

IMAGINE

WCU HONORS COLLEGE MAGAZINE 2012



WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Honors Contracts and WCU Faculty

In late June during an orientation session I had with a group of parents, one of them asked how to get from McKee to the next session in the Center for Applied Technology. As I began to stammer an answer, one father held up his smart phone and said to check out the excellent photographic map of WCU he found there. He was amazed at how well the campus was mapped out and gave directions to the group (better than mine would have been).

This reminded me of an Honors Contract I'd signed earlier, between Honors student Ryan Nelson and Adam Griffith, Director of the Rivercane Restoration Project for the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at WCU. The contract would allow Ryan to learn balloon mapping—the kind of work that creates maps like WCU's. The contract involved field work, photo editing, and assessment/reflection. It comprised an estimated 16 to 20 hours of additional work for Ryan in his liberal studies class, enabling him to pick up a new skill and participate in a project far beyond the normal reaches of the course.

Honors contracts enable students like Ryan to more deeply engage in coursework and earn Honors credit. Contracts are limited only by the creativity (and time!) of the faculty member and student. Contracts are completed in a variety of ways: undergraduate research, service learning, modification of an existing assignment, additional reading, special presentations to the class on material otherwise not covered, and so on. Although Honors Contracts happen in a wide variety of ways across every discipline at WCU, they have one thing in common: dedicated faculty.

In the spring semester, faculty members signed 1,001 Honors Contracts with a 91% completion rate. As a small token of appreciation for this important work, The Honors College Board of Directors dedicated this year's RODIN awards to faculty members who over the last few years have done as many as 80 contracts: Pamela Duncan, Assistant Professor of English; Michelle Scifers, Assistant Professor in the School of Health Sciences; Karen Tomczak, Director of the Dance Program, and Blair Tormey, lecturer in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Like every activity described in this issue of Imagine, Honors Contracts occur because of WCU faculty members' expertise in the field and their unfailing dedication to their students.



Brian Railsback, Dean
The Honors College
July 1, 2012

IMAGINE MAGAZINE STAFF



BACK ROW: Deidre Elliott (faculty advisor), Melissa Bradley, Liz Ammons, Logan Porter, Colby White, Tanner Morris, Leela Livis, Dr. Brian Railsback (Dean, The Honors College)

FRONT ROW: Heather Allison, Katie Marshall, Stephanie DeVane, Bailey Yarbrough, Hannah Clemmer

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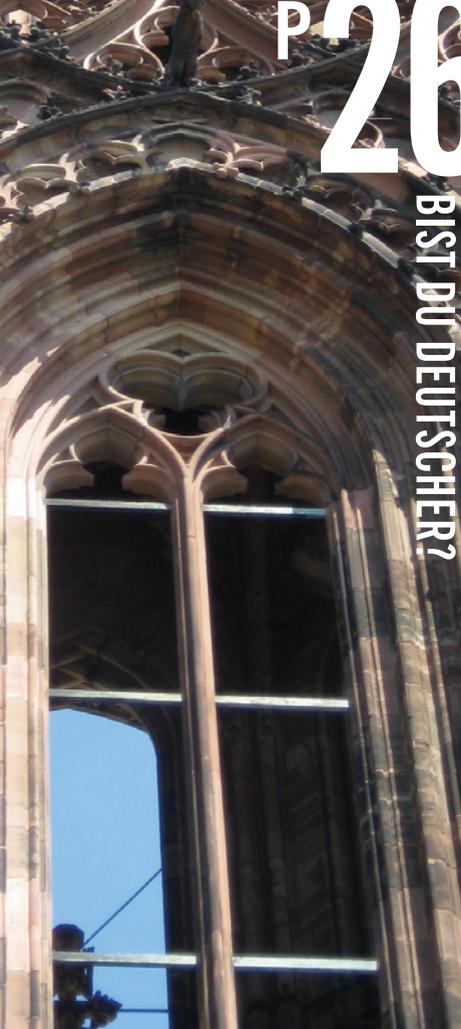
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**"I THINK TAKING
CHANCES MAKES ME
AN OUTSTANDING
STUDENT."**

"The trip to Ghana was a lot of work, but it was worth it," says Nicole Levi. "It gave me confidence and opened my eyes to the little things we take for granted." Nicole, a senior at Western Carolina University, is majoring in nutrition and dietetics with pre-physician assistant as her pre-med major or "track." From Mills River, N.C., Nicole has an open mind and is willing to face challenges. This led her to travel to Ghana in West Africa and to participate in the Unite for Sight program.

Unite for Sight is a nonprofit organization that supports local ophthalmologists in Ghana, India and Honduras. Their goal is to help improve eye health and eliminate blindness. After hearing Dr. Brian Railsback, Dean of the Honors College, speak about this organization, Nicole was immediately interested. However, she needed to raise money in order to participate. With the help of fundraisers, family and an anonymous donor, she was able to go on a two-week trip in the summer of 2011.

Nicole wanted to gain professional experience and help the Ghanaian people. To prepare for this trip, she went through an intense training program. She had to learn about Ghanaian culture, including the way people communicated with each other. "The training was a big



part of the Unite for Sight process. Ghanaian people are very friendly, but in a touchy way," Nicole said. "They like to give hugs and use their hands to communicate. Overall, for me, it was fine because I'm the same way, but if the trainers for Unite for Sight hadn't prepared me for that, it would've been strange."

In Ghana, Nicole worked with other student volunteers, some from Ivy League schools. The student participants were trained to do eye screenings using the basic E charts. "Unite for Sight supports students as well as the communities in which they serve," said Nicole.

Overall, Nicole says that her trip to Africa was "fantastic." She had the weekends off to venture around Ghana and the rest of the time she worked with people in need. "I think taking chances makes me an outstanding student," said Nicole. "I had no idea what to expect from Africa, but I took a chance, dove in head first and came out with no regrets!"

UNITE FOR SIGHT

To learn more about Unite for Sight, go to www.uniteforsight.org

DO RE ME?



Click, upload and submit. These three simple steps separated hundreds of country music contestants from the grand prize in the Sing Like Lady Antebellum Contest. Uploading one video was all you had to do to compete and possibly be a winner.

On September 12, 2011, Honors College student Emily Kilpatrick, 20, uploaded a video of her own. She eagerly recorded a 40-second video of herself singing Lady Antebellum's 2011 single "Just a Kiss." She recalls the unplanned entry by saying, "I didn't even know about the contest until my uncle called and told me to enter."

Without any professional voice lessons, Emily has been singing at small functions for years, but never before had she seen an opportunity to enter a competition online. Only one entrant from North Carolina could be chosen as a finalist in the contest which was sponsored by six radio stations located in eight states. Emily, an Andrews, N.C., native, spent three weeks nervously watching the number of online votes rise for each video posted online. The grand prize winner, determined not only by online votes, but also by a panel of judges, would get the

opportunity to fly to Nashville to meet with Capitol Records executives and to tour for two nights with the award-winning group Lady Antebellum.

On October 4, the dream of winning was finally within her grasp when Emily was announced as one of six finalists. Emily, ecstatic, remembers the moment, saying, "When my best friend called me and said I was a national finalist, I was eating in the food court and I literally yelled... Talk about getting weird looks from people."

