

THE HONORS COLLEGE  
2010

# IMAGINE

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY





*“Here was an original novel by Josefina Niggli, and all this time it was just sitting in a box marked ‘Unknown Manuscript.’”*



# Hidden Gem

MEAGAN FORBES

Most senior English students would love to spend their summers lounging by the pool with a good book, but Bobby Willover wanted to do something more interesting. In summer 2009, Bobby completed an internship in Special Collections at Hunter Library. Under the guidance of Special Collections curator George Frizzell, Bobby created a complete bibliography of former Western Carolina professor Josefina Niggli’s plays, short stories and screenplays.

Although English Literature majors aren’t required to have an internship for graduation, Bobby wanted to get a taste of his future career as an academic librarian. “I wanted to have some real-world experience, so I inquired at Hunter Library if I could do an internship with them. They told me Special Collections had a project they wanted to do over the summer, and I was all set,” Bobby says. When that project turned out to be assembling Josefina Niggli’s bibliography, Bobby’s first question was, “Who is she?”

Frizzell had the idea to create a comprehensive bibliography of Niggli’s work. “For the past few years I’ve noticed several reprints of her works and new anthologies. With the resurgence of interest in her work, I decided it would be a good idea to catalogue all of our information,” Frizzell says. Niggli willed most of her manuscripts, letters, photos and notes to the university, but they simply sat in boxes for three decades. Bobby was assigned the painstaking task of putting all the work in chronological order. He describes this as “comparing a draft of something with the published version and looking for differences between the two. Then I would look at the dates on her letters and letters from publishers to put the work in the right order.” Spread out over three tables, file boxes overflowed with half-finished stories, photo albums, crinkled letters from publishers and reams of revisions covered in blue pencil marks.

One of Bobby’s most amazing experiences was unearthing an unpublished Niggli manuscript that no one was even aware existed. “Beat the Drum Slowly” was lying in its original storage box, unchanged from when Niggli had last touched it. Bobby describes finding it as an “oh-my-God moment.” He recalls, “Here was an original novel by her, and all this time it was just sitting in a box marked ‘Unknown Manuscript.’ It was the coolest thing ever.”

Beyond his assignment to create a bibliography, Bobby also has written a paper that argues for a more accurate description of Niggli’s work. Although she was born in Mexico, “she does not have a true Latino heritage,” says Bobby. Instead of placing her with other Chicano writers, Bobby argues, “we should examine her literature more critically to place her within the canon of American literature accurately.”

Niggli’s bibliography contains more than 120 pieces, from her Hollywood screenplay “Sombrero” to “Green Grow the Rushes,” another story that was completed but never published. After spending his summer elbow-deep in nothing but Niggli’s literary legacy, Bobby concludes that “she was a pretty unique character.” Frizzell is glad that “this bibliography will associate the manuscripts our university owns with Niggli’s published works.”

Originally from Fort Myers, Fla., Bobby took a less conventional path to pursuing his education. After graduating from high school, he attended the American Sign Language Institute in Rochester, N.Y. “My aunt is deaf, and I wanted to communicate with her better,” he explains. In the fall of 2008, he transferred to Western Carolina. He’s excited to have brought to light some hidden gems of Niggli’s work, but more than that, Bobby says, “I came away with an understanding of not only Niggli, but my future career, as well as the hurdles and obstacles I may encounter.”



## Yearlong Niggli Celebration at WCU

A series of events celebrating Niggli and her work was ongoing through summer 2010. She was honored at the annual Gender Conference in March and at a centennial celebration of her birth in July. Information on Niggli and an online version of her bibliography can be found at [niggli.wcu.edu](http://niggli.wcu.edu).





## ALEXANDRIA MANN

Wake up. Go to class. Receive a call that somebody has gone into respiratory distress. Leave class. Save a life.

Welcome to the lives of Capt. Chelsey Dyches and Lt. Briton Bennett, two emergency medical technicians – also known as EMTs – and officers on the staff of Western Carolina’s student-run Emergency Medical Service. “You never know if it is your friends or professors who you’re running the call on,” says Chelsey. Chelsey, a junior, and Briton, a sophomore, are both Emergency Medical Care, or EMC, majors.

## Interested in Emergency Medicine?

An EMT basic certification is necessary to work with WCU EMS. WCU offers HSCC 240 and 241, a one-semester course, to obtain certification. Students might also consider a major in Emergency Medical Care. Paramedic shortages exist all over the United States, and salaries range from \$35,000 to \$45,000. Completing a bachelor’s degree in EMC will prepare students for paramedic certification and can also prepare them well for medical school. Students in the EMC program study cardiology, trauma, medical emergencies and advanced emergency medical techniques, and have clinical rotations on ambulances and helicopters, and in hospitals and trauma centers.

Four officers run the EMS: chief, assistant chief, captain and lieutenant. Under the officers are three sergeants, and the entire staff constitutes about 30 people. “Nobody is better than anybody else. We are all on the same team,” says Chelsey.

Established in 1976, the EMC bachelor’s degree program at WCU was the first in the country. Currently there are only 14 such programs in the U.S., and WCU houses the only one in North Carolina. It is

nationally accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions. WCU has three concentrations within the EMC major: pre-medicine, wilderness medicine and health services management. Both Chelsey and Briton were drawn to WCU for this program.

Briton remembers growing up and telling his mother he wanted to be a paramedic. “No, you want to be a doctor!” she’d reply,” Briton says. Chelsey grew up wanting to be a doctor, but she decided in her senior year of high school to pursue her Emergency Medical Technician basic

certification after her experience with South Carolina’s Greenville County EMS Explorer Post 466.

Chelsey is originally from Lula, Ga. She started working with WCU EMS her freshman year. Briton is a Pinehurst, N.C., native. He also started working with WCU EMS his freshman year, but has almost four years of EMT experience, the majority in Charleston County, S.C.

There are some difficult aspects to working as an EMT and officer of WCU EMS while in college. “It is a balancing act, with classes and homework and working shifts,” says Chelsey. The hardest part for Briton is not the long hours (waking up at 6:30 and 24-hour shifts) or balancing Honors College work but learning to be a good leader. “It is one thing to be in a lower position and think, ‘Oh, it would be so easy to tell people what to do,’ but it is much different when you actually get there,” Briton says.

Lieutenants have the most stressful position, says Chelsey, because they create everybody’s work schedules. This has been a particularly rough year with scheduling because the other two officers are seniors and have class obligations. “Briton is doing a great job though,” says Chelsey.

Of his fellow officer Chelsey, Briton says she is a great leader. “We think a lot alike and have similar problem-solving techniques, so we mesh well,” Briton said. This is important in a profession where



teamwork can determine whether someone lives or dies.

The best thing about being an EMT, Briton says, is that “it really makes us appreciate what we have” when calls aren’t as simple as needing a Band-Aid. Chelsey thinks one of the best aspects is that the EMS is based around students helping students.

WCU’s EMS handles two to three calls daily, which vary from sports injuries to seizures to cardiac arrest. The school has one ambulance, which is always staffed by two EMTs. One officer is always on duty, whether using a private vehicle or the ambulance. The officers all live together in Robertson Hall, the hub of the university’s EMS.

An EMT basic certification is required to work in WCU’s EMS. Hiring takes place at the beginning of each semester. WCU offers a one-semester course for those who want to obtain their certification.

Although EMS plays a significant role in each student-worker’s life, it isn’t all they do. Both Briton and Chelsey are members of the WCU Honors College and Epsilon Sigma Pi, the EMC service organization on campus. Briton is an Eagle Scout and classically trained concert pianist, with an album on iTunes called “Say Goodbye EP.” Chelsey was in marching band throughout high school and her freshman year at WCU.

