MCCORMICK | *by El Haynes*

Brittany (Britt) McCormick graduated in May 2013 with a B.S. in emergency medical care. She is currently working for Orange County Emergency Medical Services in Chapel Hill. Britt published research in March 2013 in the Journal of Emergency Medical Services titled, “Influence of vasopressin on achieving out-of-hospital return of spontaneous circulation.” She also presented her research at the EMS Today conference at both the state and national levels. Britt encourages recent graduates to begin their job search saying, “Don’t give up.” Britt adds, “Whatever you do, be the best at it. Be an asset to your future employer.”

## BRANDON (TYLER) MEACHUM | *by Devin Carlson*

Brandon (Tyler) Meachum graduated from WCU’s Kimmel School in 2013 with a B.S. in engineering technology. He currently lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his fiancée, Mariah Hornby. They met during their freshman year at WCU and plan to get married in May. Brandon is pursuing a M.S. in mechanical engineering at the University of Mississippi. Mariah is studying toward a Ph.D. in fungal ecology. Tyler says he misses the people and the geographic location of WCU. He encourages current students to get involved, get connected, and not pass up any academic opportunities. For job advice, Tyler says, “Do what you can to stand apart from everyone else in school.”

## LEVI MINES | *by Krista LaPlante*

Levi Mines graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.S. in environmental health. He is currently pursuing an M.S. in industrial hygiene at the University of Iowa’s College of Public Health. As a graduate research assistant, Levi says his goal is the “commercialization of new particulate samplers that can be used to better evaluate occupational exposures to inhalable size particles. These inhalable particles are one hundred micrometers in diameter or less.” After completing his degree, Levi’s ultimate goal is to become a practitioner and earn certification in industrial hygiene.

## ALLISON RAY | *by Matthew Jordan*

Allison Ray graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.S. in forensic science with a concentration in chemistry and a minor in psychology. Allison lives in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and is applying to master's programs in education. She is also in the process of obtaining certification to become a substitute teacher. She says, “Going to Western was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I miss the people most. Western is full of great students and faculty.”

## KELSEY STOVER | *by Alexandra Pate*

Kelsey Stover graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.S. in biology with minors in music and chemistry. She participated in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research for two years. In 2012, Kelsey helped with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts in New York and New Jersey. She currently lives in Raleigh and is attending veterinary school at North Carolina State University while working part time as a veterinarian’s assistant. She also works as an on-call student surgery technician at her school’s teaching hospital. Kelsey traveled to Orlando, Florida, in January for the North American Veterinary Conference.

## JONATHAN WILLIAMS | *by Robin Tanz*

Jonathan Williams graduated from WCU in May 2013 with a B.S. in construction management and a minor in business administration. He currently lives in Huntersville, N.C., and works with Natural Gas Pipeline Company as a project manager. He enjoys his work because the projects allow him to work side-by-side with his employees and connect with them on a personal level. Aside from work, Jonathan enjoys Saturday morning fishing trips with his father. He advises current students to join Greek life because it provides academic assistance and valuable friendships.

## ADAM WOOTEN | *by Brandon Key*

Adam Wooten graduated in 2013 with a B.M. degree in commercial and electronic music. After graduating, Adam moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and was married in June 2013. He is currently working at Lipscomb University in Nashville as an audio and visual technician. Adam’s dream is to be an audio engineer. He is also considering pursuing a career in Christian ministry. When he isn’t working, he enjoys kayaking, camping, and just being outdoors. He misses the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina and the variety of outdoor activities available here.



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