



THE HONORS COLLEGE  
2011

# IMAGINE

---

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY





## The Two Boards

Our Honors College is uniquely governed. The week-to-week, policy-making board that advises the dean has been made up entirely of Honors students since 1997. The work of The Honors College Board of Directors is highly visible in the college, and its decisions are felt across campus. This year, the board – under the excellent leadership of President Shannon Owen and Vice President Amanda Bienhaus (both in the class of 2011) – has held creative fundraisers for international disaster relief (like Big Wheels for Pakistan), partnered again with the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor, introduced a resolution for WCU to count the A+ grade, seen its proposed Honors liberal studies curriculum to review by the Faculty Senate, and pulled off two formal dances (one with a '20s theme, complete with Charlie Chaplin movies).

But there is another board, one that might not be as visible on campus but one that is equally important.

The Honors College Advisory Board, led by Dr. Mark Whitehead, is the college's external board. This group, made up of highly successful professionals from such fields as business, law and medicine, advises the dean on a variety of college functions. The board members have provided critical support for undergraduate research. They are one of the reasons WCU could send its largest out-of-state team to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research this year in Ithaca, N.Y. (out of 358 universities attending, we were fourth in terms of projects accepted). Dr. Whitehead and E.J. Tarbox originated a scholarship fund to help Honors students go abroad – to date, this fund has helped send 30 students to countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

Along with considerable advice from Honors graduate James Hogan, the Advisory Board members helped create a plan to enhance Honors alumni giving, including a dollar-for-dollar match for this year's phonathon and a scheme of "giving levels" for The Honors College. The inaugural list is opposite this page, and many Advisory Board members are on it along with Honors alumni.

I am very grateful for the support of both boards. Together, they provide the advice, action and support that make The Honors College thrive.

Brian Railsback, Dean  
The Honors College  
April 15, 2011

## Honors College Donors for 2010-2011

### HONORS DEAN'S CIRCLE \$10,000+

Judy and W. Jack Brinson

### HONORS COLLEGE MEDALLION CIRCLE \$5,000-\$9,999

Everett J. and Nancy Tarbox

### HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLAR \$2,500-\$4,999

The Whitehead Family Foundation

### HONORS COLLEGE TRAVELER \$1,000-\$2,499

James and Kelly Hogan

Carole S. Light

Jack and Evelyn Miller

The Marian Jackson Foundation

### HONORS COLLEGE RESEARCHER \$500-\$999

The Railsback Family

### HONORS COLLEGE PATHFINDER \$100-\$499

Lindsey Victoria Admire

Candice Marie Brown

Highlands Falls Country Club Inc.

Kimberly Renee Ingold

Jennifer Faye Kelley

Debra Ann Robinson

Frederick Cornelius Royal II

### HONORS COLLEGE PLEDGE RIDER \$25-\$99

Jennifer Nicole Carman

Nathan Michael Dawson



# Bringing Facts to Life

BY KATE MCMULLEN

How often do we think about the process behind formulating a museum display? We take for granted that someone has gathered accurate information and organized it for our benefit. Katie Jones, a WCU senior, knows what it takes to bring history to life.

Katie is currently double majoring in history and anthropology with a minor in criminal justice. Working through the History Department, she interned at WCU's Mountain Heritage Center and was assigned to complete a new exhibit in the center to promote DigitalHeritage.org, an informational website associated with the MHC.



Katie's job was to research, write and design the exhibit to showcase the website. "At first, it was hard making decisions," she says. She wanted the exhibit to represent multiple facets of Appalachian culture.

Katie selected specific elements for the exhibit and then combed MHC's catalog of artifacts to find the best ones for each display. Some of the artifacts she found turned out to be incorrectly labeled or required extra research. Katie enjoyed working with the artifacts the most. "You can learn so much about a culture just by looking at the things people used," she says.

The new exhibit includes examples of Appalachian music, farm culture and celebrations. One case displays a banjo, well-worn by time and use. Another case houses leather products such as saddlebags and shoes, along with tools used to work leather. Opposite these, Folkmoot is showcased. Based in Waynesville, N.C., Folkmoot is a summer program that brings together performers from around the world to share traditional entertainment.

After finding all the pieces for the exhibit, Katie had to label them clearly for the general public, a task she found difficult. "In the beginning it felt like I was trying to sell the artifact, instead of explain what it was," she admits.

Katie plans to go to graduate school after she graduates in spring 2011. Eventually, she hopes to work in a museum and create an exhibit that merges her interests in history and forensic anthropology.

Katie is thankful for her internship opportunity. Since she grew up in the Piedmont area, in Franklinville, N.C., she didn't know much about Appalachian culture. Now she is inspired to experience the culture around her and hopes her exhibit will help others learn about the area as well.

## The MHC and DigitalHeritage.org

The Mountain Heritage Center's mission is to showcase Appalachian culture and history through exhibits and demonstrations, and to connect WCU to the community around it. MHC coordinates Mountain Heritage Day, the university's largest public event. Held at the end of September, the festival is a full day of music, dance, crafts and food celebrating Southern Appalachian culture. This popular event attracts around 20,000 guests each year.

DigitalHeritage.org is a joint online project linking MHC and the Southern Appalachian community. The website is a compilation of student, faculty, staff and community member-produced documentation of Southern Appalachian culture, both historic and contemporary. This comprehensive collection of research materials and other information is available to anyone interested in learning about Appalachia.

# three, six... what comes next?

BY JILL WEST



“If you can research something you’re already doing, it just makes sense.”

Not often does a student conduct a major project outside of his or her comfort zone, but this is exactly what April Hicks did. A spring 2010 graduate of WCU with a BSED in Elementary Education, she chose to research the field of mathematics, even though her pedagogical concentration was English.