After graduation, Chelsey plans to work as a paramedic and Briton plans to go on to osteopathic medical school.

Working as an EMT can be a demanding and draining job. However, the benefits and rewards outweigh the negatives. “You get to do what you love and still go to school,” says Chelsey.



## The Sound of the Shape

**KELSEY L. HALES**

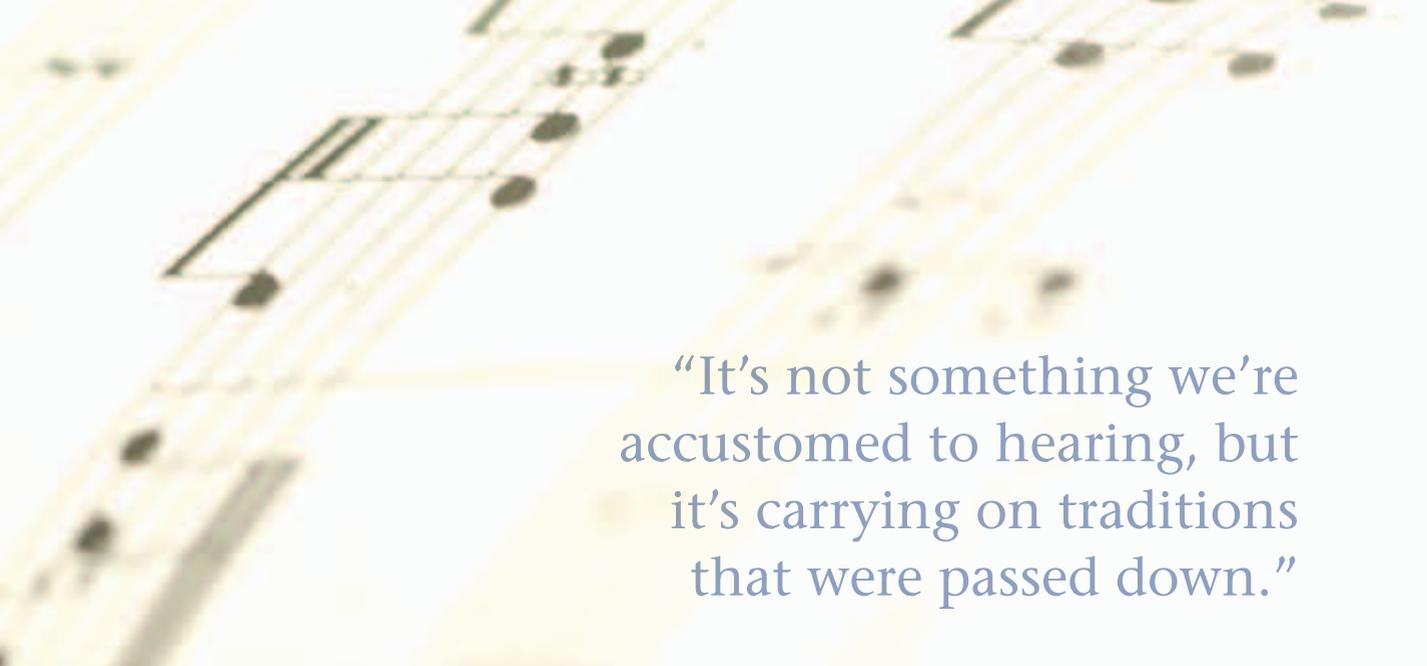
The art of shape note singing dates back more than 200 years. Nicholas Gattis, a senior at Western Carolina University, is doing his best to show people just why this art remains alive.

Nick originally hails from Snellville, Ga., but chose to attend Western Carolina for its excellent Music Education program. His instrument of choice is the clarinet, which he has played in several different groups, including the University Wind Ensemble (where he is first chair), Concert Choir, Pride of the Mountains Marching Band, the Clarinet Ensemble, and the Western Carolina Civic Orchestra. In addition, Nick is an Honors student with a GPA of 3.54 – well over the requirement for graduating with an Honors College diploma.

In 2008, as a junior, he presented a paper titled “The History of the Clarinet: Antiquity through the 18th Century” at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Nick discovered the idea for his new research project, which he presented at NCUR during the spring of 2009.

### The Vaccine Sensation | by Joshua Darovitz

Colleges are a perfect place for a virus to spread, but not at Western Carolina University. During the week of Nov. 10-Nov. 13, 2009, WCU got an early start on battling the persistent H1N1 flu virus. Volunteer students from the Emergency Medical Care program, including Briton Bennett and Chelsey Dyches, plus numerous other volunteer health care workers, worked diligently to ensure everyone who qualified received this vaccine, which was free for WCU students, faculty and staff. Chelsey admits, “We had several students who were really frightened to receive the vaccine, but I tried to calm their nerves by talking to them about other topics such as their major or why they chose Western. Usually I was able to give the vaccine while we were talking and often heard, ‘Is that it?’”



“It’s not something we’re accustomed to hearing, but it’s carrying on traditions that were passed down.”



Will Peebles, director of Western Carolina’s School of Music, asked Nick to participate in a shape note elective course at a Mountain Dulcimer Week held at WCU in summer 2009. Ever eager, Nick agreed and was soon pulled in to the world of shape note singing, a mountain tradition of associating musical notes with syllables instead of the traditional notes on a music staff. The notes have different shaped “heads” (such as triangular, square, and gumdrop, among others) instead of the typical round head at the top of their stem. Each shape represents a syllable from the solfege – a technique for sight reading music known to most people from the popular “Do-Re-Mi” song from “The Sound of Music.” This style can be sung in either a four-shape system (meaning four different notes) or seven-shape system (seven notes). This tradition is still being kept alive in churches and at “singings” in Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama.

“When I started researching,” Nick says, “I asked, ‘Does this still exist in North Carolina?’ And it does, and everyone that I’ve talked to says that it’s not a dying art. The main question is, ‘Why do we do this?’ And a lot of people say, ‘It’s because we like it.’ It’s a lot of fun to sing this style of music.”

Nick has already learned to read shape notes himself and plans to use them in the future as a teacher. “Dr. Peebles and I have been talking about how else we can use this, and one of the neat things I would like to try is teaching it to a beginner band,” Nick says. “I’ve been to several singings – that’s what they call them, singings – and the people can sight-read better than most college music majors.”

At the moment, trying to find time to juggle all his responsibilities seems to be Nick’s biggest problem. “I’m getting ready to do my student teaching. Balancing out all my other courses and all the other ensembles I’m in takes up a lot of time,” he says. In addition to this, Nick has to find time to practice his clarinet and do field research for his project, but he still remains deeply invested in the research he conducts. “It’s a participation thing. There are no shape note concerts. You actively do it. If you don’t know how, the person next to you will stop and teach you. I went to a singing all by myself, and the people just welcomed me. People describe the songs as hauntingly beautiful. It’s not something we’re accustomed to hearing, but it’s about carrying on traditions that were passed down.”

#### Want to Learn More?

For more information about shape note singing, visit <http://fasola.org>, and look for shape note singing at WCU’s annual Mountain Heritage Day.



## BUILDING *international* CONNECTIONS

GRACE HAZEN

“I’ve always known that I was to do mission work for the rest of my life,” says Hanna Beck. She knows her volunteer work has changed lives and will continue to make a difference.

Hanna is a biology pre-med major and law minor at WCU, but is still deciding what she wants to do after graduation. In May 2009, she went on a 10-day mission trip to Rabinal, Guatemala, with the Wesley Foundation to build houses funded by Habitat for Humanity. Jay Hinton, campus minister for the Wesley Foundation, and his wife, Jennifer Hinton, faculty adviser, directed the trip.