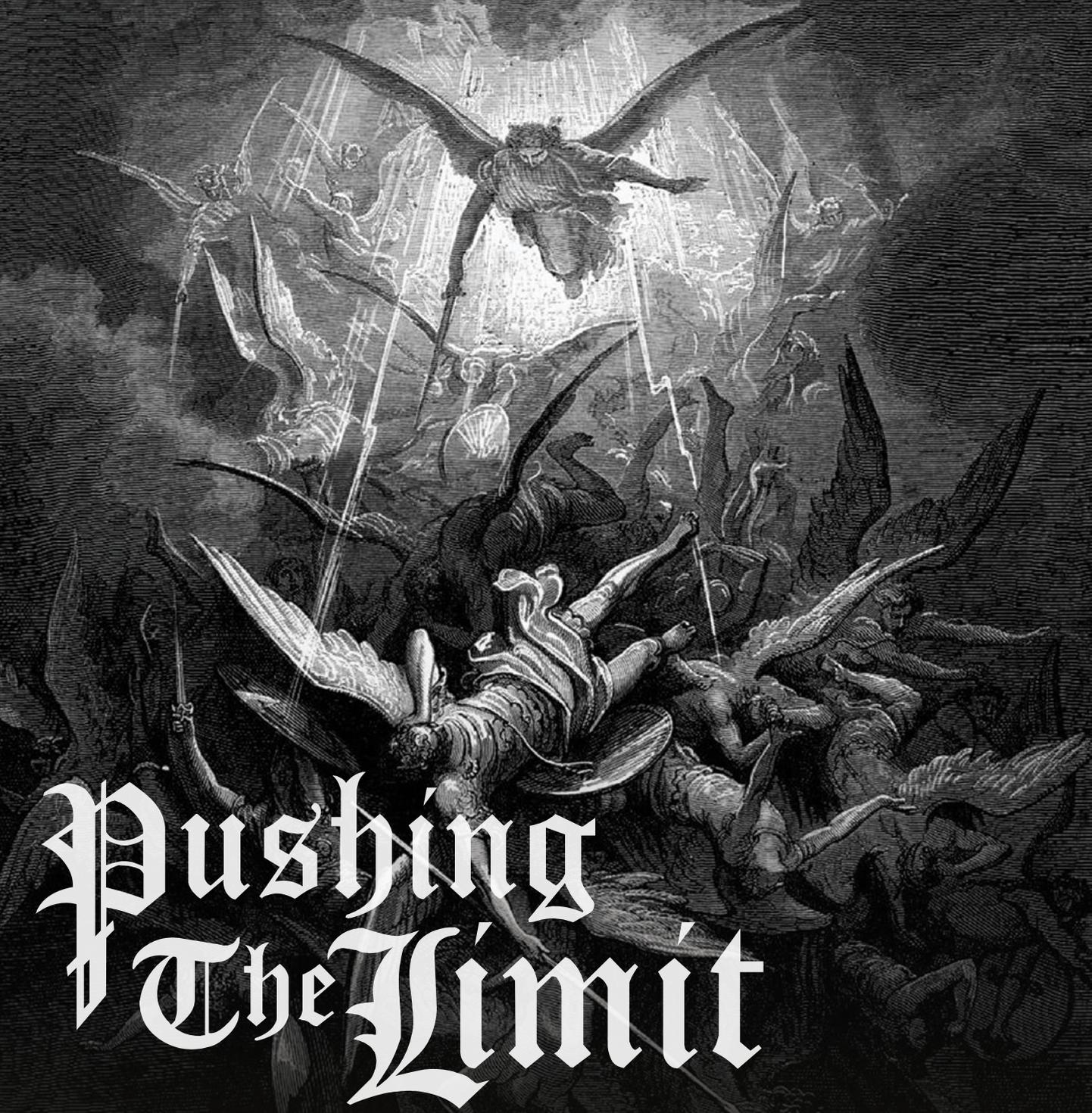
Already familiar with traveling because of past study abroad trips to Italy and Greece, Emily had visions of traveling with Lady Antebellum. Her daydream was quickly interrupted by the reality that only three days remained before a winner would be chosen from the six finalists. "The three longest days ever," Emily recounts.

Those days were spent not in fear but rather in awe that she had made it that far.

The third day arrived. Emily, curious, typed in the contest's web address. Clicking on the winner link brought up a video—not of Emily, but of a man named Ryan James. Hopes that had run so high were crushed when the New Yorker took the grand prize. Regardless, Emily was awarded a guitar autographed by the band, and she hopes to continue to pursue her dream.

Emily currently majors in English at WCU, but she says "I'm definitely still holding out hope and trying to make my ultimate dream come true by having a career in singing. Singing has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember, but I never thought it could happen until this contest. Now I want it more than ever!"

To view "Sing Like Lady Antebellum" contest videos, go to: www.singlikeladyantebellum.com



Pushing The Limit

By Melissa Bradley

As a senior Honors student, Travis Mullen currently has a schedule that includes attending 21 hours of classes, working two jobs, editing Western Carolina University's literary magazine, *Nomad*, and serving on the Resident Assistant Advisory Council. He is a resident assistant for Walker Residence Hall and is pursuing double majors in English literature and psychology with minors in computer science and professional writing.

A Greensboro native, Travis has always loved English but entered college with a major in computer science. "It's what my mother wanted me to do," he says, "but my English professor during my freshman year told me to do what I love, so I switched my focus to English and psychology."



While all of this effort makes Travis extraordinary, what truly sets him apart is his passion for John Milton, author of *Paradise Lost*. In early 2011, Travis attended the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, N.Y., to present his paper titled "Satan is America: Thomas Jefferson, John Milton and the Foundations of a New Republic," which focused on Milton's influence on the Founding Fathers, and more specifically, on Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson quotes Milton more than any other author, and Milton's influence can be seen in many documents that Jefferson wrote.

Travis's research on Milton and the Founding Fathers was done at the University of South Carolina, and he plans on reapplying for a grant so that he can travel there in the 2011-12 school year. He says that the Special Collections Library there was incredible and extensive. He even got a chance to look into the vault of rare books.

WCU's Milton scholar, English professor Dr. Mimi Fenton, says, "Travis's work on Milton has the potential to be important because he is working with materials other scholars have not yet worked with. He is exploring a topic of great relevance, not only to Milton and early modern literature scholars but to scholars of American history and culture. It's wonderful to see such an intelligent and diligent student doing cutting-edge research with the long-term potential for publication."

After he graduates, Travis's plans are to pursue a doctorate, teach English at a small university and do research. If he could end up anywhere, he says, he would like to end up back at WCU. He believes that he could offer a unique perspective because of the varied work in his other majors.

For someone whose original goal was not to study English, Travis has shaken up the idea of limitations with what he has achieved as an English major—from his NCUR paper all the way to his physical appearance. Travis has several tattoos, each with a specific story and meaning. Most of his tattoos found their inspiration from literary works. "I'd love to work on researching prejudice against people with tattoos. My goal is to change the perceptions people have, and I think showing how well I'm doing is a good start," he adds.



"Travis's work on Milton has the potential to be important because he is working with materials other scholars have not yet worked with. He is exploring a topic of great relevance."

EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON

BY STEPHANIE DEVANE

What if you were forced to give up the thing that you loved most? But what if giving it up meant that you would find something else just as great? This was Dion Wilson's situation.

Dion, a senior at Western Carolina University, grew up just an hour away in Black Mountain, N.C., and graduated from Charles D. Owen High School. In spring 2008, Dion walked onto the WCU football team and earned a partial scholarship. He played running back during his sophomore and junior years, but during his junior year his life changed completely.

During the WCU-Tusculum game, he complained of having a constant headache, and the slightest touch would cause him to lose his balance. He made a doctor appointment for the following Monday and received the news that he was not allowed to play football anymore. He had suffered four concussions in 13 months. This devastating news was hard for him to grasp, but some of his pain was eased when his academic adviser and fellow social skills group volunteer, Dr. Jennifer Hinton of the WCU Recreational Therapy Program, recommended him for a summer job at Camp Royall.

Camp Royall serves people of all ages with various types of autism. Located in Moncure, N.C., it is the

largest and oldest summer camp program for people with autism. Dion worked there as a lifeguard and a counselor during summer 2011. He explains, "Working with the kids there was like having a new little brother every week." Daily activities included "Shady Circle," a morning activity where the residents and counselors all gathered and sang camp songs. After naptime and dinner, campers would end the day with big evening events such as a talent show.

Before he started working at Camp Royall, Dion had had no personal relationship with anyone with autism. At first, he agreed to the job simply because it was an employment opportunity but claims that working there has changed his life completely. If he had to choose between Camp Royall and football, he says that he could not do it. "Everything happens for a reason," he notes. "Camp Royall was the best time I have ever had in my life. It was the happiest I have ever been and nothing can beat the smiles on the campers' faces."

