

Killian Society Notes

1. Welcome Killian Society Kick-Off – celebrate our 125th anniversary and College of Education and Allied Professions. I am Dale Carpenter, the 7th dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions. I hope, as in gambling, 7 is a lucky number for me and particularly the College.
2. Pictures you see include some of the early pictures of Western Carolina University. You can see the story of Western and the College of Education and Allied Professions in the fall issue of Western Carolina. I think the Office of Public Information did a terrific job with it. I know it will be one of those key references that we use well into the future.
3. Like the magazine, the university has some other publications that you might find interesting. The Reporter is published each month online only. The 20/20 Vision is our Strategic Plan for the university. The Public Policy Institute has just published the Western North Carolina Regional Outlook Report Two Thousand and Fourteen showing economic and political trends in the region. Finally, the College has been publishing a College newsletter each semester online and paper version. We have some recent copies and we want to make sure you get the next one. Mrs. Lydia Cook is the editor.
4. I want to take just few moments to catch you up on the College.
 - a. About 2400 - 2500 students, undergraduate and graduate
 - b. BS, BSEd, MA, MS, MEd, MAT, MAEd, MSA, SSP, EdD
 - c. Where we were five departments for many years, in the last five years we reduced to three departments or actually two departments and the School of Teaching and Learning.
 - We still have the Psychology Department – Dr. Killian’s area with about 20 faculty and one of the biggest undergraduate majors on campus. Through the great facility we occupy in McKee Clinic we are completing evaluations for clients throughout the region. We are working on requesting permission to plan what would be the fourth doctoral program on campus – the Doctorate in Psychology, often referred to as the PsyD.
 - The School of Teaching and Learning now is the home of all our K-12 teaching majors. Where we once had a dept of elementary and middle grades education and a department of health and physical education as well as some other teaching majors spread out, we now have the School of Teaching and Learning with about 40 faculty members. Dan Grube is the Director of the School of Teaching and Learning.
 - Finally, we have the Department of Human Services. Human Services, with Larry Grantham as the first department head started out as a combination of programs – Counseling, Communication Science and Disorders, and Special Education. Counseling is still in the department with our current department head, Dale Brotherton, who was a student in the counseling program. The department now is the home to Birth Kindergarten, Parks and Recreation

Management, the only two undergraduate programs, and graduate programs in Human Resources, Counseling, College Student Personnel, and Educational Leadership. This is also the department where we have three totally online programs – BK, HR, MSA and we have the first doctorate at Western.

- The EdD began in 1996 and now has a few more than 100 alums. It recently joined the Carnegie Project in the Education Doctorate a consortium of almost 100 institutions that provides a good support network for the program. We are offering that program as a hybrid model where students across the region and the state study online and meet one-weekend a month – Friday and Saturday at our Biltmore Park site in South Asheville.
- In 2012, the university looked at all of our programs with a university wide committee to review the health and vitality of our programs, and several programs were discontinued. In Education and Allied Professions, we lost graduate programs in Health and PE. We also lost the masters in mathematics education, chemistry education, music education, and Teaching English as a Second Language. Our enrollments were low and the programs were discontinued. Because of that review and our goal to focus on both needed and viable programs, we have continued to look at all of our programs and we have re-allocated resources.
- In the last six years, the university is operating with \$36 million less but with an enrollment topping 10,300 this semester. To do that we have looked at efficiencies. We are revising curricula and we are doing less with more. I am proud and I hope you are proud that everyone is stepping up.
- CEAP no longer has the Centers for Reading, Rural Education, Math and Science Education, or the Support of Beginning Teachers. Our last cohort of Teaching Fellows will graduate this coming May. Those are things we have lost or are losing. Enrollment in graduate teacher education is down here, across the state, and frankly across the country. I learned just a couple of weeks ago that we will be getting \$100, 000 less this year from in the College in Distance Education/Teacher Education monies we have received in past years.
- Those are not things we would have wanted but they are the facts and they have not stopped us.
- Our **Parks and Recreation Management Program** is continuing to thrive and the recent university wide prioritization was one of only 8 programs at Western designated as a program that should receive more resources because it is such a jewel and we are in the perfect location for it. We are allocating more resources including faculty resources.
- The **Psychology program** a few years ago revised the curriculum and now it is one of the top three majors for undergraduates. The Psychology program is about ready to propose a new doctoral program because of change in licensing in the state moving requirements to the doctoral level in 2018. We have been

working on our request. New programs are hard to get but we are hopeful that our work to prepare and get support for this request will pay off for the region.