The Hintons took 10 students whose main job in building houses, Hanna says, was to “chop holes in blocks.” The houses were constructed from cinderblocks that needed holes so that rebar could be inserted. Cinderblocks were used because they resist storms well and are easily accessible in Guatemala, unlike other building materials, such as wood. The students worked in two groups to build two houses simultaneously.

The year before, Jennifer and Jay had gone to the same area to build houses. Jennifer says, “Last year we built two houses, side by side, in a Habitat for Humanity village. This year we built two houses near existing homes, one in town and one in the countryside.” The houses from the year before were already finished, and Hanna

commented, “It was neat to see what we were working towards.”

Jennifer noted that the Guatemalan people were “so warm and inviting, and truly were grateful for the people who had traveled from what seems a world away to help them live a better life. They worked side by side with us on their homes.”

The Guatemalans were not accustomed to seeing people with fair skin and light hair like Hanna, so they were curious but always friendly. “We also took more side trips this year,” Jennifer says, which led them to find a hospital for undernourished children. Hanna and the other students were able to play with the children and learned that some children would eventually go home. For others, however, their parents would not come back. “It was like an orphanage,” Hanna says.

Nine days after Hanna returned from Guatemala she went on another trip called the Scandinavian Caravan. This is an exchange program that allows college-age Methodist students from the United States to go to Scandinavia and spread their faith. On alternate years, Scandinavian students come to America. Hanna spent five weeks getting to know people from six different countries. Hanna says, “Yes, physical work is very important, but if you can meet and talk to the people, make connections with people, ... that’s the most important part of a mission trip.”

#### Interested in the Scandinavian Caravan?

For more information about the Scandinavian Caravan, visit [www.orgsites.com/nc/caravan/](http://www.orgsites.com/nc/caravan/).



# a mixture of new & old

**KATIE BOGGS** One luggage incident, two airplanes and six hours after leaving the Charlotte, N.C., airport, Bethel Bower arrived in Ireland. Her second-grade dream of studying abroad was finally about to happen. Twenty-year-old Bethel was in the land of her ancestors at last.

An Honors College junior majoring in Anthropology, Bethel is from Hayesville, N.C. For two semesters, she studied Heritage Studies at the Galway-Mayo Institute, or GMIT. Heritage Studies (which equates to anthropology at WCU) at GMIT is a yearlong exchange program available through the WCU's study abroad program. The curriculum (fall 2009 to spring 2010) may seem too lengthy for some, but not for Bethel. Though she missed people from home, she is adamant about enjoying her studies. "I love all my classes ... and my professors were actually quite nice and liked hearing about America."

GMIT is roughly the size of WCU, with stairs that "can be quite difficult on the knees" and similar class sizes, although the classes themselves are quite different. Unlike courses at WCU that have several projects and exams, Bethel's classes require one project and an exam that counts as 80 percent of her final grade. The highest possible grade is a 70, "and those are given very, very rarely," she adds. One of the best parts about studying at GMIT is that it includes a great deal of independent study and learning.

Bethel returned in May 2010, to finish her undergraduate studies; she will graduate from WCU in 2011. Then, using her international experience, Bethel will begin graduate school and earn her doctorate.

Besides loving her classes, Bethel has fallen in love with Ireland and its culture. According to Bethel, "Ireland

is so interesting historically and so very beautiful. It is amazing." Living in a house about 45 minutes from Galway's City Center with two fellow exchange students afforded Bethel the chance to see the two aspects that make up Ireland: the historic and the modern.

"Ireland is very green, wet, gray, and has the most interesting mix of the old and the new," Bethel says. Known for leprechauns, shamrocks and castles, the most often overlooked facet of Ireland is its modern side. This island blends the traditional culture of romantic legends, warrior pride and open hillsides with modern technology, architecture and thriving 21st-century cities. "Ireland manages to have a hometown feel while being a modern country with full amenities. There are completely modern buildings next to medieval cathedrals," she states.

A perfect example of this cultural mixture is the city of Galway, home to GMIT. On the western coast of Ireland, Galway is renowned as a city full of Irish culture. Famous for numerous modern and traditional festivals and celebrations, Galway is ranked as one of the best tourist destinations in the world. Besides

this, Galway is a popular city to hear Irish Gaelic spoken along with English. Filled with medieval castles and historic cathedrals, Galway has grown into a totally modern city with splashes of Irish history.

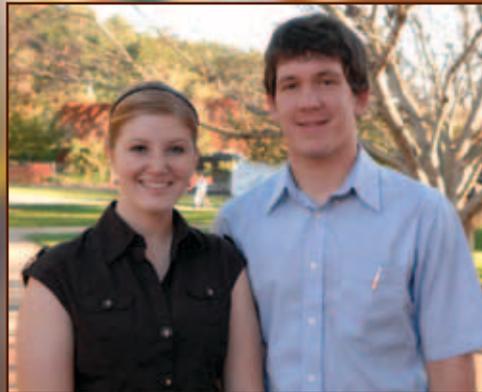
Ireland is not perfect though. During Bethel's visit, the American dollar lost value overseas, with an exchange rate of 1.49 dollar to 1 euro. "The Irish go out every night. I really don't know how they afford it. It's crazy," Bethel says. So what do you do on a budget in a strange country? Bethel's answer: "I walk around the town, talk to random people, join archery and the traditional music society and try to learn about the culture and people here." Sound like a lot? Add cooking and you get a picture of Bethel's life in Ireland.

Of course, discovering a new and vibrant country cannot exist without adventurous mishaps. Exploring Dublin should have been an easy task, but faulty directions from police and friends had Bethel lost one time for more than two hours. Regardless, these accidental detours have left Bethel with memories and fun. "I think that the best way to get to know somewhere is to just get lost and have to find your way home again," says Bethel.

## Would You Enjoy Studying Abroad?

For information about WCU's study abroad program, contact study abroad adviser John Schweikart at [jschweikart@wcu.edu](mailto:jschweikart@wcu.edu) or 828.227.2567, or go to [international.wcu.edu](http://international.wcu.edu).

# Teaching a Love of Reading



## AMY MATTHEWS

Say that you're an undergraduate. How would you like to present research at a prestigious national conference, alongside top education professionals from around the nation? This is the reality for two Western Carolina University majors in the English Education Program. Candice Brown and Earl King were chosen by two WCU professors, Dr. Catherine Carter and Dr. Brian Lawrence, to assist them in presenting at the 2009 annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Philadelphia, Pa., in November 2009.

Normally the convention is limited to K-12 teachers, college faculty, administrators and other education professionals, but Dr. Carter and Dr. Lawrence decided to include two students to allow them a unique perspective on research the four conducted together. In deciding whom to ask to accompany them, they wanted students who were responsible and had a high level of performance, which led them to Candice and Earl.

Both Candice and Earl say they were extremely honored when asked to be a part of such a prestigious conference, but along with that came another emotion. Candice says, "I was nervous about the conference; thinking about presenting to a large group of English teachers terrifies me. When I get nervous, my Southern accent gets thicker and thicker and my grammar becomes poorer and poorer. I just pray that what I am saying is more intriguing than the new way I am putting words and clauses

together to form sentences. However, despite the nerves, I would not give up this opportunity for the world."

Candice and Earl are both seniors and plan to become high school English teachers. Candice, a native of Bryson City, N.C., also is an Honors College student, a North Carolina Teaching Fellow and a member of the National English Honors Society. Earl, who was born in Lake Toxaway, N.C., is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society. Besides attending school, he works as a desk clerk at a hotel. In addition to attending their regular classes, both Candice and Earl interned at high schools two days a week as a part of their education degree requirements. Candice interned at Rosman High School while Earl was at Robbinsville High School. They both enjoy hiking, and Earl enjoys fishing and playing tennis while Candice loves reading.