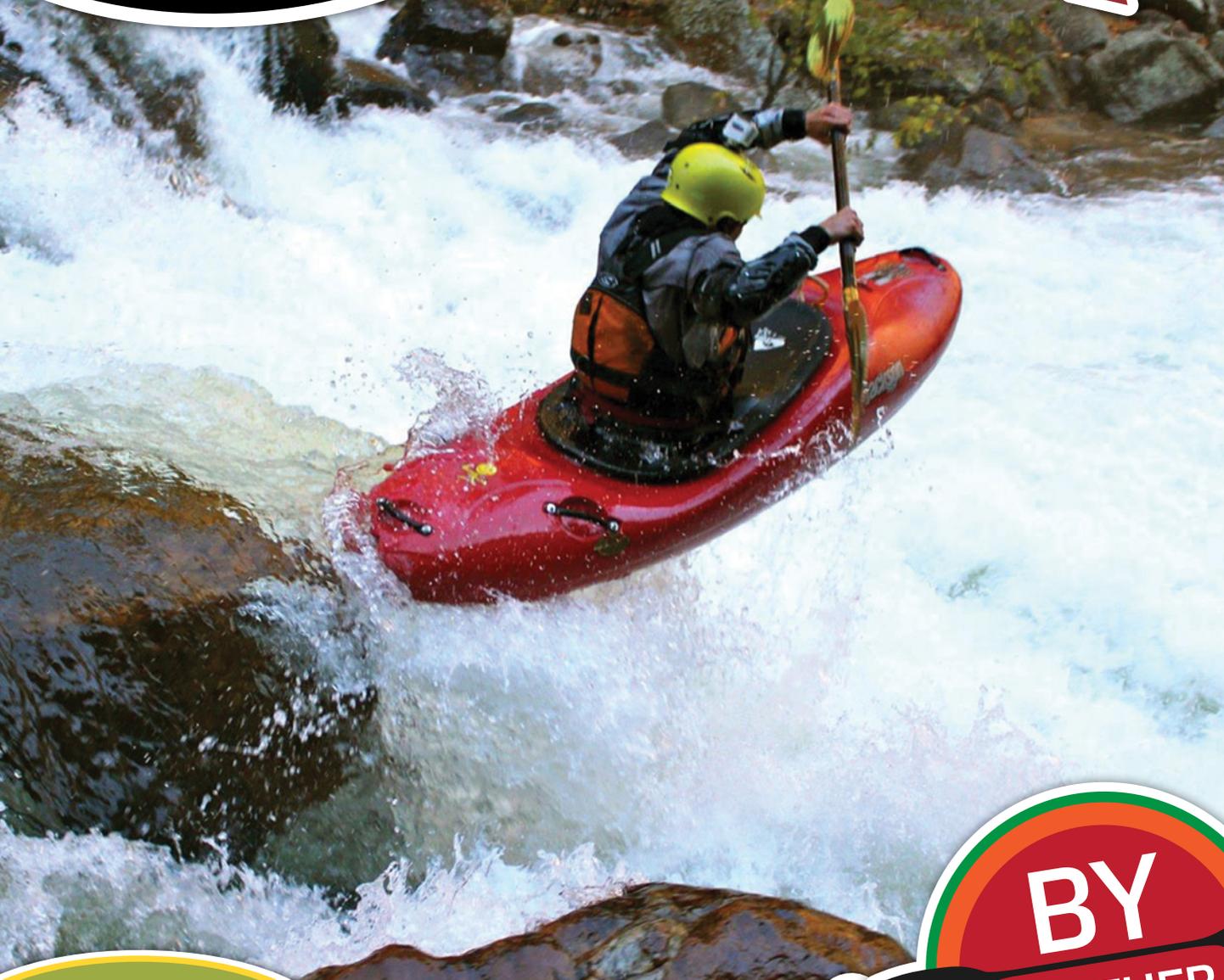
Dion will graduate from WCU in May 2012, with a degree in recreational therapy. Until then, he is helping out his former teammates with their strength and conditioning routines. After he graduates, he plans on getting an internship working with alcohol and substance abuse patients and hopes to have a career in aquatic therapy.

To learn more about Camp Royall, go to www.autismsociety-nc.org

MORE
THAN A

drop in the bucket

THAN A



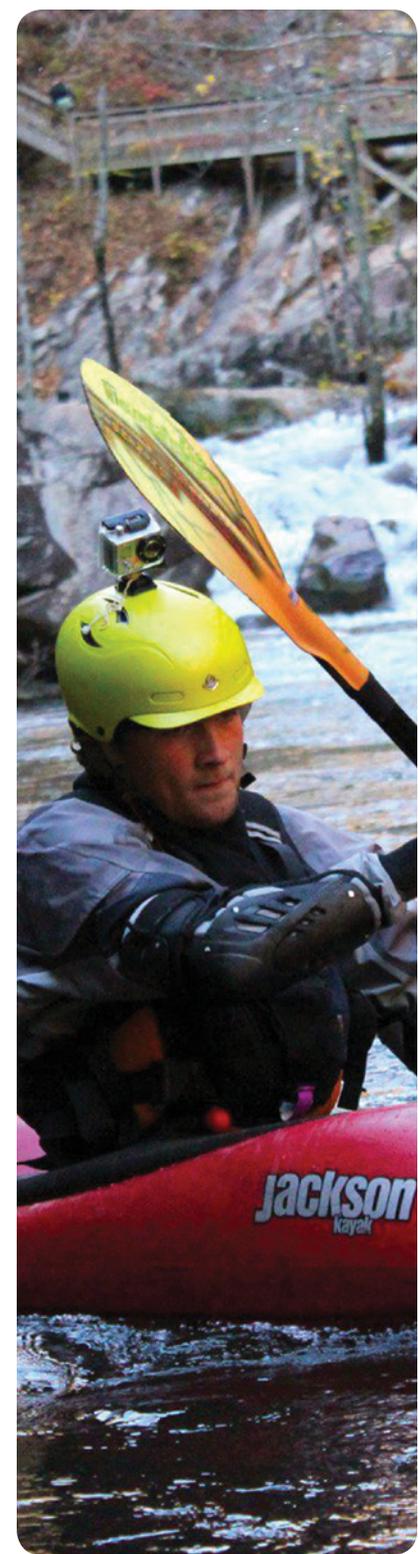
“HE IS THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY OF THE HONORS COLLEGE,”
says Dr. Brian Railsback, Honors College dean.
“He is adventurous, outdoorsy, charismatic,
and very intelligent.”

Railsback is referring to senior Justin Kleberg, a native of Pittsboro, N.C., who through his passion for kayaking and his diligence in class has exemplified the Honors College’s motto, “Ad Vitam Paramus,” or preparation for life.

When he was 15, Justin and his family vacationed in Massanutten, Va., where he experienced kayaking for the first time. “I ended up having a blast,” he says. After that, his love for kayaking exploded. Now, he has paddled seriously for four years, and his passion for the sport has taken him to nine states.

However, at first Justin did not know where paddling might take him. Emily Sharpe, his Honors College advisor, suggested that he try a few parks and recreation management classes. “These classes were right up my alley,” Justin says. “They allowed me to kayak a lot and taught me how to plan recreational opportunities for others.”

Once he declared his major as parks and recreation management, he became more involved. He established a Facebook group called Whee Whitewater, a network for WCU students who are interested in river sports. With fellow parks and recreation students, Will Butler and Emily Baker, he helped build



BY
HEATHER
ALLISON



the Western Waterfall Awareness Program, designed to raise awareness about waterfall safety. They presented the program at the 2011 Undergraduate Expo.



This year he helped organize events with World Kayak in southern West Virginia and helped Base Camp Cullowhee host an event at Eternity Hole, a popular kayaking spot on the Tuckaseegee River. "Working in the kayaking community gives me the opportunity to introduce kayaking to others and to promote its growth," says Justin. He calls kayaking a "lifestyle sport" and notes that it can never be perfected. "One person cannot know its limits, because the skill set is constantly evolving," he adds.

In the future, Justin plans to kayak full-time, organize outdoor recreational events, and be a judge at the International Canoe Federation's



World Cup in 2012 and the 2013 World Freestyle Kayaking Championships.

"I hope that, to the kayaking community, I have been one small drop in the bucket," Justin says. "However, I owe my success to Western. I came with a very alternative passion and when I leave, I am going into an industry that doesn't fit into the traditional American, 9-to-5 desk job, but now I am truly prepared for what that may bring."



BACK TO SCHOOL BY COLBY WHITE

Not all first-year students finish their freshman year. Nick Weitzel, originally from Goldsboro, N.C., began at Western Carolina University only to drop out during his freshman year. After surviving several years in Los Angeles, Nick re-enrolled in college. Now things are very different for him. Currently a senior, he is in the Honors College, has traveled to Kenya and is currently involved in a research project with professor Anthony Hickey of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

Returning to WCU was the second chance that Nick needed. His life was difficult during his years away from the university. He dealt with a poor job in a smoke shop, horrible bosses and substance abuse. One day, Nick was sitting in his Los Angeles apartment, thinking. "There's got to be something better than this," he recalled saying to himself. "I didn't have a religious epiphany

or anything; I just resigned as if I were two moves away from being checkmated." After that, he left L.A. for good.

