

WCU ACCESS NEWS

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Dr. Lance Alexis
Office of Disability Services*

No Need to Fear...

We have noticed a greater number of phone calls from faculty and staff with concerns related to accessibility, and we could not be happier. Our campus community taking an interest in ensuring that their courses and services are accessible only makes the campus a better place. The only concern I have about the increased number of calls is that I think some of it might be linked to fear. If indeed that assumption is fair, I understand the nature of it because the legal ramifications behind not appropriately providing an accessible environment can be frightening. However, it is important to address that fear directly because fear will only continue to be a detriment to the long struggle people with disabilities have faced in their efforts for inclusion. Please remember that giving everyone an equal opportunity is all that is asked. Providing that for students with disabilities comes with guidance from the law and the ability of several offices on campus to appropriately interpret the law as it relates to our campus. On behalf of the Office of Disability Services, let me say "please keep calling with questions", but my hope is that the calls come from a desire to achieve appropriate, equitable opportunities not a place of trepidation.

Lance Alexis

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Lance Alexis, director of WCU's Office of Disability Services, has accepted one of seven invitations to serve for two years on the Southeast Americans with Disabilities Act Center's newly organized Roundtable of Advisors for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities at Institutions of Higher Learning.

The center provides training, technical assistance and ADA-related support for people who have disabilities in a region encompassing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

As a member of the advisory group, Lance will provide guidance and oversight for the center's proposed goals and activities related to increasing public awareness and understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act and promoting voluntary compliance with the legislation.

Lance, who holds a doctoral degree in education, is past president of the North Carolina Association on Higher Education and Disability and recently served as a panelist at the association's national conference and at a symposium on service learning and civic engagement. His presentations and publications have explored topics ranging from multiple perspectives on access, inclusion and disability to the shifting paradigm on providing alternative formats to textbooks. **Congratulations Lance!**

PROCTORED TEST UPDATE

Once again, we have slightly altered the test proctoring system due to technical difficulties experienced by some faculty and students. For further details, please visit our test proctoring webpage (<http://www.wcu.edu/30447.asp>). As always, thanks for your patience and support!

DIFFERENT DIFFERENT (DEAF) WORLD

The term "Different, Different World" is an interpretation of a statement in American Sign Language (ASL). Loosely translated it means something like, "This world is very different from anything you have experienced." This exercise is designed to provide participants an opportunity to experience the communication barriers that are faced every day by those who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing.

You are now in a new community known as "Different, Different World." Welcome. All of the citizens of Different, Different World have varying degrees of hearing loss, therefore in this exercise, using speech to communicate will be of little use.

Hosted by Mr. Cory Parker, Deaf Services Consultant at the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Asheville, NC. Friday, April 13, 2012 @ 10:30-12:30 in Killian Annex Room 136 (Across from CatCard office). Please RSVP to Angie Song in the Office of Disability Services (x2780).

WHEESIGN ASL CLUB

For those of you interested in learning about sign language and deaf culture, WCU invites you to join the WheeSign ASL Club. Membership is free and knowledge of deafness and/or sign language is not required, simply a desire to learn and have fun. For more information, please contact staff interpreter Angie Song in the Office of Disability Services at awsong@wcu.edu or 828-227-2780.

MEET THE STAFF

DR. LANCE ALEXIS; DIRECTOR

Lance began his career with WCU in September 2007. He earned a Doctorate of Education from East Tennessee State University, a Master of Education from Christian Brothers University, and a Master and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mississippi. He has been happily married since 2003, has two adorable children, and two very spoiled kitties. He and his family reside in Sylva.

ANGIE SONG; TRANSLATOR

As Western's only sign language interpreter, Angie is responsible for providing interpreting services to students and visitors. She is nationally certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and is also trained in C-Print speech-to-text transcription software. Angie resides in Sylva and is the proud parent of two grown children and two sweet kitties.

We are located in rooms 135D, 140, and 144 in Killian Annex (One Stop). When you visit us, you may also meet one of our student workers (Kallie, Sam, Paige, or Zane). Please feel free to email or call anytime with questions or concerns.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE FOLLOWING POEM SUBMITTED BY ONE OF THE MANY GIFTED STUDENTS ATTENDING WCU.

*Listen lowly to
the rippling of the river,
Feel the sunshine,
hear the song of thunder.
Swim in the center of the
stream of wisdom and
power that runs through your life.
Let go...
You will drift in wonder and contentment
with yourself in the world.*

(paraphrase of Ralph Waldo Emerson)