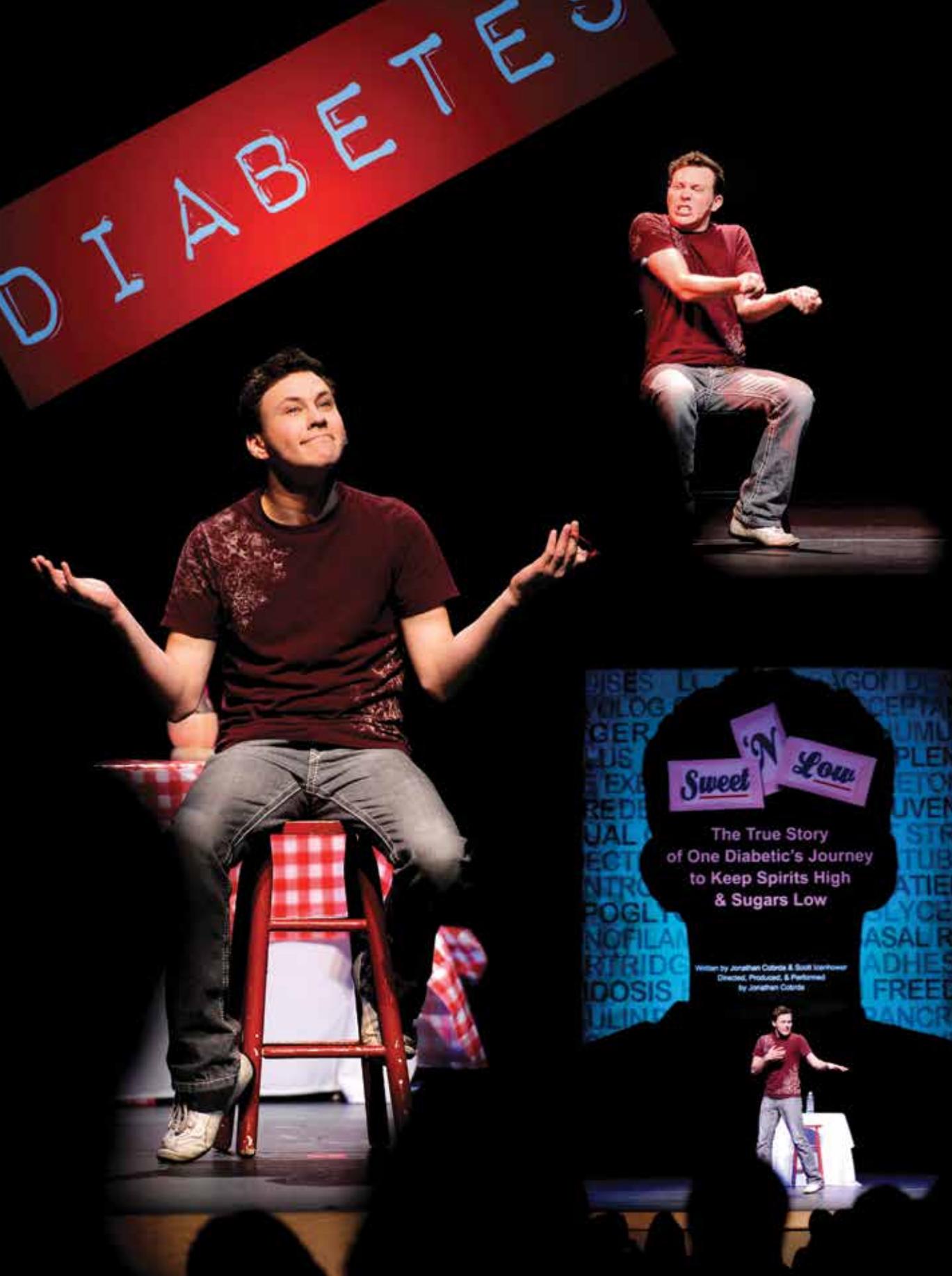
During her yearlong internship teaching third grade at Cullowhee Valley School, April was approached by Dr. Thomas Hodges, her internship supervisor and assistant professor of elementary and middle grades education, about conducting a study involving teaching multiplication. After noticing that her students struggled with multiplication, April performed diagnostic interviews to help discern their specific difficulties. April concluded that some students had learning snags simply because there was a gap in their understanding while others had problems with rapid recall of information. She was much more concerned with those who did not understand the concept of multiplication at all, because rapid recall is a skill that can be acquired with practice.

A year later, April still employs the teaching strategies she acquired from her multiplication research project. Now a fourth-grade teacher at Cullowhee Valley School, she chooses to approach math differently than many other teachers.

Before she introduces multiplication at the beginning of the school year, she makes sure that students understand basic arithmetic concepts. “We spend a month covering place value,” Hicks says. “Although students should learn the concept in kindergarten, it is very important for them to understand it before we start multiplication.” She also assesses her students differently. Instead of simply making them complete a mathematical task, she also asks them how they do it. Using this tactic, April is able to identify particular learning strategies. She says this procedure has helped her during her first year of teaching, a year that has been challenging yet positive.

April says she would never have executed this project without encouragement from Dr. Hodges, who devised the project after he realized that she would already be observing multiplication skills. “I had never thought about undergraduate research before,” April confesses. “But if you can research something you’re already doing, it just makes sense. Why not write about it and publish it?” The two are in the process of publishing the results in a teaching methods journal.

“April is a great person. She is very humble about her accomplishments but, in reality, she is what we want our graduates to look like,” Dr. Hodges said.



# Something Sweet

BY DESIREA HODGE

"As a sophomore, he is already creating quite a stir and serving as an inspiration to his peers," says Glenda Hensley, interim director of First Year Experience. She is talking about Jonathan Cobrda, often called JC, who is the star of a one-man show that he wrote to share his struggle with diabetes, as well as to raise both awareness and funds.

"You do theater for yourself, but 'Sweet 'N Low' is everything I can do for other people," says JC. "Sweet 'N Low," his one-man show, is a tale about living with Type I diabetes. His account is comedic, which fits well with his friendly demeanor and makes sense because causing an audience to laugh is what got him into acting in the first place.

At age 14, he made an audience laugh during his first role, in "Damn Yankees," and he realized he loved theater. He says acting has always been in his blood. He grew up in Greensboro, N.C., in what he describes as a "liberal, artistic family." Both his parents have always had careers in the theater world, which helped him get his start.

Although he had acted in numerous plays, this particular part of his journey began when senior graduation project time rolled around. Many North Carolina high schools require students to do an extended project during their junior and senior years in order to graduate. Jonathan decided to write about something he knew – his personal journey with diabetes. He expected to receive a good grade on this

project, but he didn't plan for his mentor, Scott Icenhower, a published playwright, to help him turn it into something so big. By the summer of 2010, JC was performing his play nationally with the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, or JD RF.

JDRF has been the largest organization so far to get involved with the show. Two representatives from the group attended the first performances. Without the help of two Greensboro hospitals, United Health Care, and his godmother, these first presentations would not have been possible. Directly after performing his project to two sold-out theaters over Mothers' Day weekend 2009, Jonathan signed a contract to work with JDRF.

Since then he performed for members of JDRF at their annual retreat, held on Roanoke Island in summer of 2010. Additionally, the show was filmed for DVD release, and this will be used to raise awareness about diabetes.

In 2010, he received support for his one-man show from students and faculty around campus, including Hensley and music professor Dr. Bruce H. Frazier (who is composing original music for the show). The Office of the Provost and the Office for Undergraduate Studies hosted his show on January 30, 2011, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Jonathan is pursuing a theater degree and hopes to continue performing – and making people laugh.



# BEYOND THE BOOKS

BY OLIVIA CAUSBY

Knowledge does not come from merely reading books or attending classes. Marie Rawlings, a Spanish and recreational therapy major, has embraced this philosophy by experiencing the thrills and challenges of studying abroad in Middelburg, the Netherlands.

Marie had wanted to study abroad for quite some time. Her friend, Cayli Meizel, shared the same ambition and inspired her to make the dream a reality. “We both had the ‘we need to study abroad’ bug,” she says. As juniors with double majors at WCU, Marie and Cayli wanted to find an English-speaking school. In 2010, the opportunity arose for the friends to study at Roosevelt Academy, an International Honors College and part of Utrecht University. “I was a little frazzled, but still very excited,” Marie says.

Even though most Dutch people speak English, Marie still faced the challenge



“Before, Europe just seemed to be a faraway place where life was completely different, but now I know it’s not really that different.”