Professor Hickey said that, at first glance, Nick does not look like somebody you would expect to see in the Honors College. "When I first met him," Hickey says, "I thought, this guy is not our student." Nick is older than most freshmen and has tattoos covering both arms. Regardless, with a high grade point average and a strong desire to succeed, Nick easily proved him wrong.

Being part of a trip to Kenya with Hickey and seven other students is proof of Nick's renewed interest in learning new things. On that trip, Nick was able to participate in development projects. He helped rebuild roads, homes and community areas. After three weeks in Kenya, he left knowing that he had helped people.

Nick is involved in a research project with Hickey. The project concerns second home development. Nick's part of the project deals with processing research data. Currently his research has found that outsiders move into rural areas in order to experience the lifestyle, but as more people move there, the original culture starts to die. An example of this is Cashiers, N.C., where generations of hand-me-down farmlands have been bought up and family names have died out. Nick and the other researchers seek to understand how and why this situation occurs.

With good grades and high involvement within the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Nick does not want to fail again. He strives to do whatever he can to succeed. He says, "It's interesting to be at Western Carolina University because now I get to renew my life."

WATER SPORTS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

- ◆ **Base Camp Cullowhee** (*trips, club memberships, and rentals*): basecamp.wcu.edu
- ◆ **World Kayak** www.worldkayak.com/contact-world-kayak/
- ◆ **2013 World Freestyle Kayaking Championships: September 2-8, 2013 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Bryson City, North Carolina.** www.noc.com/nantahala-gorge-2013/
- ◆ **International Canoe Federation's Southeastern US World Cup Series:** www.canoeicf.com/icf/Aboutoursport/Canoe-Slalom.html.

A Little Research

by Katie Marshall



*“I didn’t know much about African-American history—just bits and pieces,” says WCU senior Tiara Little. Tiara, originally from Shelby, N.C., is an Honors College student majoring in health information administration. Early in 2011, she started studying the evolution of healthcare for minorities over the past several decades. Her inspiration all began with a book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.*

In spring 2011, Tiara read this award-winning New York Times bestseller in her health data systems class. The book deals with a medical controversy surrounding an African-American tobacco farmer, Henrietta Lacks, who died of cervical cancer in 1951. Without her permission, a doctor at Johns Hopkins Hospital took samples from her cancerous tumor. These HeLa cells (named after Henrietta) did not die like normal cells. Instead, they kept dividing and growing. As a result, Henrietta unwittingly became the mother of the first immortal human cell line. HeLa cells, called “one of the most revolutionary tools of biomedical research,” have been used to study polio, cancer, AIDS, cloning projects and in vitro fertilization. However, the Lacks family has never received any monetary compensation.

For her research, Tiara studied differences in medical practice over the years. “It’s just amazing how things have changed,” says Tiara. For instance, Henrietta, of Clover, Va., had no choice but to go to Johns Hopkins Hospital, the closest major hospital that accepted African-Americans. Then after she had surgery, the doctors never told her that her radium treatments (standard at that time) would leave her infertile. With only a sixth grade education, Henrietta did not realize that she was sterile until well after the surgery.

“I was so shocked when I read that book,” Tiara remarks. “I thought, ‘Could all that have really happened?’ Now it’s hard to even imagine when we didn’t have HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) or the technology we have today.”

After the semester ended, Tiara continued her project during the summer. This time, however, she researched her own family’s medical experience. She interviewed her great-grandmother, her grandmother and her mother for a detailed look at healthcare and other issues discussed in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Her great-grandmother, Mamie Elliott, had quit school after the eighth grade to help out on her family’s farm. Later, her youngest daughter, Jackie, died when she was just a little girl due to an ongoing illness. Tiara’s grandmother, Helen Little, was the first female in her family to graduate from high

school, and Tiara’s mother, Cathy Whitworth, finished a year of college. Cathy Whitworth’s family had no health insurance and often used home remedies, such as sweet oil for earaches and shoe polish for poison oak.

“I would definitely encourage everyone to learn about your family’s history,” Tiara says, describing her oral history research. “I learned so much about history, my family and how we have advanced in all aspects here in America.”

With the help of WCU assistant professor Mary Teslow, Tiara will continue to study the progress of medicine and ethics in American history. Once her research is complete, she plans to submit it to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

In the future, Tiara hopes to attend graduate school and pursue a career as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

HeLa Cells

HeLa cells, called “one of the most revolutionary tools of biomedical research,” have been used to study polio, cancer, AIDS, cloning projects, and in vitro fertilization. However, the Lacks family has never received any monetary compensation.





Compassion for others is something that can't be taught in a class. Thankfully, there are people in the world like James "Dustin" Washburn.

Dustin is a senior at WCU, studying biology with a concentration in pre-medicine and has been volunteering his time, skills and patience since he was 15 years old. Dustin started his volunteer work with the local fire department in his hometown of Marion, N.C. He was not able to fight fires until he was 18, so he helped out as much as he could during those first three years. Later, Dustin added service as a paramedic with the Marion EMT program, the North Carolina Statewide Assistance program, the Westcare Hospice in Waynesville, N.C., and the Good Samaritan Clinic in Sylva, N.C.

Dustin spent most of his volunteer time during his sophomore through senior years at WCU at the Good Samaritan Clinic, where those who cannot afford primary health care can go to receive free or reduced care. "Seeing doctors volunteer their skills and time at the clinic—for the patients and not for the money—is really inspiring," says Dustin. He worked as a secretary, checking files, sorting paperwork and running errands for the nurses.

Westcare Hospice is for those who have life-limiting illnesses and need palliative care. The hospice staff believes that something more can always be done to bring comfort and dignity to their patients.

"It takes a special person to help out here," says Westcare volunteer coordinator Carol Douglas. Dustin spent four years helping patients there.

"Sometimes all hospice patients need is an open ear, sometimes it's chores and sometimes it's apple trees," Dustin says mysteriously. He clarifies by explaining that last year he helped a man in the hospice program trim the trees in

Dustin says, "We raised more than \$1,400 for The Good Samaritan Clinic last year alone." Dustin graduated in December 2011, and decided to resign his post with the club early so that someone else would have an entire year to work with the group.

After graduation, Dustin hopes to attend one of the nine medical schools to which he applied. East Carolina University stands out for

"Sometimes all hospice patients need is an open ear, sometimes it's chores, and sometimes it's apple trees."

his apple orchard. The man taught him how to care for the trees, and Dustin took in all he could. He explains, "If I were at the end of my life, I would want to impart my knowledge to someone else and know that I've helped them too."

During his freshman year at WCU, Dustin joined the Pre-Health Professional Club. By his junior year, he was president and now he is best known as a fundraiser.

him, but he would be happy to attend any of them. His résumé is impressive, but he notes, "There are thousands of applicants, all vying for the same positions, so what's going to set you apart?" Douglas says, "If I had to pick out anyone who cares for people beyond any limits, Dustin would be my first thought." Obviously, his "coursework" in compassion and service are what set him apart.



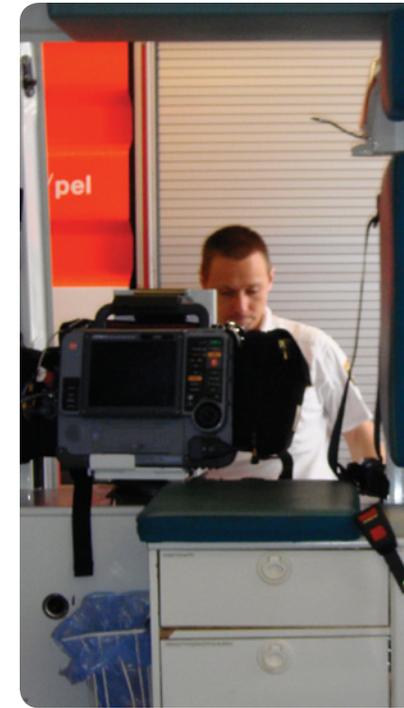
Four weeks jam-packed with adventure and travel is what Caleb Korn, a senior Emergency Medical Service (EMS) student, experienced when he decided to study abroad. WCU's Office of International Programs and Services helped this Mooresville, N.C., native apply to Finland's University of Jyväskylä.

The official languages of Finland are Finnish and Swedish. "I didn't understand anything," Caleb says. "My first day there consisted of little phrases written on my arm with a Sharpie so that I could talk and be able to get to where I needed to go." Fortunately, many Finns spoke English and were eager to practice with Caleb. He met a lot of people this way.