- Our **Human Resources** program and our **Birth Kindergarten** programs are both online and have classes at and above capacity.
- Our **Counseling Program** has long had more applicants than spots we can admit because of its recognized quality and accreditation status is moving totally to Biltmore Park to be more accessible to students and the clinical experiences in the area. We don't have office space for everyone but we are working on it.
- Our graduate programs in **Elementary and Graduate Education** are moving online to accommodate the professionals in the field and to compete with the availability of other graduate teacher education programs both public and private, both in state and out of state. They are not just moving online; they are revamping the curricula to keep it current and relevant. They are continuing to spend a lot of time in the field so that these are faculty who are deeply connected to what is going on in schools every week.
- Our **Special Education program** is continuing to be one of the most innovative in the state and country. The faculty are active in securing external grants to improve education for special education populations in the region and really the country. Our **University Participant Program**, funded by a grant from the US Dept of Education and Western's resources offers college age students with intellectual disabilities a two year college experience. Beyond offering students and their families the opportunities for a college experience and paid employment in the community that were never available before, the UP program has provided over 700 students on campus and over 200 faculty members to have direct interactions and experiences with persons with disabilities. It has made us all richer. The special education program faculty and the elementary education faculty have collaborated to begin a new major – **Inclusive Education**, where graduates complete a program that prepares them to teach elementary aged students with and without disabilities and leads to a teaching license in both areas – a move that has been widely supported by the public schools.
- CEAP moved to a model a few years ago where we hired professional advisors and now we have what we call **Suite 201** led by our dynamic associate dean, **Kim Winter**, and we have put the Office of Field Experiences, Advising, Licensing, Assessment, and Teacher Education Support in one location in Killian. Students no longer have to go to several locations. We are supporting them in one place in the College in Suite 201 in the Killian Building.
- The College of Education and Allied Professions now has three endowed professorships. The first was in Special Education made possible by a gift from **Adelaide Key** who just passed away. David Westling fills that chair. The second, made possible by a former dean in the College, **Taft Botner**, is filled by Dr. David

Strahan, and our third, from a gift by former chancellor **John Bardo and his wife, Deborah**, is Dr. Kofi Lomotey who teaches in our doctoral program. We are working on a way to fill another that has been vacant for a few years – the **Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professorship in Educational Technologies** funded by a gift by the former UNC system president C.D. Spangler.

- d. We have a great history and we have students who have done some great things. Not all can win an Olympics Silver Medal like Manteo Mitchell, whose picture has been showing. Not all can be the first female chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokees like Joyce Dugan and now on our Board of Trustees. But we hear everyday of those graduates who are teachers of the year for their school or district, or principal or superintendent of the year. We hear every day about those who have gone on to prestigious doctoral programs in psychology and counseling and become successful faculty. Those who are successful in their fields for the National Park Service, in non-profit organizations, in community colleges, in hospitals, in adventure businesses like whitewater or mountaineering areas.
- e. I was just in Tampa, Florida last week for a birthday party with alumni of Western and I want to tell you about three alumni that I spoke to there. The first graduated in 1959 and has retired after a successful career as teacher. She just wanted to connect with the university that allowed her to have a successful career doing something she loved. The second was a current teacher who graduated in 1983 and wanted to tell me how Western prepared her. I learned things that had not yet come to Florida, she said, and because of what I learned and had to do, I became a leader in my school. I am grateful and I wanted you to know that. The third, Paige, just graduated this past May in Psychology. She is working for New College and absolutely loved her experience at Western. She told me about the faculty who mentored her and taught her and how she was first afraid of them. They are simply awesome, she said. Her mother was with her and said that Paige could not have had that experience any where in Florida.
- f. So we have about 2400 great students at any given time in our College. We will never have enough money to do what we want. Staff are getting the first appreciable raise in about six years this year. Faculty have not been allocated a raise in five years and were not allocated one by the General Assembly this year and operating funds for travel and other things have been stagnant or nonexistent. But that is not what the Killian Society is about. It is about building scholarships for our students.
- g. Only about 8% of students at WCU get scholarship money, very low for the size of our university. We have to improve it. In the CEAP, we awarded about \$59,000 in scholarships for the 2010-2011 year. This year it was \$96,000. The Killian Society was formed to honor our first dean, Carl Killian, and we want to raise that amount for 1016-2017 to \$125,000. In the last two years, we have added 15 NEW endowed scholarships that are endowed at \$10,000 or beyond or are still building. That is wonderful. However, the cost of attending school and preparing for the kinds of careers that our College is involved in is going up. Our graduates won't make a lot of money. They are incurring increasing debt.

- h. That is where we need your help. We are forming new scholarships and adding to existing scholarships. Contribute and help to recruit others to contribute. The Killian Society is not about adding to faculty or staff salaries or purchasing more technology. It is not about many of the things we need, but it IS about supporting our students in their pursuit of a quality education of the opportunity to do well in their community. Not everyone can establish a new scholarship or make large contributions but all of us can help whether it is from a donation of money or other support. We have wonderful students who will do well with the support they need. We are asking for your support to give them those opportunities.