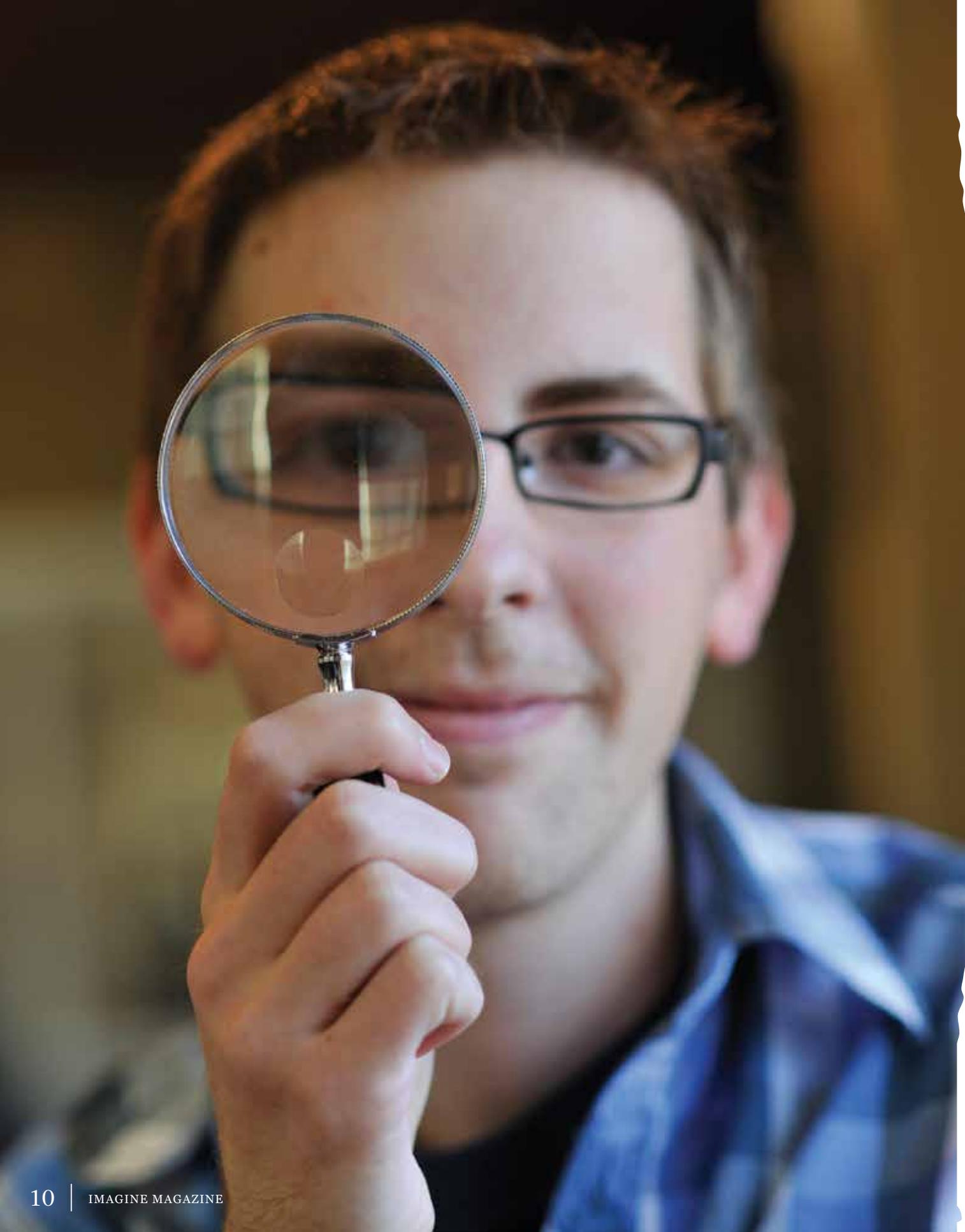
of the language barrier. For example, she recalls going to the grocery store for milk on her first weekend in Middelburg, only to discover that she and Cayli had no idea where to find regular 2 percent milk. Rationalizing that karnemelk was a safe bet, they found out the hard way that it was actually buttermilk.

Over the course of the semester, she became skilled at “Sputch,” a combination of Spanish and Dutch, when she got her languages crossed. She recalls, “One day I even managed to use four languages in one sentence! I was ordering a sandwich and said, ‘I’ll have een gyro boodje, por favor.’ I didn’t even realize what I’d said until my friend burst out laughing.”

Marie also dealt with occasional homesickness, but knew that her incredible opportunity was worth it. She faced some intimidating situations, such as when she and Cayli were singled out as American

teenagers and searched for drugs by police on an overnight train from Amsterdam. Her fall break included trips to Brussels, Madrid, Barcelona, Rome, Pisa and Venice – but not without complications such as going to the wrong airport and having reservations canceled. “It still ended up being an absolutely amazing trip, even with all the speed bumps,” she says.

Despite the challenges of attending college on another continent, Marie enjoyed gaining a deeper understanding of the world through travel. “Everything has been put into perspective,” she says. “Before, Europe just seemed to be a faraway place where life was completely different, but now I know it’s not really that different.” Learning beyond the books has given her an edge in her education and made studying abroad an experience she will never forget.



# From Small Seeds Come Great Trees

BY COLIN ISTVAN

David Ford, a Sylva native, is a junior studying biology. His concentration in ecology led him to a research opportunity studying the importance of white and scarlet oak trees, their defense strategies, and acorn dispersal. Both white oaks (*Quercus alba*) and scarlet oaks (*Quercus coccinea*) can be found all around campus.

David is studying oaks in hopes of understanding how these trees play a critical role in the biosphere. "In several ecosystems, oaks are important canopy trees," he says. "They provide homes as well as food for tons of species, yet they all start out as small acorns." Oak is a hardwood, often used in the construction of fine furniture and flooring, and Native Americans ground acorns to make flour.

He is researching how the two species of oak use defense strategies to aid germination. "Studies have shown animals can consume over 90 percent of the seed crop, and often can consume 100 percent," David says. As a defense strategy, white oaks have evolved acorns that germinate quickly, before animals have a chance to eat them. Scarlet oaks, on the other hand, have acorns that are high in tannin, a chemical that makes them taste bitter to animals.

To study acorn dispersal, David first had to be able to identify the different types of trees. "While leaves are fairly distinguishable, many species have acorns that look very similar," he said. He studied seed dispersal by setting out transects of land on the west side of campus and then placing acorns onto demarcated areas. Next, by watching them for a few weeks, he observed the rate that the acorns were dispersed. The acorns were moved due to animal activity as well as by natural forces such as weather.

Originally, his research came about as an idea for an Honors College contract in biology courses, but it has progressed far beyond that. David plans to present his findings at NCUR in 2011.

Outside of his research, David is an active member of the Biology Club, frequently helping with fundraisers. He is also a member of the Campus Mediation Society, an organization that promotes solving interpersonal problems by using unbiased third parties in conflict resolution. He is also an avid photographer and head of the social committee for Phi Sigma Pi, a social fraternity.

After graduation, David plans to pursue a career as a wildlife educator. In the future, he hopes to study animal behavior or ornithology in graduate school.



# VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

BY CAITLIN GRIGG



Every Thursday around seventy students attend Whee Worship, a church service designed especially for students at the Wesley Foundation, the United Methodist student center at WCU. Sam McC Carson, a senior social work major, is one of these students. He plays an important role in the Wesley Foundation's success and helps give the United Methodist Ministry a bright future.