He spent the first two weeks at the university and exploring the city of Jyväskylä. In his free time, he hung out with other foreign exchange students and with Finnish students. "To me, Finns as a whole can be somewhat reserved, but once you get to know them, you have made friends for life," says Caleb. Finns do not use a lot of small talk or empty words. "If you were to ask one how they are, they would tell you exactly how they are—it wouldn't be 'I'm fine,'" Caleb says. "They say what they mean and they mean what they say," explains Caleb.

Caleb also traveled for a week by going on an affordable cruise. He visited Pompeii, Rome, Pisa and Sorrento, taking hundreds of pictures throughout his trip.

During Caleb's last week in Finland he got a once-in-a-lifetime chance to ride in an ambulance with one of Helsinki's medical service teams. Caleb works with WCU's EMS team as part of his degree program, so he had contacted some of the higher-up officials in Helsinki to ask if he could ride with their EMS team. A week later he got a reply, saying, "We'd love for you to come."



Caleb booked a train ticket and got permission from his professors to skip a day of class. He did not sleep for 50 hours for fear of missing his train stop. The Helsinki team (which consisted of medics, firefighters and ex-military who each specialized in some type of rescue) was "stellar," according to Caleb. "It was great. Even though I didn't understand the language, I knew exactly what was going on by the way they were doing things. It's very similar to the way things are here, but they are just a lot more laid back there," he says.

"He always wanted to go overseas," assistant professor Denise Wilfong comments. "I applaud his proactive nature in wanting to seek out how EMS is performed in another country. He had the opportunity and he took it."

Caleb says, "I would love to move to Finland—if it weren't so cold. I don't like the three feet of snow, negative 40 degrees and three hours of daily sunlight that they have in the winter." Still, he plans to visit again and adds, "The Finns are awesome."

ABOVE & BEYOND

by Leela Livis





Engineering can be one of the most difficult and complicated professions. Understanding some of the basic elements requires a high level of intelligence. Still, for Andrew Trull, an engineering technology major, engineering is almost second nature. Andrew proved this when he was chosen for a three-month-long internship as a design engineer in the summer of 2011 at Fort Bragg, N.C. He worked with the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), Combat Development Directorate.

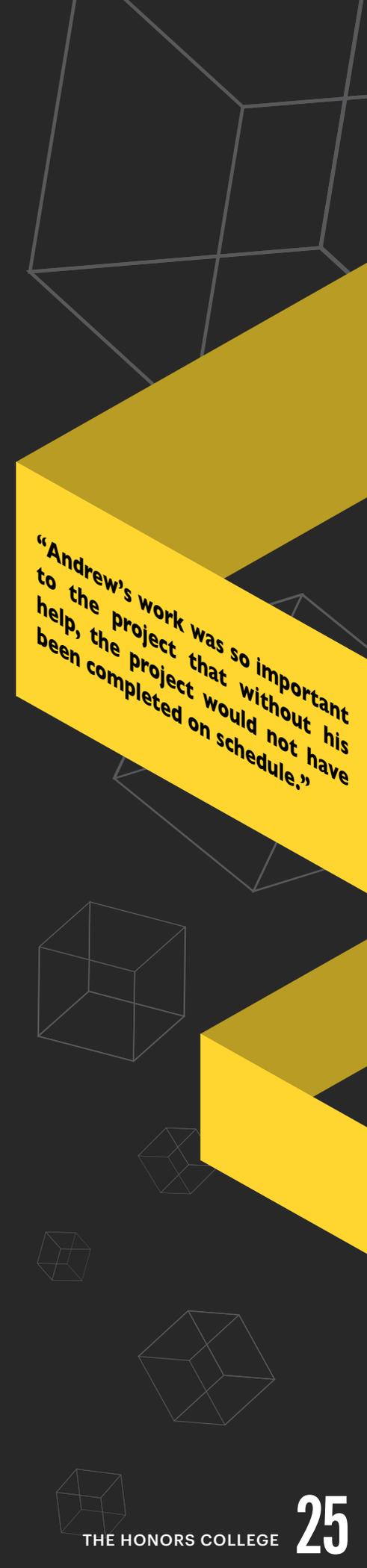
ANDREW IS A TWENTY-TWO year-old senior from Candler, N.C. Dr. Phil Sanger, associate professor and director of the Center for Rapid Product Realization at Western Carolina University, describes Andrew as “very responsible, selfless, team-oriented and an outstanding leader.” “He has a high degree of ethics,” adds Sanger.

SINCE HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, Andrew has been sure about his career choice. “I had a drafting class where we used AutoCAD,” he says. AutoCAD (computer-aided design program, or CAD for short) is used to create 2-D and 3-D models and images from a design that the user has visualized in his or her mind. Even though AutoCAD is only a basic CAD program, later on Andrew was able to master more complicated programs with ease. The USASOC uses one of the more complicated CAD programs, SolidWorks CAD. According to Col. David Roddenburg, director of the Army Special Forces Combat Development Directorate, “After a week of informal training, Andrew was able to master the program and begin designing parts unsupervised and with a minimal amount of help.”

ONE OF ANDREW'S biggest accomplishments was designing a system that allowed hardware to be mounted onto multiple vehicles, including a truck and an ATV. Roddenburg says that Andrew’s work was so important to the project that without his help the project would not have been completed on schedule. Due to the confidential nature of his projects, Andrew cannot provide specific details about the projects that he worked on but can talk about one of his fondest memories from the internship.

A SUPERVISOR APPROACHED Andrew and fellow intern Cody Rogers, a WCU student and a senior from Hendersonville, N.C., to work on a problem, which had given the industry engineers trouble for about three and a half years, and they still had no solution. Nevertheless, about five hours after Andrew, Cody and their supervisor began working on the problem, they came up with a good solution. “What we did in four to five hours worked way better than what industry had taken three and a half years to do,” says Andrew. Sanger adds, “They solved it not with a complicated solution but by looking at it in a way that no one had done before.”

TO THIS DAY, the Army still uses Andrew’s and Cody’s design, proving that even in a career as difficult and complicated as engineering, sometimes all you need is a new way of thinking.



Bist du Deutscher?

- By Logan Porter



The first step into the unknown is always the most frightening, yet often the most rewarding. Twenty-year-old Adam Ray discovered the truth in that statement in June 2011, while studying the German language in Stuttgart, Germany. Adam, a junior at Western Carolina University, is majoring in social sciences education with a minor in economics. He learned about the study abroad opportunity from his German professor, Dr. Will Lehman. Adam's decision to go abroad, however, was not an easy one.



Because he is from a small town, at first the idea of going abroad intimidated Adam. "I'm from Cullowhee, so going to Germany—to an entirely different country—was a pretty big change," he says. Adam learned about the Stuttgart program in the first semester of his sophomore year and pondered the decision for months. Was he ready to step headlong into the real world? Determined to experience Europe, Adam contacted Dr. Lehman and the Modern Foreign Languages Department during the second semester of his sophomore year and asked if it was too late to sign up for WCU's Summer Program in Stuttgart. He was welcomed aboard and, after registering for six credit hours of intermediate German language studies, he departed for Germany and the month-long trip.

Adam found that the Germans were friendly and welcomed American students. "They wanted to improve their English as much as I wanted to improve my German," he noted. He noticed that Germany is a very structured nation that appreciates

punctuality. Germans are always on time but strive to balance work and leisure.

Stuttgart is a bustling town in southern Germany that takes pride in its rich history. Monuments, castles and churches representing a variety of architectural styles from Gothic to Modern can be found throughout the city. Much of Adam's time was spent studying with his German mentor, Georg Yeahgor, but in his spare time he saw as much of Europe as possible.

He recalls the time he and a group of fellow students entered a small traditional shop in Stuttgart that sold handmade beer steins. The shopkeeper welcomed them

and chatted as they browsed the store. After speaking to Adam for a few moments, the shopkeeper inquired, "Bist du Deutscher?" Are you German? Delighted, Adam explained to the amazement of the shopkeeper that he was actually an American student in Germany for the first time.

Reflecting on his experiences, Adam says, "All teachers should spend some time abroad in order to open their minds to new ideas and cultures." Adam is a participant in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, designed to recruit bright young men and women as teachers for the North Carolina public school system.

Adam adds that he is definitely interested in going abroad again and next time intends to study the history of British sport in Cambridge, England. His plans for the future are to teach European history at the university level. Adams says, "Studying abroad helped me learn more about myself and gave me more confidence to be who I am."



STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES AT WCU

For more information on the Stuttgart program, see: wcu.edu/27415.asp
For more information on other WCU study abroad programs go to: wcu.edu/9245.asp

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2012

Below are the projects accepted, titles, student presenters and their sponsors for NCUR26 at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. In terms of presentations accepted at the conference, Western Carolina University was sixth in the nation.