The NCTE annual convention includes hundreds of different sessions on research projects conducted by professors and other educators. This year's convention theme was "Once and Future Classics: Reading Between the Lines." The sessions all centered on reading instruction in schools.

The WCU group's research focused on reading instruction in rural high schools. The group hoped to discover more about rural schools and how WCU can better help education majors teach reading after they graduate. They conducted interviews around the region at 10 different schools,

interviewing two to three teachers per school. Their list of eight research questions included the topics of what part reading plays in the classroom and the culture of reading in the school and community. Candice and Earl interviewed English teachers and librarians at the schools where they interned. Once the interviews were completed, the group compiled answers in order to look for patterns, similarities and differences. To finalize the conference presentation, each member focused on a different aspect of the project. The title of their session was "We Got Books Out Here, Too: Strategies for Promoting Lifelong Reading in Rural High Schools."

Earl says, "Teaching reading is often overlooked. I remember my teachers in high school simply told me to look over the questions before reading a passage, which was instruction influenced by standardized tests. Teaching someone to become a better reader is a difficult task. Perhaps the most difficult part is motivating a student to read."

At the conference, Candice discussed her history in literacy as a graduate of a rural high school and a student at a rural university. Earl presented his own reading history at a rural school, along with what it is like to be a student preparing to teach in this field.

With their newfound knowledge, Candice and Earl will be part of a new generation of teachers who are better able to implement a love of reading.



## TO CAPTURE A JOURNEY

HANNAH PAINTER

Campus Outreach, an interdenominational ministry, evangelizes to college students worldwide. Every summer, Western Carolina's Campus Outreach goes on a mission trip to South Africa called "Cross Cultural Project." Last summer Catie Chance, from High Point, N.C., traveled alongside 15 other students as a participant, intern and journalist. With her camera, notepad and gentle disposition, she experienced a whole new culture and returned with a story to tell.

Catie, a senior at WCU, is an English major with a journalism concentration. She and Deidre Elliott, director of the Professional Writing Program and English Department liaison for interns, agreed that a traveling experience would correlate brilliantly with her journalism concentration. Because Catie regularly participates in Campus Outreach activities, she wanted to participate in the group's annual trip to South Africa. She proposed the idea of an internship to Thomas Camp, staff leader for the summer trip. "He gave me his opinion and permission to do the proposed internship, and he basically told me to create what I wanted to do," Catie says.

Catie embraced the opportunity. "I was basically my own boss," she says. Along with participating in the service-oriented Campus Outreach activities, she wrote newsletters about her experience in post-apartheid South Africa, which were sent to family, friends and

financial supporters of the trip. Catie also created a brochure, also called "Cross-cultural Project," designed for people who may be interested in going on the trip in the future.

While doing service work in a township, Catie and the team witnessed firsthand the impact of racial segregation in post-apartheid South Africa. Apartheid, or racial segregation, began in South Africa in 1948 and ended in 1994. "It [the township] wasn't the safest place. Break-ins are very common. Most houses have a high gate with either spikes or barbed wire," Catie explains. The black South Africans, whose families were placed in the townships in the 1990s, stay in government housing made of concrete. They live in extremely poor conditions, with no electricity or running water. These townships experience a cycle of poverty. "They literally threw their trash out of their windows," Catie says.

The students spent the last week of June in Durban, on the coast of the Indian Ocean. "Beautiful!" Catie exclaimed. Here the team, along with four college-aged youth pastors, ran a Vacation Bible School for children in pre-K to sixth grade. "We weren't sure if some of the children were fed at home, so it was very important to be sure they had at least one meal," Catie adds. Activities included singing, puppets, snacks, games and Bible stories. "Our main purpose was to show the kids love. It was a time when they knew they'd be safe, they knew they'd have fun, and they knew they'd be loved," Catie says.

One Sunday, while visiting a township, the group attended a church service held in a tent. The pastor preached in English with a Zulu translator. "It was a completely new experience for me. They love to worship loud through singing, shouting and dancing," Catie said. As a service project, the team cleaned around the tent and planted flowers for the church.

The second month of the trip was devoted to ministry in student housing at the University of Pretoria. During this time, WCU's Campus Outreach group helped the student leaders form Bible study groups. It was here that she learned the most about

South African culture and was able to invest in the lives of students at the university.

Campus Outreach, or CO, partners with universities around the world. As Catie explained in her first newsletter, "Because the apartheid took place relatively recently, the aftermath of its social ramifications still affects South Africans today. Students at the University of Pretoria are not exempt. It is not common to see black students hanging out with white students. Although it is no longer legal to separate the races, it is still considered to be a 'faux pas' to intermingle. This is why it has been such a victory for CO Johannesburg staff to be able to disciple to students of different races alongside one another."

The trip was a major learning experience for her. "One of the biggest things I learned spiritually was about trust. To me, trust is surrender. As a Christian, my ultimate authority is God," Catie explained. "Culturally, I realized how closed-off I can be at times. It amazed me how welcoming the people were; some would even invite us in for tea. It encouraged me to be more active and more open to people."

After graduating in May 2010, Catie hopes to find a job with a Christian ministry, doing print advertising or creating logos and other publications for the ministry.

Catie was able to capture and record a journey during her remarkable internship. "It was an incredible experience. I would do it again in a heartbeat," she says.

**"It was an incredible experience. I would do it again in a heartbeat."**



Want to Learn More About the Campus Outreach Cross Cultural Project?

For more information, visit [www.cogreenville.org](http://www.cogreenville.org), then click on "events."

# A MODERN CANTERBURY TALE the pilgrimage of max degrove

JOSHUA DAROVITZ



Although this won't be written in the same poetic style that Chaucer used in his stories, there's no doubt that if Max Degrove was included in the original literature, he would have one interesting story to tell.

Max Degrove is a WCU junior studying to be an engineering technician and plans on going to graduate school. His fascinating tale begins with simple curiosity, well before his entrance into college. At a young age, Max and his family hosted a Japanese exchange student, and as far back as he can remember, Max has been interested in Japan and its culture. Not until his sophomore year, however, would he have the chance to visit Japan.

With the assistance of WCU's Asian Studies coordinator, Masafumi Takeda, Max experienced what he was so eager to enjoy – a two-week trip to Japan and its major cities. He remembers an area in Osaka having “big markets, with huge crabs in them. These crabs were the size of dinner plates, and breaded too. I didn't realize until later that the crabs were still alive.”

This first trip only whetted his appetite. Max returned to Japan during the spring and summer of his junior year, this time to partake in the most riveting experience of his life – a pilgrimage by bicycle around Chugoku, a region of one of Japan's main islands, Honshu.

For Max, this pilgrimage was not entirely spiritual. One of his major ambitions at the time was to study the elegant design of Japanese cars, and considering that he also is president of the Society of Automotive Engineers Club at WCU, this played a major part in his decision to return to Japan. A group of 10 close friends, including three university professors, embarked on this journey, starting from Naruto in May 2009. They ultimately biked 1,400 kilometers over a span of three and a half weeks to their final destination of Kouyasan, and visited 90 Buddhist temples along the way.

However, there was no room for storytelling on this particular pilgrimage. They would wake up, bike for miles at a time (often through rough terrain or rainy weather), visit towns to stock up on necessary equipment and food, and then find a decent camping spot for the night. Sometimes that proved difficult, like the night they slept on a beach and had to cope with the beach's not-so-clean

appearance while they got plundered by wild dogs. Regardless, Max says, “There's always a romantic hint to sleeping on the beach under the stars. It's something people always fantasize about.”