Growing up in Yadkinville, N.C., Sam was surrounded by a musical family. He has trouble remembering exactly when he became interested in music in general, but he knows why he wanted to learn to play the guitar in particular. "I was 15 and wanted to impress a girl," he says. While at college, his love for music has intensified.

In 2006, Sam was asked to join Wesley's Christian rock band, "Damascus Highway." Although the band needed better organization, Sam picked up his guitar and joined anyway. Since then, the band

"We knew the money would go to Haiti, but we didn't know what would happen after that."



has experienced tremendous growth. Sam plays bass and sings, but does not consider himself the band's leader. "I guess I'm just a voice of experience," he jokes.

Last summer, Sam and Wesley's campus minister, Jay Hinton, worried about the band's future. Most of the students involved with the band were nearing graduation, leaving its future unclear. "We were stressed last summer," Sam recalls. "That's why, at orientation, we really pushed finding people interested in music." This led to the formation of a new band, comprised of talented freshmen.

In addition to "Damascus Highway," Sam is involved in mission trips and fundraising. Sam and other Wesley Foundation students traveled to New Orleans in March 2009, where they helped rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. However, one of his most successful Wesley Foundation projects came after the earthquake in Haiti. He

decided to collect donations by simply holding a coffee can outside the BB&T bank on campus.

"We knew the money would go to Haiti, but we didn't know what would happen after that," he explains. Members of Cullowhee Methodist Church promised matching funds. Five-thousand dollars later, the church collaborated with Stop Hunger Now, an international organization that provides one meal for each quarter raised. The Wesley Foundation planned to package food and asked for volunteers. Sam was surprised by the response, noting, "Eighty people came out and we packaged 20,000 meals. There were football players, members of the dance team, everyone came to help."

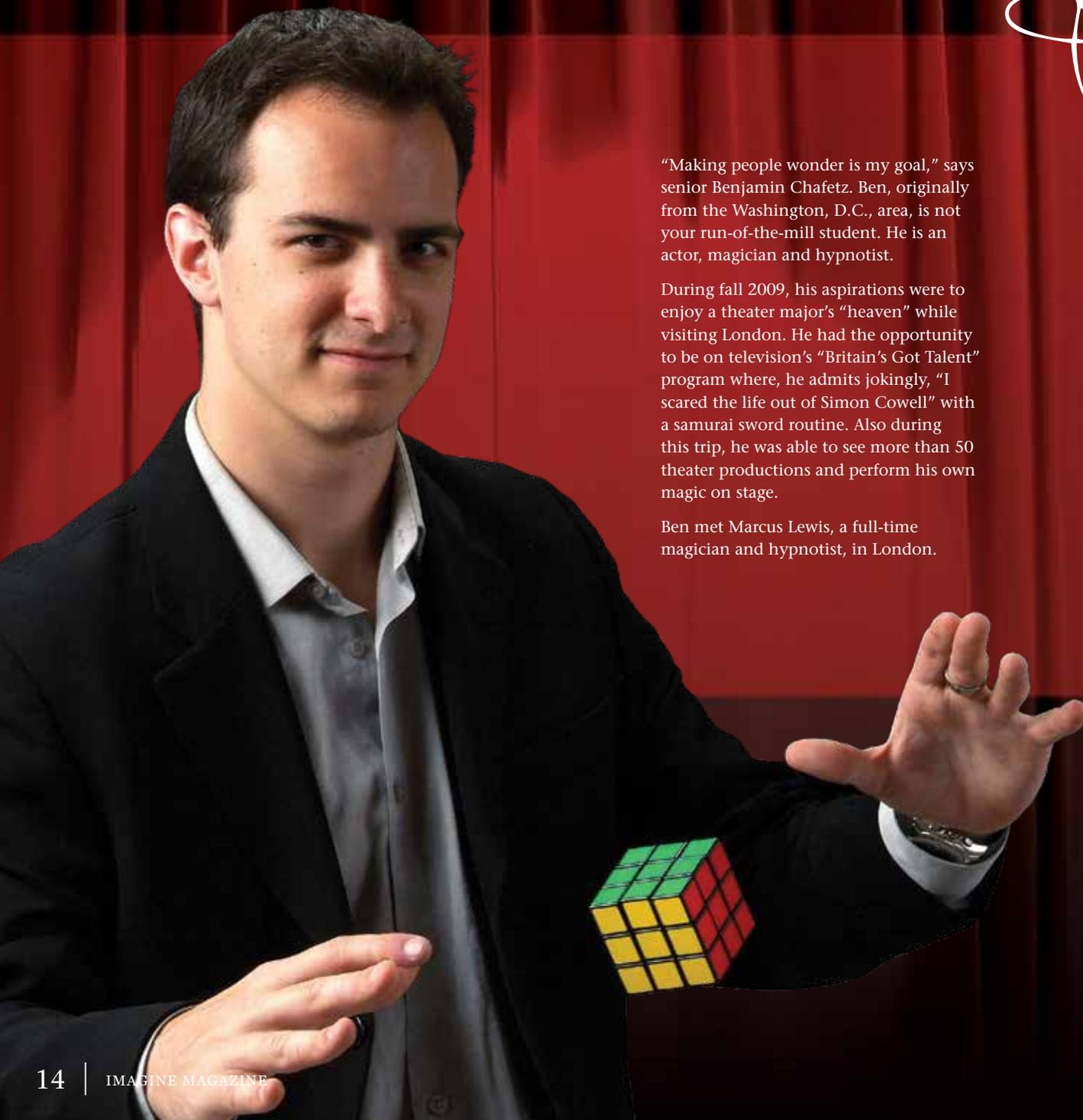
Sam considers the Wesley Foundation a second home, adding, "It's always open, there are always nice people here, and it's just a good environment."

## The Wesley Foundation

The Wesley Foundation offers service opportunities and weekly activities such as contemporary worship, Bible studies, meals, and mission trips. To learn more, go to [wcuwesley.com](http://wcuwesley.com).

# a magical Talent

BY ASHTON BINKLEY



"Making people wonder is my goal," says senior Benjamin Chafetz. Ben, originally from the Washington, D.C., area, is not your run-of-the-mill student. He is an actor, magician and hypnotist.

During fall 2009, his aspirations were to enjoy a theater major's "heaven" while visiting London. He had the opportunity to be on television's "Britain's Got Talent" program where, he admits jokingly, "I scared the life out of Simon Cowell" with a samurai sword routine. Also during this trip, he was able to see more than 50 theater productions and perform his own magic on stage.

Ben met Marcus Lewis, a full-time magician and hypnotist, in London.

Ben remembers thinking, "Wow, I've got to learn hypnotism too!"

Now back in the U.S., Ben continues to research hypnotism and hypnotherapy, ideas he is currently pursuing for a possible project for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. "In order for someone to succeed in being hypnotized, they must want what they are asking for. This seems like a silly idea, but it is important for someone who wishes to quit smoking, for example, to be self-motivated rather than to do it for someone else," he said.

