

# The Chalkboard

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY TEACHING FELLOWS

## TEACHING FELLOWS OPEN HOUSE 2010

It's that time of year again! Western Carolina University's Teaching Fellows Program kicked off the year by welcoming regional finalists and their families to campus for a day of fun and information on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Formerly known as "Recruitment Day," Teaching Fellows Open House is an annual event that is usually held in either late January or early February. Regional Finalists from across the state were invited to visit campus to meet the WCU Fellows and learn about the program, as well as to visit with Program Director Dr. Jacqueline Smith and Melissa

Johnson, Program Assistant. Families who attended were treated to a luncheon, and spent time learning about Western's program, as well as getting acquainted with the WCU Fellows.

The WCU Fellows enjoyed networking with the visiting families and making the day a success.

*Pictured below: WCU Fellows with the Catamount Mascot.*



## Service Learning



The 151 students enrolled in the [WCU Teaching Fellows Program](#) provided more than 4,700 hours of service through a variety of community projects across Western North Carolina, including many in nursing homes and food banks. Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning at WCU noted "The Teaching Fellows demonstrated compellingly how it is not too difficult to balance achievement with commitment to community service while in college."

## RELAY FOR LIFE UPDATE

Each year Western Carolina University hosts Relay for Life on the lawn of the University Center. This year, the WCU Teaching Fellows formed a team to participate in the event, which raises money for cancer research. Sophomores Fellows Phoebe Raulston and Nathan Bowman are spearheading the effort, and there are currently 25 members on the TF team. The team has raised \$340.43 thus far. Their goal is to raise \$500 or more. Fellows initiated several fundraising efforts, including making friendship bracelets and collecting spare change in the office. For more information log onto this site: [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=24321](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=24321)



## FELLOWS TRAVELING TO MONTANA

Five outstanding Western Carolina University Teaching Fellows were recently selected to present research studies in April 2010 at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Missoula, Montana. The group includes sophomore Fellows Christine Weathers, Kimberly Waddell and Amanda Smith, junior Fellow Kelly Sherrill, and senior

Fellow Emily Collman.

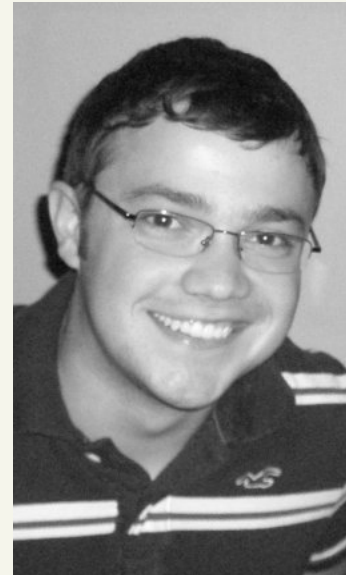
Each student submitted individual research studies on topics of personal interest, and their papers were selected from several other entries to be presented at the conference. The selection process was competitive, and it's considered an honor for those students whose research is chosen for presentation. The Honors College at

WCU will sponsor the Fellows' on this trip.

The Chalkboard would like to congratulate Christine, Kimberly, Amanda, Kelly, and Emily on this achievement, and we wish them the best of luck at the conference!

### ONE FINE FELLOW

Senior Fellow Andrew Blair was invited to teach and play on the drum line at the All-American Bowl Game in San Antonio, Texas. Blair participated in the game's half-time show, which took place on January 9, 2010. Blair is currently student teaching at Kennesaw Mountain High School. He is a music major at Western and plays on the drum line for the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band.



Andrew Blair

## LIGHTEN UP 4 LIFE

WCU Teaching Fellows are participating in Lighten Up 4 Life, a service project that encourages students to get healthy, have fun and raise money for the hungry. Junior Teaching Fellow Klara Ledford is coordinating this service project.

Fellows signed-up for the project and began making changes to their lifestyles in an effort to lose weight and develop healthy habits. This service project began at a perfect time —January—when most people are making New Year's resolutions to become healthier. For every one pound of weight lost by each individual, 14 cents will be donated to Manna Food Bank to help feed the hungry. The project began in February and will wrap-up in April. All of the weigh-ins are online and are completely private.