BIOCHEMISTRY

Determining a structure/activity relationship for the triplex- and quadruplex-binding protein Stm1p
Catherine Denning, presenter | Michael Van Dyke, sponsor

BUSINESS/FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

Attendance Verification System
Arthur McIntyre, presenter | Brian Railsback, sponsor

Cell & Molecular Biology

Molecular Identification of the exotic mosquito *Aedes bahamensis* (Diptera: Culicidae)
Erin Gymburch, presenter | Brian Byrd, sponsor

CHEMISTRY

Development of Luminescence Lanthanide β -diketonate Complexes with 2,4,6-tri(2-pyridyl)-1,3,5-triazine ligand for Potential Biological Imaging
Alexandra Dougherty, presenter | Channa De Silva, sponsor

Development of a Potentiostat using an Open Source Microcontroller for Electrochemical Analyses
Kyle Fulle, Hickman Benjamin, presenter | Jack Summers, sponsor

Reactions of Superoxide Dismutase with Polyphenols
Benjamin Hickman, Kyle Fulle, presenter | Jack Summers, sponsor

CRIMINOLOGY

Blood and Authority in the Barrio: Mara Salvatrucha
Crystal Owen, presenter | Jamie Davis, sponsor

EDUCATION

Frequency and Perceptions of Dodgeball in the School Environment
Anastasia Carlson, presenter | David Claxton, sponsor

Farm to School in a Kindergarten Classroom: Kindergartener Responses and Preservice Teacher Reflections
Jessie Lay, Jordan Shook, presenter | Patricia Bricker, sponsor

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Super Resolution Imaging: Verification of Theory via Optical Gain
Casey Icenhour, Ainhoa Iglesias, presenter | Bill Yang, Yequin Huang, sponsor

ENGLISH

Lawrence's "The Rainbow": Cycles of Women & Nature
Kayla Beauduy, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor

Heroism in H.D.'s "Eurydice"
Laura Isom, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor

The Madwomen in Our Attics: "Jane Eyre" and "Wide Sargasso Sea's" Treatment of Feminism
Megan Mericle, presenter | Laura Wright, sponsor

"Whose Family is This?" Identity and Constructed Family in Gish Jen's "The Love Wife"
Sebastian Pope, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor

Dream Visions in Anglo-Saxon Literature: A Study of "The Dream of the Rood" and "Caedmon's Hymn"
Catherine Stiers, presenter | Mimi Fenton, sponsor

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SCIENCES

Plastic Soup: The First Steps to Cleaning Up Our Oceans
Jessica Hurlbut, presenter | Erin McNelis, sponsor

HEALTH SCIENCES & PUBLIC HEALTH

A comparative bioaerosol study designed to understand air quality impacts during high and low building occupancy
Kristina Bartlett, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor

Open Dislocation of the PIP of the 5th digit in a Collegiate Football Player
Heather Brown, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor

An Evaluation of a Mass Causality Comprehensive Decontamination Drill for a Small Community Based Hospital
Mikayla Deardorff, presenter | Burton Ogle, sponsor

HISTORY

By Grace Through Faith...
Caroline Parsons, presenter | Mary Ella Engel, sponsor

The War and the Wehrmacht: The Factors and Events Associated with the Rise and Decline of German Troop Morale During World War II
Christopher Ray, presenter | Andrew Denson, sponsor

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Our Habanos: Eluciating the Phenomenon of Cuban Cigars
Corey Atten, presenter | Lori Oxford, sponsor

The Children of War: A Plight for Afghani Children
Kriston Haynes, presenter | Annette Fletchall, sponsor

LINGUISTICS & WORLD LANGUAGES

The Shibboleth Defines Human Association
Olivia Causby, presenter | Jamie Davis, sponsor

LITERATURE

Tending the Humanist Garden: Voltaire, Candide, and the Meaning of Heroism
Andrew Benton, presenter | Mimi Fenton, sponsor

That Two-Faced Bitch: Psychoanalysis of Lady Brett Ashley
Kevin Hipps, presenter | Annette Debo, sponsor

MATHEMATICS

Security Properties of Elliptic Curve Des
Andrew Kimball, presenter | Lijana Babinkostova, sponsor

MUSIC

The Many Colors of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"
Alyssa Gillikin, presenter | Terri Armfield, sponsor

Philosophy of Music: A Comparison of Musical Ideas in the Ancient and Baroque Periods
Rebecca Lautier, presenter | Christina Reitz, Bruce Frazier, sponsors

An Analysis of Compositional Techniques Used By John Williams in "Star Wars: A New Hope"
Rebecca Lautier, presenter | Christina Reitz, Bruce Frazier, sponsors

How Does Cumulative Advantage/Disadvantage Affect the Availability of Music Curriculum in Public Schools?
Carolyn Wilkerson, presenter | Peter Nieckarz, sponsor

NUTRITION

Dietary Changes of Undergraduate Students Enrolled in a Wellness Course at a Public University
Krystal Arrington, presenter | April Tallent, sponsor

Food Truckology; Food Trucks - an alternative for meals on the go
Patricia Hipgrave, presenter | Wayne Billon, sponsor

Comparison of Students' Dietary Habits in Relationship to Current Major
Lauren Runken, Katie Tallman, Emily Lenski, presenter Brenda Marques, sponsor

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Poverty and Moral Freedom: A Foray into the Ethics of Simone de Beauvoir
Michael Branon, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor

The Individual-Social Conflict: How Definitions of Freedom and Duty Impact Moral and Political Systems
Emily Elders, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professors' Office Doors: Political Expression in the Professoriate
Colin Condreay, presenter | Christopher Cooper, sponsor

The Conflicted Legal Origins of the European Convention on Human Rights
Seth Crockett, presenter | Todd Collins, sponsor

Presidential Debates and Third Party Candidates
Catherine Denning, presenter | Cecil Livingston, sponsor

Public Policy Impacts of Rural and Urban Land Ethics in the Southeastern United States
Emily Elders, presenter | Todd Collins, David Henderson, sponsors

PSYCHOLOGY

Personality and Body Art
Alyssa Gardner, Shay Scruggs, David Chandler, presenters Mickey Randolph, sponsor

Hair color as a determinant of attractiveness: Testing evolutionary hypotheses
Joseph Melnyk, presenter | David McCord, sponsor

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Who is Tom Bombadil: The Mystery of the Master of the Old Forest
Meredith Gasaway, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor

SOCIOLOGY

Hijacking Agency: Social Stigma, Medical Expertise, and the Production of the Medicalized Master Status
Sebastian Pope, presenter | Heather Talley, sponsor

Cashing In: In Search of the Authentic in Rock Music Subcultures
Kathrine Sudol, presenter | Peter Nieckarz, sponsor

What is Sex? How Students in a Small Southern University Define Sex Compared to National Studies
Jessica Trapp, Jenna Cordrey, Alyssa Gardner, presenters Marilyn Chamberlin, sponsor

Cosmopolitan Activism versus the Niche Market: a Case Study of The Coordinadora Estatal de Productores de Café de Oaxaca
Nicholas Weitzel, presenter | Anthony Hickey, sponsor

Addressing Development as an Objective Consumable: an Autoethnography
Nicholas Weitzel, presenter | Peter Nieckarz, sponsor

THEATRE/DRAMA

Born in Blood
Alexander Volpi, presenter | Susan Brown-Strauss, sponsor

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Backdoor sexism: the anti-woman consequences of pro-woman legislation in France
Tiffany Barnwell, presenter | Jamie Davis, sponsor





ALUMNI UPDATES

AMANDA BIENHAUS | *by Stephanie DeVane*

Amanda Bienhaus is a 2011 WCU graduate. She graduated with a BSBA in business administration and law. She is currently a shift manager at McDonald's in her hometown of Evansville, Ind., where she has worked since she was 15. She says, "I like that it is familiar, and I can now utilize my degree in the everyday management aspects of the store." In January 2012, she plans to go to Harrison College to earn a second degree in veterinary technology. After that, she hopes to work in a nonprofit animal shelter or in zoo administration in order to use both her degrees.

ERICA BYRD | *by Bailey Yarbrough*

Erica Byrd graduated from WCU in 2011. She received two degrees: a BS in math and a BSEd in math. After graduating, she says her summer "was spent setting up and decorating my first high school classroom." She currently resides in Brevard, N.C., and enjoys working as a math teacher at Brevard High School.