Among his talents, magic is his favorite. "I love the work that goes into it," he says. "What I do in magic is indeed real. I actually achieve the result. Perhaps I did

something tricky, but to you, a miracle just happened. When I perform a trick and someone looks at me with wonder, that is the magic. The trick is just a trick, but when we are reminded of the fact that we do not have all the answers to the universe, that is a special moment."

His ultimate goal is to have his own magic camp, because he loves the fact that "children are always in a state of wonder" – just as he is.

Ben's success in theater, hypnotism and magic can be credited to his pursuit of wonder as well as to his easygoing attitude. He believes in himself, adding, "I didn't really find magic – it found me. I know full well that if I put my mind to something, I can achieve it."



## Stage Hypnotism vs. Hypnotherapy

Stage hypnotism includes tricks typically performed on stage, such as making subjects forget their names or feel as though they are incapable of telling a lie. Hypnotherapy uses hypnosis to alter negative behaviors.

# Just Breathe

BY SARAH CLINE

Traci Gardellis is no newcomer when it comes to college. Her first BA degree was in history from Miami University, located in Ohio, Traci's home state. However, instead of continuing her education in history, Traci was determined to find a way to combine her love for yoga with study as a student in WCU's recreational therapy program. Currently, she is a senior working on a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy. Recreational therapy uses treatment, education and recreation services to



help people with disabilities and other conditions enhance their health and quality of life.

Before moving to Sylva with her husband, Ken, Traci had been practicing yoga for a few years in order to alleviate discomfort from a connective tissue disorder in her joints. When she researched WCU, she came across the university's recreational therapy program. Until then, yoga and recreational therapy had not been combined, but that didn't stop Traci from finding a way to put the two together. "If you look where you're supposed to," she says, "you're going to miss out." It's this unique perspective that has shaped not only her personality, but her educational goals as well.

One of her goals as a recreational therapy student is to make people aware of the benefits yoga can have for people with conditions such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, post traumatic stress

disorder and substance abuse. Yoga is a stress reliever; consequently it is beneficial to people with these conditions because it teaches them healthy ways to cope and calm themselves.

Last summer, Traci worked with WCU's SOAR program for children with learning disabilities. SOAR stands for Success Oriented Achievement Realized. She incorporated yoga into the program in order to teach the children ways to relax and become more aware of their bodies. Traci plans to study the effects of yoga on children's concentration, body awareness and stress levels.

For Traci, yoga is a way of life. She says, "One of the biggest misconceptions about yoga is that you have to be spiritual, flexible and able to concentrate. The point of yoga is to attain those things, and the best part about yoga is that people can adapt, physically and emotionally."



## Want to Know More?

For more about WCU's Recreational Therapy program, go to [www.wcu.edu/4632.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/4632.asp)

To learn more about SOAR, go to [www.soarnrc.org](http://www.soarnrc.org)



# Simple Solutions to Complex Problems: NASA AND THE PING-PONG INTERNS

BY ERIC RIBERDY



WCU sophomore Randall Hunt has encountered several astronomical obstacles – and opportunities. In the summer of 2010, he interned for NASA at Langley Research Center in Virginia. He worked on the Orion spacecraft and helped to develop software to analyze the effects of different environmental and physical factors on the craft. In 2011, he will work at the Ames Research Center in California to develop robotics that will use programs such as Google Earth and Google Mars for navigation. Randall's ambition and dedication have afforded him these extraordinary opportunities, opportunities that have become outlets for his goals.

Randall began working with NASA in 2010 after several attempts to get into the robotics internship. Last summer, he developed software to analyze mass

properties for the Orion spacecraft that is set to replace the Apollo lunar spacecraft and should launch by 2015. Randall's team (comprised of seven other students) was able to complete the project in two weeks, rather than the expected ten, and as a result, they were left without a project to work on.

However, Randall's adviser at Langley found work for the team developing a more efficient flotation device for the boosters on a space shuttle. "The boosters drop from 80,000 feet and fall into the ocean, but we don't know where they're going to land," Randall explains. The team worked on a device that would keep the parts afloat after they hit the ocean and make for easier recovery. Interestingly, this flotation device primarily relied on large amounts of ping-pong balls to make it successful.



The tiny floating balls were tested in circumstances replicating problems objects experience when falling into the ocean. Tests confirmed that the balls could be trusted to keep the parts from sinking. On top of it all, Randall's team developed the device at a cost of \$100,000, a mere fraction of the million-dollar costs of other devices.

Now Randall hopes to move forward into a field of study he truly loves, robotics. In the fall of 2011, he wants to work with Dr. Terry Fong, a leader in the field of intelligent robotics, on an autonomous

rover that will traverse the Yukon by using Google Earth as a GPS reference.

Randall's opportunities may be great, but they did not come without a little hard work. "Applying is half the battle," he says, reflecting on his acceptance for the upcoming internship. "It's a difficult process, but it feels that much better when the application pays off." Though he agrees getting there may be hard, Randall applied himself and has, as a result, found himself in programs that he loves.

# FROM AFRICA TO WESTERN CAROLINA

BY MADISON TURNER

A photograph of Bethany Ketting, a young woman with long blonde hair, wearing a green cardigan over a brown dress. She is smiling and standing next to a large, textured tree trunk with several circular holes. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and a field.

“The best way to promote change is to start in your own backyard.”

“You can’t complain about things being broken unless you’re willing to fix them,” says Bethany Ketting. Born in Africa, she split her time between Kenya and Uganda until age 7. Brought up by missionary parents, Bethany has always had a passion for helping others, whether they are from Africa or WCU.

Bethany is a WCU student library worker. A double major in English and philosophy, she has worked at Hunter Library for three years. She does a variety of things including shelving, cataloging, organizing and checking out books. With her always-willing-to-help attitude, she lets the staff know, “I’m here for you – whatever you need me to do.”

Bethany explains that, at first, “I just wanted to get my foot in the door, but then I realized how much I love my job.” She exclaims, “I’m surrounded by books and amazing people – and I’m helping people find what they are searching for. What’s not to love?”

Because this is her last semester as an undergraduate, Bethany is applying for a permanent WCU library position. She adds, “There are jobs out there that you can have that are enjoyable, fulfilling and not just for a paycheck. Not a single day goes by that I don’t want to be at the library.”

Not only is Bethany a dedicated library worker, she is also an avid activist. She joined Hillary Clinton and legislative leaders in May 2010 on Capitol Hill to attend the CARE conference (a nonprofit, anti-poverty organization) and lobby for the improvement of women’s rights in Third World countries. Bethany says, “Having lived in a Third World country, I have seen what a difference we can make at a legislative level and it’s just awesome.”

At the CARE conference, Bethany lobbied for the passage of bills such as the Child Marriage Act, an act that protects young girls from child (or early) marriage. “It was great to see that I’m not alone in

my concern for the world,” she says. The conference had more than 800 attendees from 39 states, and 20 percent of the attendees were students.

Shortly after her trip to Capitol Hill, Bethany recapped the CARE Conference at the North Carolina Campus Compact, a gathering of North Carolinians who are seeking ways to better their communities. The compact was held at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte in November 2010. Bethany says that the CARE conference is one way to make a difference. She says, “The best way to promote change is to start in your own backyard.”