On numerous occasions they slept under bridges as well. “One day we found a bridge to sleep under to get out of the oncoming rain and set up camp. It wasn't until it actually started raining that we realized the bridge had drains for the water right over us.” This was the reality of the pilgrimage, and they found themselves on countless occasions sleeping on concrete or hard ground. However, for Max and the rest of the group, the experience was “absolutely gorgeous.”

In great detail, Max paints a picture of the true beauty of Chugoku, which turned out to be a rather familiar landscape. “Surprisingly, the island was a lot like Western North Carolina,” Max said. “It was mountainous with many rural and farmland areas. People would be fishing in the river as we went by.” Then there were the enchanting bathhouses. “For just \$5, inside it was like an enormous sauna, with giant hot tubs littering the ground along with cold baths. Outside there was a heated pool (open 24 hours) and you could bathe under the stars.” Add to that breathtaking scenery: “Maroto Cape was gorgeous. On the southern tip of the island, the temples were serene and lined with sea turtles.” Besides that, they also received charitable receptions from compassionate residents. “One 90-year-old lady walked miles to her house and miles back to bring us incense to keep away the bugs,” Max said.

Reluctantly returning home, Max brought with him a small book containing ninety signatures, one from each of the Buddhists temples they encountered, and a wealth of wonderful memories. Max hopes to return again to Japan next year to study abroad, something he enthusiastically advises all students to consider.

And so it ends, his story is told  
Of broad adventures new and old.  
But in the future we won't forget  
Imagine where his next story's set.



## I LIKE TO RIDE MY BICYCLE

KAYLA COE



Remember the day you rode your bike for the first time without training wheels? You felt like the king of the world, and no one could stop you. That was, until you lost your balance, fell off and scraped your knee. After an accident one afternoon, Ted Denning, an avid bike rider, wasn't so lucky to get by with just a scrape.

Two years ago, Ted was bicycling near campus with a friend when suddenly he found himself approaching a blind curve. As he crossed over the yellow line he met an oncoming pickup truck. The truck plowed over him, breaking several bones including ribs, his pelvis and one arm. Ted also suffered a brain injury, resulting in a 10-day coma. After the accident he had no memory for several days and when his memory did return, he couldn't remember anything nine days before the accident.

### Want to Learn More?

For more information about Spin for Kids, go to <http://spinforkids.org>.

Recalling his pain, Ted says, "I feel like I had it easy compared to my parents."

After he came out of the coma, Ted went through five months of therapy at the Shepherd's Center, a rehabilitation center in Atlanta. The Shepherd's Center focuses on spinal cord and brain injuries, strokes, multiple sclerosis and neuromuscular disorders.

Born in Georgia and raised in Charlotte, N.C., Ted was a Sports Management major when he started at WCU. After missing three semesters because of his accident, Ted returned to school and changed his major to Recreational Therapy.

Ted describes recreational therapy as "a holistic method of healing through leisure activities." This is similar to physical therapy, except it concentrates on activities that focus the mind or body rather than physical exercises. For example, someone who can only use one eye might take part in a board game such as chess to stimulate the use of that injured eye and then be able to see both ends of the board. Ted experienced similar kinds of therapy after his accident and now he wants to help those just like himself.

Ted works with the organization Camp Twin Lakes, a camp for children with severe illnesses or physical challenges, located in Georgia. He explains that it "is a place where kids with certain abnormalities can be around other kids with the same conditions and feel like they don't have to hide it."

Ted also attends Spin for Kids, an annual bike ride in Georgia that raises money to help send kids to Camp Twin Lakes. This past year, Ted's individual effort raised \$640 and the event, as a whole, raised \$206,000.

After he graduates, Ted hopes to return to Georgia to be a part of the team at the Shepherd Center and help others with disabilities like his. Ted notes one positive from the accident: "It really helped me find a direction."

At 22, Ted still loves riding his bike and continues to do so despite his past accident. "I'm lucky to have life, because I know how quickly and easily it is to lose it."

# Where in the World is Appalachia?

GRACE HAZEN

Where, exactly, is Appalachia? Do residents connect enough with the region to embrace the word "Appalachian" and include it in business titles? These are among questions that WCU junior Katy Elders and two of her Political Science professors, Dr. Gibbs Knotts and Dr. Chris Cooper, are trying to answer as part of the Appalachian Identity Project.

They have discovered that the exact borders of Appalachia are ambiguous in the minds of most individuals. The complicated culture and history of the mountains of Appalachia created the area's original identity, but as urban civilization spread throughout our region, the already blurry boundaries of Appalachia became more indefinite.

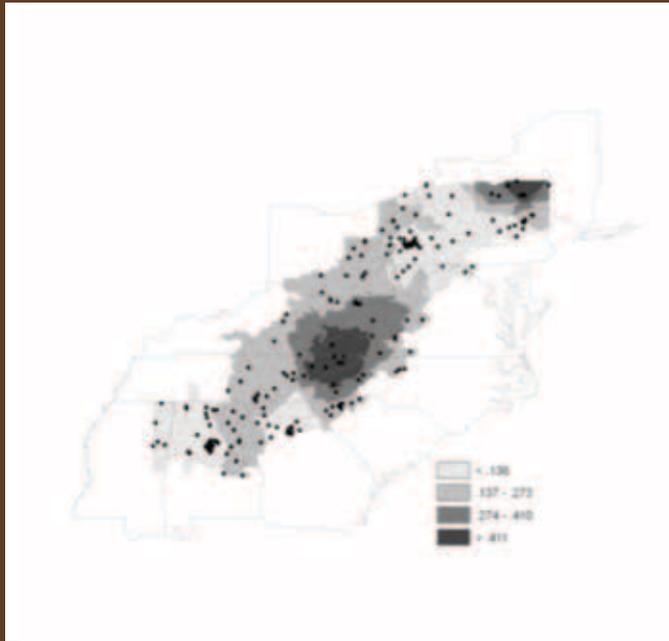
In order to define Appalachian identity, Katy and her professors developed a project that consisted of researching businesses in nearly 200 Appalachian counties from Alabama to New York. They compared how many business names included "American" versus "Appalachian." Businesses that used the word "Appalachian" in their names were considered to be well-connected with the region. Therefore, the more businesses with an Appalachian name, the higher the Appalachian identity was in that city.

Cities with a high Appalachian identity have a high "A score" while cities with a low Appalachian identity have a low "A score." Out of all the cities in Appalachia, Katy discovered that Asheville had the highest "A score," and she adds, "I just thought that was really interesting, since it's right here."

Once the identities of the cities were scored, the results were matched with other variables (such as elevation, population density and population below the poverty level) to establish if there were correspondences between demographics and Appalachian identity. Knotts said, "One of the most interesting findings is that Appalachian identity is higher in counties with higher elevation levels." Their discoveries will be studied to predict future trends and aid in economic growth for the region.

The project is a continuance of a paper Cooper and Knotts wrote titled "Declining Dixie: Regional Identification in the Modern Appalachian South." Katy joined the team when she worked in the WCU Public Policy Institute and Knotts asked her to start research on the demographics of Appalachian cities as part of her job. Her enduring interest in the project led





A map of "A scores," made by Matt Kerfonta for the Appalachian Identity Project.

her to an independent study to finish the research and begin the paper with Knotts and Cooper.

Katy was born and raised in Cullowhee, and because she is a native of Western North Carolina, Knotts says, "She brings a valuable perspective to the project. She has personally witnessed changes in the region, and her insights have been very helpful to the project's direction."