BENJAMIN CHAFETZ | *by Leela Livis*

Benjamin Chafetz graduated with a BFA in theater performance from the College of Fine and Performing Arts in 2011. Benjamin now lives in the Washington, D.C., area. Since graduation, he says, "I'm working my butt off" as a professional magician, a business owner, a waiter and an outdoors-survival teacher. Soon he also will be teaching winter sports and working at a summer camp. "I like working; I like kids," Benjamin says. "I do what I love, so it's not really work."

SUSAN CLARK | *by Melissa Bradley*

Susan Clark graduated from Western Carolina University in May 2011 with a BS in biology. She is currently in pharmaceutical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill using the satellite campus at UNC-Asheville. She says that graduate school involves a lot of self-teaching and that professors "introduce a topic, flip it 180 degrees, and then test you on it." After she graduates, Susan would like to continue living in the mountains and have a job at a local pharmacy.

ASHLEY COX | *by Leela Livis*

Ashley Cox graduated in 2011 with honors and a B.S.N from WCU's School of Nursing. A member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, she is a registered nurse at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., where she helps with difficult pregnancies and premature births. When seeking a nursing job, Ashley says that it is best to "go get your foot in the door of a hospital before you graduate." For example, she recommends working as a certified nursing assistant in order to gain experience.

ASHLEN DEAN | *by Liz Ammons*

Since graduating with a BS in biology in December 2010, Ashlen Dean moved to Raleigh, N.C., where she works for Kelly Scientific Resources as a scientific recruiting consultant. She works with the top scientific companies in North Carolina, helping them find talented new employees. "Kelly Scientific also works with new graduates all the way up to PhDs and people who have worked in their field for several years," says Ashlen. In her free time, Ashlen has been traveling, learning new cooking techniques and planning her wedding for fall 2012.

CHARLOTTE DUVAL | *by Liz Ammons*

Since graduating with a BS in psychology in 2011, Charlotte Duval moved to Albany, N.Y., and attends the College of Saint Rose, where she is in the master's degree program in school psychology. She's hoping to apply for a doctoral program at SUNY Upstate Medical University after graduation. Charlotte says, "If you are interested in continuing on to graduate school, prepare early. You need to know what is necessary for the program you want before the deadline arrives. Also, develop strong connections with the staff, who are willing to do whatever they can to help you."

AMANDA HAMBY | *by Heather Allison*

Amanda Hamby received her BSEd in elementary education and a license to teach K-6 grades in 2011. Now she teaches pre-kindergarten at Mt. Jefferson Child Development Center

in Ashe County, N.C. She currently lives in Fleetwood, N.C., and is pursuing an additional license through WCU's online courses to teach children from birth to kindergarten. "I advise those interested in education to visit schools before graduating so that they can get their name out there," she says. "However, be aware that teaching is very time-consuming. It really is a huge commitment and something you will have to take home with you."

LAURA HOLLER | *by Heather Allison*

Laura Holler graduated from WCU's College of Health and Human Sciences in 2011 with a BSN. She lives in Mocksville, N.C., and is working as a registered nurse at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Laura advises those interested in a nursing career "to be flexible and not to get their hearts set on one position."

LUCAS LADNIER | *by Tanner Morris*

Lucas Ladnier graduated in 2011 with a BA in history and a minor in international studies. He now attends Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. He hopes to earn his master's degree in divinity so that he can become an ordained minister. In January 2012, Lucas will travel to a remote village in Honduras as a part of a cross-cultural degree requirement.

CAROL NORRIS | *by Hannah Clemmer*

Carol Norris graduated from WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions in 2011 with a BSEd in elementary education. She currently lives in Stockbridge, Ga., and works as a kindergarten teacher for Henry County Schools. Carol's advice for finding work in her field is: "In the education field, it is important to make connections with principals and other school administrators when looking to be hired. Become a part of the community and get to know people."

SHANNON OWEN | *by Tanner Morris*

Shannon Owen graduated from WCU in 2011 with a BS in business administration. She now lives in Atlanta, where she works in the Financial Shared Services Department at Genuine Parts Co. Her job is to help put all of Genuine Parts' subsidiaries under one financial system. She hopes to have a career at Genuine Parts and adds, "I don't think I would want to work anywhere else. I'm really happy where I am."

ROBYN PICKERING | *by Stephanie DeVane*

Robyn Pickering graduated from WCU in May 2011 with a degree in English and a minor in Spanish. She returned to Wilkes County, N.C., and now teaches 10th grade English at Wilkes Early College High School. "WCU was the best education in my field and, compared with everyone else, I feel extremely prepared," says Robyn.

BRITTANY MCCAIN PINNER | *by Hannah Clemmer*

Brittany McCain Pinner graduated from WCU's College of Health and Human Sciences in 2011 with a BSN degree. She currently lives in Waynesville, N.C., and works at Mission Hospital in the neurosciences unit. She is married and expecting her first child, a girl, in December 2011. Brittany's advice for finding work after graduating is to "try not to get discouraged or lose sight of your goals. Be persistent. You never know when your perfect job will come along."

MAUREEN PRUETT | *by Logan Porter*

Maureen Pruett graduated from Western Carolina University in 2011. She was not, however, a traditional student. She started college in her 40s, proving that it is never too late to prepare for the future. With a bachelor's degree in social work, she now works for the North Carolina Department of Social Services as a Child Protective Services investigator. She acquired her current job after interning with the NCDSS in Franklin, N.C. Her recommendation to university students is to "get an internship in your field if at all possible."

BOBBY RACKLEY | *by Katie Marshall*

Bobby Rackley, a WCU teaching fellow, graduated in 2003 with a BSEd in English education. After teaching high school English for five years in Mooresville, N.C., he enrolled at Duke University seeking a master of divinity degree. In December 2010 he married Amanda Huerta, and in May 2011 he graduated summa cum laude from Duke. Bobby is now studying in Duke's doctor of theology program and was recently named a John Wesley Fellow. Once he receives his degree, he plans to be a United Methodist pastor and university professor.

SARAH SCHULTZ | *by Colby White*

Sarah Shultz graduated from WCU with a degree in construction management. Currently living in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sarah is employed as an engineer/estimator by the Kiewit Infrastructure South Co. in Tampa.

NATHAN WATTS | *by Katie Marshall*

Nathan Watts graduated in 2011 with a BS in sport management. Now he lives in Greenville, N.C., and is studying in the doctor of physical therapy program at East Carolina University. For students considering a degree in physical therapy, Nathan says, "Go and see as much as you can—and know that this is what you want to do."



WHAT ARE THEIR PLANS?

We asked our May 2012 Honors graduates about their plans after commencement. Most of our newest alumni are finding employment as well as admission to competitive internships or professional schools and universities; those who had specific plans to report in May are listed below.

TIFFANY ALLEN (BS Communication Sciences & Disorders, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Communication Sciences and Disorders at WCU.

AMBER ANDERSON (BSED Special Education, 2012) is pursuing the MEd in Special Education with Autism Certificate at UNC-Charlotte and hopes to eventually secure a teaching position in Cleveland County at North Shelby School.

ASHLEY ANDERSON (BSED Special Education, 2012) is pursuing the MEd in Special Education with Autism Certificate at UNC-Charlotte and hopes to eventually secure a teaching position in Cleveland County or Charlotte Mecklenberg Schools.

FRANK BAKER (BS Athletic Training, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Athletic Training at Ohio University.

KAYLA BEAUDUY (BA English, 2012) is attending law school at Syracuse University College of Law.

SAVANNAH BELL (BS Criminal Justice, 2012) is pursuing the MPA (Masters of Public Affairs) at WCU.

BRITON BENNETT (BA English, 2012) was accepted into the Koch Associate Program in Washington, D.C.

HANNAH BILLINGS (BA English, 2012) is working in Waynesville, N.C., at Blue Ridge Books and Apple Hill Farms and hopes to move into the publishing industry.

RACHEL BLEICH (BS Chemistry, 2012) is pursuing the PhD in Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry at the Pharmacy School at UNC-Chapel Hill.

SANDRA BLEY (BSN Nursing, 2012) is a nurse at the VA Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

COURTNEY BOWEN (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is attending the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Southwestern Community College.

PHILLIP BOWEN (BA Political Science, 2012) has an internship as the assistant to a county planner and plans to attend graduate school at WCU or Virginia Tech.

ASA BOYD (BSBA Business Administration and Law, 2012) secured a position with ARAMARK at James Madison University as a manager.