## WCU Student Library Workers

Jill Ellern, WCU’s systems librarian, speaks highly of current and former student library workers and says, “There is more to the job than just shelving books. Without these student assistants, the library would crash and burn, and we would be drowning in a sea of returns.” Forty-seven students currently work in the library. Ellern notes, “These people have a continuing commitment to service. They are feeding the minds of the students. They see that a book can change the students’ lives.” She adds, “There has been a de-emphasis on library workers in the U.S. and people don’t realize the need for them. We’re lucky here at WCU.”

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2011

Below are the projects accepted, titles, student presenters and their sponsors for NCUR25 at Ithaca College in N.Y. In terms of presentations accepted at the conference, Western Carolina University was fourth in the nation.

## ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHEOLOGY

Cross Cultural Comparison of Medicine and Medicine Folklore: Cherokee And Irish  
*Bethel Bower, presenter | Anne Rogers, sponsor*

Exploring Cherokee Foodways through Raman and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry  
*Tina Crowe, presenter | Jane M. Eastman, sponsor*

Mass Graves of Guatemala  
*Neisha Harding, presenter | James D. Davis, sponsor*

Applying Microanalysis Techniques to Forensic Cases Involving Dismemberment  
*Lacy Hoyle, presenter | Cheryl Johnston, sponsor*

## ART & MEDIA STUDIES

Dream Time  
*Brandon Chapman, presenter | Brian Railsback, sponsor*

## BUSINESS/FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

Don't Go With Your Gut: Using Data-Driven Analyses To Determine Budget Cuts  
*Jay Aldridge, presenter | Barbara Jo White, sponsor*

Code of Ethics?  
*Michael McLamb, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

Cell & Molecular Biology Interactions between Chemotaxis-Like Signal Transduction Pathways in *Azospirillum Brasilense*  
*Tess Branon, presenter | Gladys Alexandre, sponsor (University of Tennessee)*

## CHEMISTRY

Lanthanide-Based Nanomaterials with Enhanced Luminescence and Magnetic Properties for Biomedical Imaging Applications  
*Lauren Runken, presenter | Channa De Silva, sponsor*

## COMMUNICATIONS

How Clarence Thomas Squeaked by a Senate Judiciary Vote by Benefit-of-the Doubt Strategy  
*Christopher Younts, presenter | Pamela Harris, sponsor*

## CRIMINOLOGY

Los Estados Unidos Drogados: Narcotics, Violence and the Mexican-American Connection  
*Erin Andrews, presenter | James D. Davis, sponsor*

Comparison of Self-Reported Crime and Official Crime Statistics at Western Carolina  
*Donnielle Foster, presenter | Cyndy C. Hughes, sponsor*

"The CSI Effect: A Few Rare Cases or a Changing of Juror Mentality?"  
*Cayli Meizel, presenter | Leonard Knight, sponsor*

## ECOLOGY & ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

The Effect of Germination Time on Acorn Predation  
*William David Ford, presenter | Beverly Collins, sponsor Kathy Mathews, sponsor*

Salamanders and the Ecology of Fear: Behavioral Responses to Predation Risk  
*Mariah Hornby, presenter | Joseph H. K. Pechmann, sponsor*

## ECONOMICS

Income Inequality in the United States and Historical Solutions  
*Matthew Sutter, presenter | Inhyuck Ha, sponsor*

An Economic and Policy Analysis of South Korea as the Top Producer in the World's Shipbuilding Industry  
*Eun-jung Woo, presenter | James M. Arnott, sponsor*

## EDUCATION

Perceptions of Special Education and General Education Teachers on Students with Physical and Intellectual Disabilities in the Classroom  
*Ashley Anderson, presenter | Valerie M. Mazzotti, sponsor*

Special Education Teachers' Perceptions of Using "Scientifically-Based" Research Practices to Teach Students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities  
*Amber Anderson, presenter | Valerie M. Mazzotti, sponsor*

Researching Farm to School: Integrating Farm Field Trips, Nutrition, Cooking, and Gardening into an Already Filled Third-Grade Curriculum  
*Sarah Malcolm, presenter | Patricia Bricker, sponsor*

Connecting Farm to School Activities and Required Curriculum: An Action Research Project in a Kindergarten Classroom  
*Carol Norris, presenter | Patricia Bricker, sponsor*

Civic Education for Teenagers: Educating Effective Citizens  
*Amanda Smith, presenter | Christopher Cooper, sponsor*

Enhancing the Learning Experience  
*Christine Weathers, presenter | Terry Rose, sponsor*

## ENGLISH

Feminism, Sexuality, and Myth in H.D.'s *Sea Garden*  
*Kayla Beauduy, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

John Keats, The Apothecary Surgeon of "Ode to a Nightingale"  
*Taylor Fie, presenter | Brent E. Kinser, sponsor*

*Things Fall Apart*: The Real Housewives Of Igbo Culture  
*Kayla Jones, presenter | Laura Wright, sponsor*

"You Rememory Me?": The Role of the Past in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*  
*Elizabeth Nissly, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SCIENCES

Actual Versus Perceived Recycling by Western Carolina University Students  
*Austin Brooks, presenter | Laura Dewald, sponsor*

## FILM/PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES

The Hitchcock Blonde and How She Drives the Thriller  
*Donnie Lambert, presenter | Elizabeth Heffelfinger, sponsor*

## HEALTH SCIENCES & PUBLIC HEALTH

Joint Hypermobility in a High School Female Athlete  
*Ashley Bracken, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

Traumatic Facial Nerve Palsy in a High School Football Player  
*Heather Brown, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

The Effect of Substituting Resistant Starch for All-Purpose Flour in Wheat Bread on Fiber and Flavor  
*Frances Childers, presenter | Mary Baldwin Sanders, sponsor*

Taste Acceptance of Bread Made with Resistant Starch Compared with All-Purpose Flour  
*Chloe Greene, presenter | Mary B. Sanders, sponsor April Tallant, sponsor*

Not in My Backyard...Unless I'm Poor, Uneducated or a Person of Color: The Toxicity of PCBs, Midnight Dumping, and Environmental Racism in Warren County, North Carolina  
*Erin Gymburch, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor*

Farm Fresh Taste: Acceptability of Local Produce Among School-Aged Children  
*Patricia Hipgrave, presenter | April Tallant, sponsor*

Impacted Zygomatic Tripod Fracture in a High School Soccer Player  
*Andrea Kaufman, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

Potential Use of an Ozonator to Improve Air Quality in Unoccupied Spaces  
*Amanda McQueen, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor*

Comparison of Noise Emissions of Standard Electric and Gas-Powered Chainsaws  
*Amanda McQueen, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor*

Non-Contact Posterior Hip Subluxation in a Collegiate Football Player Resulting in an Acetabular Fracture  
*Emily Whittington, presenter | Ashley S. Long, sponsor*

## HISTORY

Between the Lines of Longitude: An Alternate Look into the Longitude Problem and John Harrison's Prize  
*Hope Alwine, presenter | Richard Starnes, sponsor*

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

"My Eiffel Tower Is No Minaret" – Anti-Islamic Discrimination in France  
*Corey Atten, presenter | James D. Davis, sponsor*

Framing Liberation in Latin American Social Movements  
*Mary Beth Fallin, presenter | Lori Oxford, sponsor*

## LITERATURE

Santiago's Ascension: Mortality and Transcendence in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*  
*Andrew Benton, presenter | Brent E. Kinser, sponsor*

Portrait of a Monster: Class Differences in John Fowles's *The Collector*  
*Travis Mullen, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor*

Satan Is America: John Milton, Thomas Jefferson, and the Foundations of a New Republic  
*Christopher Rollins, presenter | Mary Fenton, sponsor*

Time: A True Miltonic Villain  
*Kimberly Waddell, presenter | Mary Fenton, sponsor*

## MANAGEMENT

Mama Always Said, "You Shouldn't Say Shut Up," Was She Right?