A member of the Honors College, Katy not only participated in the Appalachian Identity Project, but also was recognized as the 2008 Outstanding Sophomore Student in the Political Science Department and was awarded the Chan Carpenter Scholarship, an award given to pre-law Political Science majors. She is active in a number of campus organizations and serves as the president of the Pre-Law Club.

Currently, she is interning with Congressman Heath Shuler's district office in Asheville. The office handles casework such as Social Security and disability cases, immigration issues, veterans' affairs and federal projects and grants. Katy says, "I love it there, and I'm learning a lot about the tangible differences that can be made for a community by its congressional representative – differences I never expected to be as substantial as they are."

After she graduates, Katy says, "I hope to attend law school, concentrating on immigration law and immigration advocacy." Her tremendous work ethic has allowed her to be successful in whatever she does. Knotts states, "We are very proud of her accomplishments and feel quite fortunate that she decided to major in Political Science."

...as civilization spread throughout our region, the already blurry boundaries of Appalachia became more indefinite.



## A BRAND-NEW LIFE

SHANNON RECKLER

Do you remember the day you moved all of your stuff into your new college residence hall? You were excited and happy to be away from home, and then your parents left. Maybe it didn't hit you at first, but soon you came to realize you were all alone in a strange place. For some, it is a moment of pure elation; for others, a moment of sheer terror.

Here at Western Carolina University a program helps freshmen transition smoothly into their new home. First Year Experience, or FYE, has the goal of ensuring students a smooth start as they navigate their new community.

As a part of FYE, First Year Seminars and transition courses introduce students to the rigors of college academic standards, university resources, social networks and the college community. Glenda Hensley, coordinator of FYE, says, "If we provide meaningful and purposeful guidance, support and resources for our first-year students, and strive to make sure they know how to navigate the university physically and digitally, we will contribute

to their early success as they embark upon their exciting journey of life as a college student."

A new Web site features all of the FYE programs on one page. It is a way for new students, or students thinking of attending WCU, to have easy access to information about programs and information on campus. It's a Web site for "anything and everything a first-year student can encounter," says Hensley.

FYE is an essential part of the freshman curriculum. It allows students to adjust to college classes and discover what is expected of them during their first year. "The program is a good idea that lets students not only get accustomed to classes, but lets them meet people. The teachers are helpful and realize you're a freshman and recognize you need help," says Jake Waldrop, a freshman in a First Year Seminar.

With lots of successes already, the FYE program hopes to grow and continue to benefit WCU students.

### Want to Learn More?

For more information about First Year Experience check out the Web site at [fye.wcu.edu](http://fye.wcu.edu).



## I Can Make a Difference

JESSICA HURLBUT

"I may be one person," WCU senior Devon Green says, "but I can be one person who makes a difference."

Devon started making a difference early in life. At 5, she began her own recycling business with the help of her parents, and by 12 she began to hold fundraisers for various organizations including the Humane Society, the Hibiscus Children's Center, and the American Heart Association. Over the years, she's raised an estimated \$250,000 for these organizations, as well as making radio and television appearances and 35 public speeches to promote her causes. Because of her recycling efforts, Devon has been featured in a book called *What's It Like, Living Green?* by Jill Vanderwood.

Despite all this activity, Devon has still been able to advance through school. Until eighth grade, she attended a private school, First Baptist Christian School, and then enrolled in the Florida Virtual Public School, an at-home, online high school. Attending an online high school allowed her the flexibility to finish each year's classes during the first semester so that

she could spend her second semester as a full-time college student at Indian River State College, or IRSC. By May 2008, at 17, Devon had an associate of arts degree. Afterwards, she decided to get her GED – "easier than the SAT," she says – because many of the classes she took in college wouldn't transfer into high school credits. Devon began attending Western Carolina University in spring 2009 and currently has a 4.0 GPA. A member of the Honors College, in December 2009 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Law.

On top of her academic success, Devon was selected as a Disney and McDonald's Millennium Dreamer in 2000. Two years later, she was named a Sears KidHero and received a surprise scholarship of \$10,000. Then, in 2004, she was chosen as Georgia Pacific Angel in Action. In 2006, she attended three conferences: the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly, the National Youth Leadership State Conference and the Martin Count Youth Leadership.

When asked about her experiences, she replies, "It all seemed natural to me, not stressful. Everything just came together. I can't really fathom all that I've done, but I'm proud of what I accomplished with the help of my parents, donors and contacts. It's been a wild ride."

Although Devon is four years ahead of most students with her education, overall she has led a pretty normal life. Devon was born in the Women's Center in Stuart, Fla. "That's right, no hospital," she says. "The Women's Center was a small doctor's office with birthing rooms that felt more like a comfortable bed and breakfast than anything else. They even had a Jacuzzi!" Her father was a landlord and her mother a college business professor at IRSC. During her childhood, Devon's parents and grandparents were very supportive. "If not for my dad driving me around

all over town for the recycling and Mom helping me prepare marketing materials and speeches to promote the [recycling] business, I would not have gotten anywhere near as far as I did," she says.

As she grew, Devon began trying new things. In her elementary years, she tried horseback riding. For three years, she tried playing tennis weekly. When it came time for high school, she was a little uncomfortable with the thought of public school. "I visited my local high schools and I was not very impressed with them," she says. "They were both dirty and too lax on the rules ... or they were so determined to enforce them that they actually fenced in the entire campus and locked students in for the day." Instead she opted for online and college classes, a suggestion made by her mother. During these years, Devon, like any normal teenager, held jobs. She served as an office and public relation assistant at an investment firm, and she was a marketing and public relation assistant for a firm that did independent projects.

Now she is looking at many future options, including starting her career as well as graduate school. Eventually she wants to become a professor in business, just like her mother.

Wherever she goes with her life, there's one thing she will always believe,

"I may be one person, but I can be a person who makes a difference."



## Working at the (POLITICAL) Carwash

MARISSA DUNCAN & DAKOTA LING

For an entire semester, Brad Semma and Tim Hines were immersed in the rich history and energetic atmosphere of Washington, D.C. They could stroll through the city on their lunch break and witness iconic images such as the towering spire of the Washington Monument or senators carrying Chinese takeout.

These two students, both double majors in English and political science at WCU, completed internships in Washington in spring 2009. One internship was with the Washington Internship Program, which combines government internship work

with classes and independent study. Only three students from WCU were selected for this each semester. The second internship fulfilled the requirement for their professional writing concentration in English.

"I discovered that no matter what their political platform, for politicians, the needs of their constituencies always come first," Brad says. Working in the offices of Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla., his duties ranged from attending committee hearings to answering phone calls. He often summarized events that legislative assistants could not attend. Tim worked in the Department of Education for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. He had a variety of responsibilities, including writing grants, assisting staff at weekly meetings, and communicating with college personnel about federal grants. Now in their final year of college, Brad and Tim are close to fulfilling their ambitions of working for the federal government.

Tim's desire to become a politician began around the age of 4, when he took up arguing with politicians on television. "I don't recall what it was about; I just know I didn't like one of them because he had gray hair," says Tim. Since then he has remained immersed in politics, watching C-SPAN, reading legislation and contacting his senators. Brad also has been interested in affairs of the state and at first was fixated on joining the armed forces. Although diabetes prevented him from doing that, he now wants to go into law enforcement or a similar branch of the federal government.

Interning in Washington opened many doors for their future careers. "The WCU in D.C. internship acts as a stepping stone to federal agencies of all kinds," Brad says. He plans to use the contacts he made in D.C. to get his foot in the door for a future state or federal career. Tim has received 15 job offers from across the country as a result of the connections he made during the internship, which included personally handing his business card to the Secretary of Education. He now has career opportunities, among others, in the

departments of Education, Energy, and Health and Human Services.