The Chalkboard would like to encourage project participants to keep up the good work!

## JOURNEY TO CHEROKEE

Beginning in January 2009 a new component was added to Western's Teaching Fellows Program. Sophomore Fellows may now elect to participate in an optional Leadership Trip designed to broaden their horizons and expand their leadership skills. On January 8th sophomore Fellows traveled to Cherokee, NC to tour the campus of the brand-new school on the Cherokee Reservation. Fel-

lows also visited the Cherokee Heritage Museum to learn about Cherokee culture and history. This trip also coincided with the completion of their 14-hour observation component requirement, which began in Fall 2009 when Fellows observed and worked with Native American students at Smoky Mountain Elementary. Of course, no Teaching Fellows' event is complete without

some fun. The day ended with an evening of night skiing at Cataloochee, located in nearby Maggie Valley.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### February

Amanda Aldridge  
Jennifer Annas  
Roxy Boone  
Amy Bowen  
Megan Greer  
Mary Griffin  
Brandon Harrold  
Lauren Kanna  
Klara Ledford  
Roxie Loving  
Sarah Malcolm  
John McDaris  
Marin Mulkey  
Brannon Owens  
Hanna Prince  
Adam Stewart  
Valerie Templeton  
Kimberly Waddell  
Rebecah Williams  
Jasmine Wilson

### March

Jeremy Cauley  
Andrea Clark  
Emily Collman  
Sophi Cox  
William Farrior  
Zach Ferguson  
Lauren Glass  
April Hicks  
Jacob Holster  
Robbie Howard  
Melanie Lippard  
Cory Lovelace

### April

Jonathan Arrowood  
Kerri Bernhardt  
D.J. Blankenship  
Emily Chester  
Lindsey Costner  
Chelsea Craine  
Billie Jeanne Curns  
Taylor Dyer  
Antoine Fullerwinder  
Lacey Hamrick  
Katrin Keener  
Austin Kennedy  
Faith Newell  
Jenna Reese  
Jeffrey Rousselle  
Christine Wilson  
Caitlin Yench

## NATIONAL HONOR ROLL FOR SERVICE LEARNING AT WCU TEACHING FELLOWS RECOGNIZED

WCU has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for the second consecutive year. This is the highest level of federal recognition for commitment to service and civic engagement.

The 151 students who are enrolled in the WCU Teaching Fellows Program donated over 4,700 hours of service through a variety of community projects across the Western region of

North Carolina. Among the service projects that Fellows participated in, favorites included Relay for Life, tutoring, and serving at the Community Table.

"The Teaching Fellows demonstrated compellingly how it is not too difficult to balance commitment to high academic achievement with commitment to community service while in college," commented Glenn Bowen, the Director of Service Learning at WCU.



### RON CLARK ACADEMY

2009 ended on a high note when senior WCU Teaching Fellows traveled to Georgia to visit the Ron Clark Academy (RCA) on Friday, December 4th.

RCA is a private middle school located in a low-wealth section of Atlanta. The school was established by Ron Clark, who funded it from the sales of his book titled *The Essential 55*. Clark is a graduate of the NC Teaching Fellows Program, and his story is told in the popular film *The Ron Clark Story*, starring Matthew Perry. Fellows had the opportunity to observe Clark's unique classroom style, and also received additional information for their own use.



### ATLANTA BRAVES

WCU Teaching Fellows are getting out and about!

In fact, some WCU Fellows will be humming "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in anticipation of a social scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, when they will travel to Turner Field in Atlanta, Georgia to watch the Atlanta Braves play the Houston Astros. This social marks the first time that the WCU Fellows will attend a major league baseball event.

31 WCU Fellows will attend the game, which begins at 3:00 p.m.



## **WANTED!**

**Do you have any news or  
announcements you would like to  
share with the Teaching Fellows  
program?**

**Have you won any awards or received  
any honors lately?**

**Do you have any photographs of  
Teaching Fellows events?**

**If so, please share them with The  
Chalkboard!**

**You can reach The Chalkboard by  
emailing Dana Miller at  
[dbmiller1@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:dbmiller1@catamount.wcu.edu)**