*Shannon Owen, presenter | Theresa A. Domagalski, sponsor*

## MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

Prokaryotic 16s rDNA and Ammonia Monooxygenase Gene Diversity from an Imperiled Keystone Tree Species

*Julie Carter, presenter | Sean O'Connell, sponsor*

## MUSIC

Now You Hear It, Now You Don't: Observing Constructive and Destructive Interference of Sound and How It Pertains to Instrumental Ensembles

*Kelsey Stover, presenter | Eldred Spell, sponsor*

## PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/ SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

A Life without Knees: Restructured and Redeveloped

*Jessie Conner, presenter | Joseph Mathews, sponsor*

## POETRY & CREATIVE WRITING

Clearer Minds of a Clouded Generation

*James Ruff, presenter | Beth Huber, sponsor*

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Problem with No Child Left Behind: A Study on the Correlation between Community Type and a School's Adequate Yearly Progress Score in North Carolina Schools

*Hope Alwine, presenter | Daniel Bromberg, sponsor*

Drug Bust: The War on Drugs and Is It Working?

*Mitchell Bridges, presenter | Chris Cooper, sponsor*

The Sound of Music: Examining Cultural Differences in Political Parties

*Lea Anna Bright, presenter | Chris Cooper, sponsor*

Does Type of Government Affect Overall Happiness?

*Catherine Denning, presenter | Christopher Cooper, sponsor*

The Technological, Economic, and Political Potential of the Alternative Energy Industry

*Mitchell Rosewall, presenter | Christopher Cooper, sponsor*

Terrorism: The Effects of Corruption

*Hayden Smith, presenter | Niall Michelsen, sponsor*

How September Eleventh Changed the United States and Pakistan Relationship

*Catherine Stiers, presenter | Jennifer Schiff, sponsor*

## PSYCHOLOGY

The Necker Cube: An Alternative Measure of Direct Attention

*Jessica Hurlbut, presenter | Windy Gordon, sponsor*

The Freshman 15: How Real Is Race?

*Rachel Lockett, presenter | John Habel, sponsor*

Sex Differences in Cognitive Mapping and Sense of Direction

*Amanda McNally, presenter | James Goodwin, sponsor*

Mammification of the African-American Woman; How Black and White College Students Perceive Aunt Jemima

*Mahogany Smith, presenter | John Habel, sponsor*

An Analysis of Attachment and Attachment Disorder in Early Childhood

*Alisha Smith, presenter | John Habel, sponsor*

*Mickey Randolph, sponsor*

## SOCIOLOGY

Game On – Understanding the Nintendo DS as a Socializer in Childhood: From the Child's Perspective, from the Adult's Perspective

*Nicholas Weitzel, presenter | Marilyn Chamberlin, sponsor*

The Culture War's Littlest Crusaders: The Orthodox Allies' Last Hope

*Mary Beth Fallin, presenter | Peter Nieckarz, sponsor*

## THEATRE/DRAMA

Theatre Games/Exercises and Their Effect on Thespians

*Benjamin Chafetz, presenter | Deryl Victor Caitlyn, sponsor*

Creating a 1938 Period Look for Women with Contemporary Eveningwear

*Sarah Hardy, presenter | Susan K. Brown-Strauss, sponsor*

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

"Is It a Choice?"

*Amanda Bienhaus, presenter | Lorrie Willey, sponsor*

End the Silence: An In-Depth Look at Why the Congo Is Still the Rape Capital of the World

*Kayla Coe, presenter | Robin Payne, sponsor*



# ALUMNI UPDATES

## RACHEL HOPE ALL | KATIE BALL

Rachel Hope All graduated in 2008 with a BS degree in Spanish and a minor in theater. Originally from Indian Trail, N.C., she now lives with her husband, Paul Meggs, in Atlanta. She has been a Spanish teacher at North Cobb High School for two years. Recently, she and Paul spent six months living in Australia. They also visited New Zealand and Fiji. In the future, she intends on becoming a speech therapist or a theater teacher.



*Rachel Hope All*

## BRETT BANTHER | KATIE BALL

Brett Banther graduated in 2006 with a BS degree in engineering technology and in 2009 with a master of science in technology. Between his degrees, Brett worked as an actor and independent filmmaker in Los Angeles. Originally from Baton Rouge, La., he now lives in Brevard and is a principal design engineer for Microtech Small Arms Research in Fletcher, N.C.

## JOHN BARBACCI | SARAH CLINE

John Barbacci graduated from WCU in 2009 with a BS degree in international business. He works for KnowledgeTree, Inc. John is fluent in Spanish and Italian, and has traveled to several countries for business, including Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Mexico.

## DUSTIN BEARD | KATE MCMULLEN

Dustin Beard graduated in 2002 with a degree in sport management. After graduating, Dustin returned to his hometown of Naples, Fla., where he has worked as a real estate agent for nine years. He and his wife, Chrissy, have two young children. Dustin plans on continuing his career in real estate and eventually wants to travel the world with his family. "Not studying abroad is my biggest regret in college," he says. "Take full advantage of it," he advises. "See the world and experience everything you can!"

## RICHARD BRUNS | CAITLIN GRIGG

Richard Bruns graduated in 2004 with degrees in business computer information systems and international business. After graduation, he began graduate studies at Clemson University. He is currently a fourth-year economics graduate student and teaching assistant at Clemson. He plans to graduate in spring 2012 and hopes to become a college professor.



Jennifer Elliott Figueroa

**MATTHEW CHADWICK | COLIN ISTVAN**

Matthew graduated in 2000 with a degree in music. After he completed the master of project management program in 2005, he worked as a strategic manager in admissions and marketing at Regent University in Virginia. He enjoys playing keyboard for his church choir as well as playing Ultimate, a sport played with a flying disc, on an intramural team and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife, Nina, have two children. In the future, he plans to pursue a doctorate in strategic management.

**STEPHANIE DRUM**

Stephanie Drum graduated in 2009 with a BA in English and is a communications specialist at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in Lake Junaluska, near Waynesville, N.C. She works in publicity, writing the quarterly newsletter, taking photos and maintaining the website, among other duties. "It is a beautiful place to work," she said.

**SARAH CHADWICK | MADISON TURNER**

Sarah Chadwick graduated in 2004 with a BS degree in communications and public relations. After receiving her MS in communications sciences and disorders from WCU, Sarah moved from her hometown of Clyde to Hickory, N.C., in 2006. She is a speech language pathologist working for Sundance Rehabilitation, a national contract therapy company, in Hickory. Sarah advises future graduates to "choose a career you can be passionate about and feel confident in so that your time at work won't feel like 'work.'"