However, the internships won't just help after graduation; Brad and Tim already are cashing in on the benefits. Their hands-on experience in Washington has aided them in the classes related to their majors. "Seeing politics in action is more beneficial than any class," states Brad. For example, Tim received tips on how to run campaigns from people who had done just that. Now he can apply this to his work with several campus clubs, such as the Student Government Association, Model United Nations and the Political Science Club.

In addition to these obvious benefits for a Political Science major, Brad applied his writing skills in his work for Brown-Waite. His summaries on special interest group meetings and committee hearings had to be concise and informative so his superiors could use them to make critical decisions on pending legislation. He was part of a multitude of young legislative assistants who write such reports. "Washington is essentially run by 20-somethings," Brad notes.

Working in a political office requires dedication and a high tolerance for stress, and the interns frequently had to meet demanding deadlines. Brad often had only a few days to conduct research on a piece of legislation. While each Professional Writing internship only requires 150 hours, Tim managed to clock more than 500. He even did this despite having a minor heart attack. However, he recovered relatively quickly, and the heart condition which caused this has only driven him to strive harder toward his goal of working for the government.

Living in Washington for a semester had many perks. Their red intern badges gave Tim and Brad access to most of the buildings and galleries in the district, a privilege that both students exploited. In addition, they attended a concert at the Lincoln Memorial as well as the inauguration of President Obama. "We got to be there while history was being played out," says Tim. "It was a monumental time to be in a monumental city."



# To George Washington & Beyond

SHELLEY HENNING

Tap-tap. Tap-tap-tap. The person sitting behind you is texting again, possibly telling a friend how boring history class is. How many times has this happened to you? History might get a bad rap at some schools, but Dalton Mallonee couldn't agree less.

Dalton, a member of the Honors College, is double-majoring in secondary education and History. He is currently in the process of writing biographical essays on all 44 American presidents, a project he designed and undertook himself.

His passion for teaching comes, in part, from his mother. "My mother influenced me to teach because I just saw how happy she was with her job. She's been teaching kindergarten for 30 years, which is no small feat, and she hasn't complained about having to go to work for as long as I can remember." Dalton's goal as a high school teacher will be to pass on his love of history to his students and to get them interested in history.

Dalton was born in Sylva, N.C., before his family moved to Murphy, N.C., where he grew up. He says his high school honors and Advanced Placement U.S. history classes motivated him to choose history as his second major.

His American government class at WCU inspired Dalton to write his presidential biographies. His professor, Dr. Cecil Livingston, presented a list of top American presidents to the class. Dalton agreed with some of the choices but disagreed with others; he felt some presidents were misrepresented or not listed at all. He decided to put his own spin on the presidents by writing biographies of his own.

While Dalton's goal is to write an essay on each of the 44 presidents, he admits that he may not finish before he graduates. "I talked to one of my professors and he suggested that I write only about my favorite presidents to begin with, or the ones that inspire me the most," he says. He also plans to include a short summary of each president's administration and key events that happened during his presidency.

Dalton is not sure if he wants to publish his essays yet, but he is considering using them in the classroom once he becomes a teacher. He wants to be able to connect with people and to give something back. "I just want to help others see this subject like I do, and make a difference in my students' lives," he says. "I don't think most people like history. I'd like to change that."



## *the ankle bone's connected to the ...*

ALLI RAY

You feel the wheels of the airplane touch down and let out a sigh. It's been a long flight – six or seven hours. Feelings of nervousness begin to claw at your insides. You don't know a single person in this place, and you're an ocean away from anyone familiar. You take a deep breath and get off the plane.

Heather Nichols knows this scene well. In fact, she lived it when she went to Portugal in the summer of 2009. She was 19 and had never traveled without her parents. Now she was going to spend four weeks in a foreign country. It was bound to be an interesting summer.

Heather graduated in May 2010 from the Honors College with a B.S. in Anthropology. She knew that she wanted to pursue forensic anthropology

and archaeology when she was only 15. Her mother told her that she had to do something that summer, so she did. The Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park was not far from her home in Upper Marlboro, Md., so she volunteered. It was love at first dig! Heather says, "Once I started volunteering ... I knew exactly what I wanted to do."

While in Portugal, Heather worked as an intern with PortAnta, a scientific, nonprofit organization that pairs students with professionals for work in Portugal, at the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia (National Museum of Archaeology) in Lisbon. The first week she worked with Roman skeletal remains, and during the other three weeks she devoted her time to Neolithic bone material. These bones were about 6,000



### Want to Intern in Portugal?

For more information about PortAnta or the Museu Nacional, check out their Web sites at [www.portanta.com](http://www.portanta.com) and [www.mnarqueologia-ipmuseus.pt](http://www.mnarqueologia-ipmuseus.pt).

years old and very delicate. She had to clean them – not an easy process because sometimes the dirt covering the bone was harder than the bone itself. After cleaning, the bones had to be identified. This could be incredibly difficult. Sometimes Heather came across a specimen, and she said, “I knew it was a bone, but that’s all I knew.” Once the bones were identified, they could be cataloged and any abnormalities such as disease or fracture recorded. After that, Heather had to do the record keeping of all the bones. That consisted of putting the data from the bones into a giant Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. It was meticulous work, but it fascinated Heather.

Even with so much to do, there was time for fun. All six interns at the museum, including Heather, lived together in an apartment. Although they were from different places (Puerto Rico, Ireland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Washington, D.C.), they became great friends. They spent their free time together going dancing, visiting museums and touring Portugal. While touring, Heather visited Sintra (an “absolutely gorgeous” town) and

the Temple of Diana, a site from the Roman period honoring the goddess of the moon and the hunt.

Heather has big plans for her future. She is looking at attending the University of Central Lancashire in England for her master’s degree and her doctorate. After she finishes, she would love to work for the Smithsonian Institution or for the Joint Prisoner of War-Missing in Action Accounting Command, located in Hawaii at Hickam Air Force Base. JPAC’s mission, according to its Web site, is to account for Americans missing as a result of past U.S. conflicts. Its core day-to-day operations include recovering the remains of Americans killed in action. Heather also wants to work at Pompeii and Herculaneum, two sites in Italy destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted.

Heather has some big goals, and when she talks about her future, her eyes widen and she becomes animated. You can’t help but be drawn into her world, a world where bones rule. “Give me a trowel, a field and a lab, and I’ll be set for life,” she says.



# The Sound ARTIST

SHANNON RECKLER

In the world of music, Michael O’Shea stands apart from the crowd. He has recorded three self-produced, solo albums and is working on finishing his fourth.

Michael writes and produces all of his own music. His studio consists of one room in his apartment, with all of his equipment and acoustic foam to help soundproof the room. “I don’t really need a huge space – it’s just me,” Michael says. He does his recording on his Mac laptop, at first using GarageBand and now using Logic Studio Logic Pro 9.

Besides music, O’Shea has a passion for traveling as well. In the spring semester of his sophomore year, Michael studied abroad in Scotland and then studied in China for three weeks. Michael says that because of the class schedule in Scotland, he didn’t have many classes, so he spent most of his time reading books on philosophy.

After that, he decided to take a semester off and went to Chapel Hill to play in a band

with one of his friends. During the month he was there, Michael realized how much the recording and producing aspect of music interested him. Michael moved back to WCU and started his junior year in 2008. He graduated from the Honors College in December 2009 with a B.A. in Philosophy.