ASHLEY BRACKEN (BS Athletic Training, 2012) is pursuing the DPT (Doctorate Physical Therapy) at Winston Salem State University.

GARY BRACKETT (BSBA Business Administration and Law, 2012) is in the Broker Training Program for Investment in New York.

PAIGE BROOKS (BS Sociology, 2012) is pursuing the MS in School Counseling with an assistantship included at WCU.

WILLIAM BURTON (BS Chemistry, 2012) is attending medical school at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

BENJAMIN CASSES (BS Computer Science, 2012) is pursuing the PhD in Computer Science at UNC-Chapel Hill.

MARGARET CHANDLER (BA Political Science, 2012) is pursuing the MPA (Masters of Public Affairs) at WCU.

SARAH CLARK (BS Communications, 2012) is a sales assistant for Curtis Media Group.

JESSIE CONNER (BS Special Studies, 2012) is pursuing the DPT (Doctorate of Physical Therapy) at Radford University in Roanoke, VA.

THOMAS COOLEY (BFA Theater, 2012) is performing at HART Theatre for the production of Look Homeward Angel (acting as Ben Gant) and hoping to be an extra for Iron Man 3.

SETH CROCKETT (BS POLS, 2012) plans to pursue the MPA (Masters of Public Affairs) and possibly go into economic development or policy analysis.

LYDIA CRYSTAL (BSED Elementary Education, 2012) is teaching second grade at Oakley Elementary School in Asheville, NC.

MARTIN DAVIS (BS Biology, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Chemistry at WCU.

MIKAYLA DEARDORFF (BS Environmental Health, 2012) is working for Oak Ridge National Lab, Oak Ridge Tenn.

JOHN DEGROVE (BS ET, 2012) is pursuing the ME (Engineering) at NC State University.

EMILY ELDERS (BA Special Studies, 2012) plans to pursue the MPA (Public Affairs) and then go on to Vanderbilt to study Law and earn a PhD in economics.

GREGORY FERRIN (BS Computer Science, 2012) is pursuing the PhD in Mathematics at the University of South Carolina.

JESSE FORTNER (BS Biology, 2012) is working at Camp Daniel Boone as Ecology Director.

REBEKAH FORTNEY (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is working as a dietetic intern at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Fla.

DONNIELLE FOSTER (BS Psychology, 2012) is attending UNC-Wilmington and working toward a Masters in Criminology and Public Sociology.

JARRETT FRAZIER (BS Communications, 2012) is working with NBC at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

ALYSSA GARDNER (BS Psychology, 2012) was accepted into the Mental Health Counseling Program at Gardner-Webb University.

ADAM GATTONI (BSBA Accounting, 2012) is attending the NC State University Masters of Accounting Program.

HANNAH GOODSON (BSN Nursing, 2012) is working as a nurse in the Emergency Department at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

CHLOE GREENE (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is attending graduate school at Clemson University to pursue a Master's of Education in Counselor Education in Student Affairs.

ERIN GYMBURCH (BS Forensic Science, 2012) is pursuing the Masters of Public Health, Environmental Health at the University of Georgia.

SARAH HARDY (BA English, 2012) is attending The Academy of Art University for an MFA in Film Editing.

ZACHARY HEATON (BFA Motion Picture Studies, 2012) is doing freelance film work in Atlanta, Ga.

JENNIFER HESTER (BSED Elementary Education, 2012) is attending graduate school for Elementary Education at WCU and also working as a graduate assistant with WCU Residential Living.

PATRICIA HIPGRAVE (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is working in the Dietetic Internship Program at WCU.

ASHLEY HOLLAR (BS Criminal Justice, 2012) is applying to the University of Edinburgh for a Masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

ZACHARY HOLLIFIELD (BS Mathematics, 2012) is pursuing the PhD in Mathematics at Clemson University.

SHAKITA HOLLOWAY (BA Anthropology, 2012) received a research position as lead "organizer" on an oral history project and will possibly pursue an MA at the Catholic University of America.

JAMES HUNTER (BSBA Accounting, 2012) pursuing the MS in Accounting at the University of Connecticut.

CASEY ICENHOUR (BSEE Electrical Engineering, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Nuclear Engineering and will be a Ph.D. Dean's Doctoral Fellow at NC State University.

SARAH JUSTICE (BS Biology, 2012) is interviewing for Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and plans to include a masters in veterinary science or microbiology from Kentucky State or NCSU.

CRISTINA KORB (BS Mathematics, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Applied Mathematics at WCU.

CALEB KORN (BS Emergency Medical Care, 2012) is a Brunswick County EMS Paramedic and plans to attend graduate school at WCU to earn the MHS in Emergency Medical Care.

AMANDA KOURI (BFA Theater, 2012) is working at Shenandoah Summer Music Theater at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Va., and will be performing in 4 musicals.

REBECCA LAUTIER (BM Music, 2012) is attending New York University in the fall for the Masters of Music in Music Technology.

MAIKA LEE (BS Environmental Health, 2012) is working for Oak Ridge National Lab, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

KYLE LUCKEY-SMITH (BS Emergency Medical Care, 2012) is currently working as paramedic at Midwest EMS in Jackson County as well as Haywood County Rescue Squad. Kyle is also currently enrolled at East Tennessee State University's Accelerated Nursing Program.

BRITTANY LYSIK (BS Sport Management, 2012) is pursuing the DPT (Doctorate Physical Therapy) at WCU.

JERRY MCBRIDE II (BS Construction Management, 2012) is attending graduate school for Project Management.

MICHAEL MCLAMB (BSBA Finance, 2012) is a financial advisor with Edward Jones.

AMANDA MCQUEEN (BS Environmental Health, 2012) is pursuing the MPH at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for Industrial Hygiene.

CAYLI MEIZEL (BS Forensic Science, 2012) is attending a masters program in anthropology at The University of Central Florida.

DANA MILLER (BSED Science Education, 2012) is pursuing the MSED at Vanderbilt University in Learning and Instruction.

REBEKAH NORRIS (BS Communication Sciences & Disorders, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Communication Sciences and Disorders at WCU.

BRITTANY PADGETT (BSN Nursing, 2012) is working as a nurse in the VA Hospital in Asheville, N.C., in Medical ICU.

ARIANNE PAULEY (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is working in the Dietetic Internship Program at WCU.

WHITNEY PETIT (BS Psychology, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Experimental Psychology at WCU.

MARY ELLEN QUIGLEY (BSBA Management, 2012) is working in management at Sears in Asheville, N.C.

PHOEBE RAULSTON (BSED Social Sciences, 2012) is pursuing the MA in History and working as a graduate assistant at WCU.

MARIE RAWLINGS (BS Recreational Therapy, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Occupational Therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill.

LACEY ROBINSON (BS Hospitality & Tourism Management, 2012) is working for American EMO Trans.

JESSICA RUSS (BS Psychology, 2012) is doing research at Duke University until she returns to graduate school.

SHELBY SABOLD (BM Music, 2012) is pursuing the MM in Music Technology at Valley Forge Christian College.

EILEEN SCHILLING (BS Anthropology, 2012) is attending the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK for a Masters in Forensic Anthropology, then she plans to return to the U.S. for a Ph.D. program.

ASHLEY SHEMERY (BS Psychology, 2012) is attending James Madison University for a graduate degree in neuropsychology and cognitive sciences.

AMANDA SMITH (BSED Social Sciences, 2012) is attending WCU for a graduate degree in Social Sciences Ed. and will also be a graduate assistant in the History Department.

STACEY SPRAGUE (BS Chemistry, 2012) is pursuing the PharmD at UNC Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

JESSICA STEWART (BS Communications, 2012) working at Old Edwards Inn as the event planner/coordinator.

STEPHEN TALLMAN (BS Biology, 2012) is pursuing the DPT (Doctorate Physical Therapy) at WCU.

JETTANA THOMAS (BSW Social Work, 2012) is working for REACH of Macon County.

MELINDA TOLER (BS Nutrition & Dietetics, 2012) is working on the WCU Dietetic Internship to Masters Degree in Health Science Nutrition.

COURTNEY WADE (BSBA Accounting, 2012) is pursuing the Masters of Accounting Program at NC State University.

CASEY WEEMS (BFA Theater, 2012) is working at Bigfork Summer Playhouse and National Theatre for Children in MT.

NICHOLAS WEITZEL (BS Sociology, 2012) is pursuing the MS in Rural Sociology at Auburn University.

ELIZABETH WILTCHER (BFA Theater, 2012) is a member of the choir at The Lost Colony, Manteo, N.C.





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