**JENNIFER ELLIOTT FIGUEROA | JILL WEST**

Jennifer Elliott Figueroa graduated in 2002 with BA degrees in sociology and Spanish. While enrolled at WCU, Jennifer studied in Mexico. After graduation, she attended the University of South Carolina and received an MEd degree in higher education administration and student affairs. Today, Jennifer works as the assistant director of International Student Services at USC and recruits international students. She participated in a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange program for young professionals in southern Brazil. She presently resides in Columbia, S.C., with her husband, José.



Sarah Chadwick

**EVAN CLAPSADDLE | JILL WEST**

Evan Clapsaddle graduated in 2002 with a BA degree in history and a BSEd in social sciences. He teaches history at Swain County High School, close to his hometown of Bryson City, N.C. He lives in Cherokee with his wife, Annette Saunooke, and their 2-year-old son, Ross. Evan is presently enrolled in graduate classes at WCU, pursuing a master's degree in history.

**ALAN GOGGINS | ERIC RIBERDY**

Alan Goggins received a BS degree in environmental health in 2010 and is pursuing his doctorate in biomedical sciences at Tulane University in New Orleans. He is married to Bessie Dietrich Goggins, also a WCU graduate. Alan was profiled in the 2009 edition of *Imagine*. He says, "With my degrees, I'll be able to go out and do something I'm passionate about." He once held the record for the greatest number of fire tacos eaten at Rolling Stone Burrito in Cullowhee.

**JASON CLEMENT | DESIREA HODGE**

Jason Clement graduated in 2000 with a BS degree in chemistry. He went on to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where he received his doctorate in 2005. He worked with the National Cancer Institute in Maryland for a year and half before returning to WCU, where he has been an assistant professor for the past four years. His wife, Victoria, also teaches at WCU, and they have three daughters.

**BEN HALLIGAN | CAITLIN GRIGG**

After obtaining his degree in communication in 2001, Ben Halligan moved from his hometown of Asheboro to Asheville, N.C. He is currently employed by the Mountain Area Health Education Center, where he has worked for nearly three years. In his spare time, Ben enjoys mountain biking, camping, trail running, rock climbing, video production and soccer. Although he stays busy, he hopes to find more time to travel.

**JENNIFER DOYLE-CORN | ASHTON BINKLEY**

Jennifer Doyle-Corn graduated from WCU in 2004 with a BA degree in English literature and in 2010 with a master's degree in English literature. Presently, she resides in Tallahassee, Fla., with her husband, Worth Corn Jr. She is working on her doctorate in English literature at Florida State University, where she enjoys being a teaching assistant. She says, "I enjoy teaching, and I'm finally fulfilling the career goals I've had for a decade. Life has put a few bumps in my road, so I've had a nonlinear path getting here, but that makes finally accomplishing my dream all the more satisfying."

**JOSHUA LOVERN | OLIVIA CAUSBY**

Joshua Lovern currently serves as a technology support analyst at WCU, where he earned a BS degree in German in 2002 and a master's degree in entrepreneurship in 2005. He and his wife, Deborah, live in Jackson County's Webster community with their two children, Jakob and Kaylee. Joshua is currently pursuing certification in gemology and jewelry appraising from the International School of Gemology. His interest in this field dates to his experience owning a jewelry manufacturing business. Occasionally, he still makes custom gold, silver and platinum jewelry using diamonds and a variety of other gemstones.



Jennifer Doyle-Corn

### AMY MANKOWSKI | KATE MCMULLEN

Amy Mankowski, a WCU teaching fellow, graduated in 2010 with a BSEd in middle grades education and concentrations in social sciences and English. She currently teaches at John Chavis Middle School in Cherryville, N.C., near her hometown of Gastonia. Amy is considering pursuing a master's degree and certification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. "In the far future, I would love to become a college professor," she says, adding that she would like to share her passion for teaching.

### ADRIANNE OVERBAY | DESIREA HODGE

Adrienne Overbay graduated from WCU in December 2000 with a BSBA in marketing (professional sales concentration) and was the second president of The Honors College Board of Directors. She married Wesley Overbay, who played baseball for Western Carolina and is a stay-at-home dad. They have a 6-year-old boy as well as a 3-year-old girl. Since graduating, Adrienne has worked for LabCorp in Raleigh, which provides testing services to the medical field. She began as a sales representative and worked her way up to regional manager of sales for Eastern North Carolina.

### MITCHELL PATE | COLIN ISTVAN

Mitchell Pate graduated in 2009 with a BS degree in electrical engineering and minors in mathematics and physics. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in computer network engineering at N.C. State. In what little free time he has as graduate student, he enjoys video games. After graduation, he hopes to get a job on the East Coast.

### THE REV. DAVID POWELL | ASHTON BINKLEY

The Rev. David Powell graduated from WCU with a double major in communications and political science. He presently lives in Franklin, N.C., and is pursuing a master of divinity degree at Gardner Webb University. He says he finds his work as senior pastor at Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin "rewarding because I get to see people's lives change." He actively pursues his motto, "love through actions," through work with the Macon County Care Network and the Board of Ministers at Mars Hill College.

### TIFFANY BLAIR PRICKETT | ERIC RIBERDY

Tiffany Blair Prickett received her BSEd in elementary education in 2009 and now teaches reading at Courtney Elementary School in Yadkin County, N.C. She is pursuing her master's degree in education through Appalachian State University online courses. Tiffany chooses to teach reading classes because of their significance. She says, "Reading didn't come naturally to me, but now I can teach reading because I had to learn how to do it myself."

### CARA WARD | MADISON TURNER

Cara Ward, a 2009 graduate, received a BA degree in speech and theater and a BA degree in art. After graduation, she returned to her home state of Michigan. She is currently applying to schools in the Detroit vicinity in order to pursue a career as an elementary school art teacher. Artist, equestrian, lover of birds and fall 2007 WCU commencement speaker, Cara says, "Do what you want to do – not what you have to – to get a job."

### LAURA ECHOLS WELLMON | OLIVIA CAUSBY

Laura Echols Wellmon majored in chemistry with a minor in psychology, graduating cum laude in 2002. She completed her master's degree in physical therapy at WCU in 2004. In November 2009, Laura was inducted into the WCU Athletic Hall of Fame for her career on the women's basketball team from 1998-2002. For the past six years, Laura has worked as a physical therapist at an outpatient physical therapy clinic in North Carolina. She and her husband, Jerry Wellmon, have a 3-year-old daughter, Lily.



### *Imagine Magazine Staff*

Katelyn Ball, Ashton Binkley, Olivia Causby, Sarah Cline, Caitlin Grigg, Desirea Hodge, Colin Istvan, Kate MwcMullen, Eric Riberdy, Madison Turner, Jill West

Deidre Elliott, *faculty advisor*

Dr. Brian Railsback, *Dean, Honors College*

828.227.7383 | [honors.wcu.edu](http://honors.wcu.edu)



*Western Carolina University's team for the 2011 National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, New York, prepares to leave campus on March 30. In terms of projects accepted for the conference, WCU was fourth in the nation out of the 358 colleges and universities at NCUR. Fifty-six students made the trip, WCU's largest out-of-state contingent.*



HONORS COLLEGE

Balsam Hall  
Cullowhee, NC 28723-9646