Hesitant to classify his work into any specific category, Michael talks instead about the influences behind his work. At times his music can seem almost electronic, or digital, and then it switches to a more classic rock sound with a heavy bass line. His music is mainly instrumental with few vocals. Michael says, “I don’t view digital and organic sounds as being something necessarily distinct and separate. They exist on a spectrum for me and are merely different colors in my sonic palette that I can use in my compositions. I’m fascinated with the tension that arises when the two are juxtaposed and blended.”

When Michael decided to become a solo artist, he had to learn the bass guitar. His

### Want to hear Michael’s music?

All of Michael’s music is on CD and can be purchased from him. Some of his music and more information can be found on his MySpace page, [www.myspace.com/kinjac](http://www.myspace.com/kinjac).



“Philosophy comes through explicitly in lyrical content.”

main instrument is the drums. He doesn't, however, play the acoustic guitar, because he claims that too many bands rely heavily on the guitar to completely carry the melody. Michael wanted to approach his music from a different angle and write the main melody on the bass.

As a Philosophy major, Michael sees a link between his studies and his music. “Music is the primary medium I use to explore the philosophical concepts I'm dealing with academically. Philosophy comes through explicitly in lyrical content but also conceptually in my approach to composition in general,” he says. His approach to songwriting is influenced by philosophers as much as by artists in the music industry. Michael considers himself to be a “sound artist” more than a musician. He takes pride in the production of the music and the blending of all the different sounds.

Last summer Michael toured with the band Afromotive, an Afrobeat band that blends American funk and West African rhythms. The tour stretched along the Eastern United States and into the Midwest. Michael played drums for the band, and found that he could support himself with the money made from the tour. He had wanted to take a break from the constant solo work and found that he really enjoyed playing with that particular band.

Currently, Michael is working on his finishing his fourth album, “Psychology.” Michael also performs live in some cafes in Sylva and Asheville. He isn't looking to be signed with a label. He prefers to do the work himself, but is thinking about finding a booking agent to help him with shows.

Michael's passion for music is inspiring. His work is new and creative, with a unique sound all its own. Listen to one of his CDs with an open mind. You won't be disappointed.



## ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

NIKKI HARROLD

Radio, television, a phone. What do these things have in common? You listen to all of them. Hearing is a vital part of people's lives, something most individuals take for granted, but what if you had been born deaf?

Shaneé Sullivan, a senior at WCU, is not hearing impaired, but she has set out to advocate for those who are. Her aspirations for the deaf world began when she took a course in American Sign Language at Western Carolina University. As part of an Honors College project, Shaneé volunteered at the North Carolina School for the Deaf, or NCSD, in Morganton, N.C. While volunteering, she changed her career goals from veterinary oncology to deaf education. She hopes to focus on literacy, which in the world of deaf individuals means connecting the English language to American Sign Language. The two do not correspond easily because not all words translate well from one language to the other.

“Most deaf students cannot read on a 12th-grade level when they graduate from high school.”

“Most deaf students cannot read on a 12th-grade level when they graduate from high school,” says Shaneé. Initially she was paired with an NCSD student who had only been at the school for one year. She worked with this student on vocabulary, reading and comprehension. The struggles this individual experienced with reading were a reflection of what most deaf students experience. As a result, Shaneé decided to continue volunteering at NCSD and broaden the type of assistance that she could offer students.

One of the projects Shaneé is proudest of is teaching NCSD students to salsa dance. “Most people think just because they can’t hear, they can’t dance,” she explains. Shaneé helped the students prove everyone wrong when she taught them a salsa routine to show their parents at the end of the year. “If they watch, they can catch on,” says Shaneé. She is also currently working with deaf students to help them prepare for the ACT.

The passion Shaneé has for deaf education continues to grow. Now she is taking her enthusiasm to the streets. She organized a fundraiser called “Random Acts of Sign” that took place in spring 2009. WCU students performed songs or poetry while a translator performed these in sign language. The proceeds from that

performance sent one student to the Black Deaf Youth Leadership Summit in Arizona. Shaneé refuses to let anyone stop her as she creates even larger service goals for herself. On top of the Random Acts of Sign fundraiser, Shaneé wants to hold a miniature Deaflympics. This program is similar to Special Olympics but involves deaf students competing in special activities against other deaf people within a friendly setting. Shaneé’s fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, has also started a pen pal program with NCSD. All the WCU fraternity members learned sign language so they could create a video to introduce themselves and their majors to the NCSD students. The NCSD students were then able to select which fraternity member they wanted as their pen pal. As a final act of deaf awareness, Shaneé plans a “learn to sign” week at WCU. As part of the event she will hang posters around WCU’s campus with various signs that students can learn.

Shaneé is working passionately towards creating a wider set of opportunities for deaf students in North Carolina. She wants to offer as many opportunities as she can to this special group of students so that they can learn, grow and prove what deaf individuals are capable of doing.



CASEY WEEMS

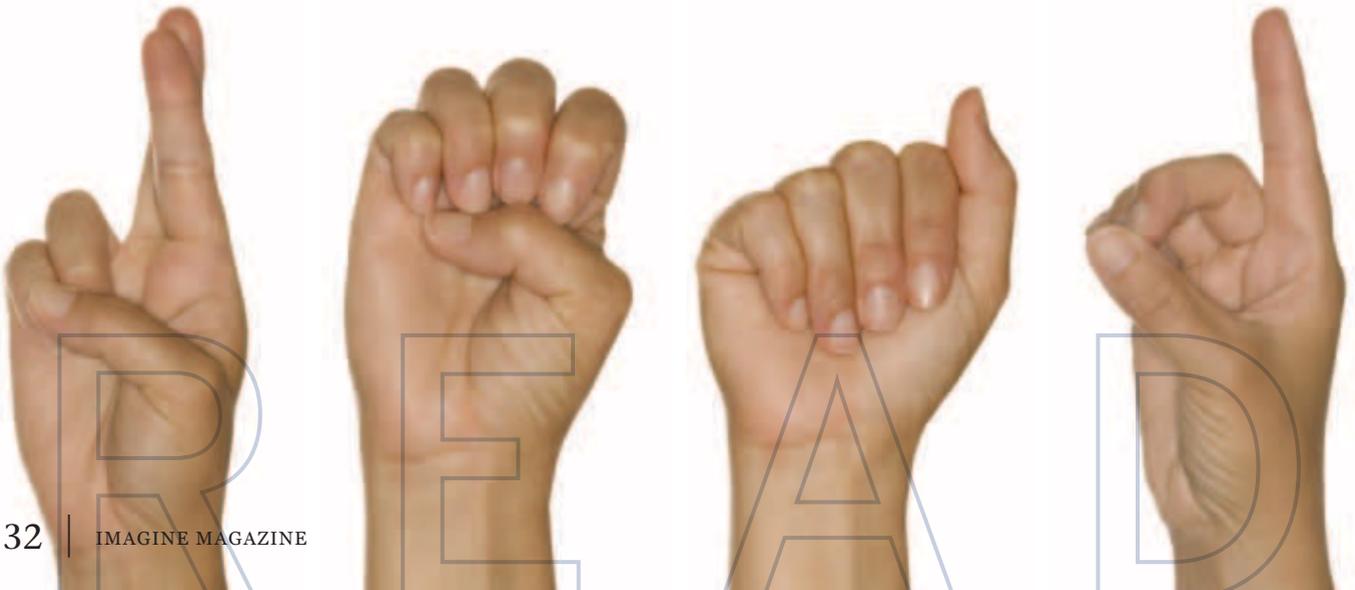
Across the Smoky Mountains, Cherokee people share the legend of the Little People with their children. These stories serve to teach different lessons about preserving the delicate balance between humankind and nature. Legend says that the Little People live in rock caves, concealed by trees and brush, and that they stand no taller than your knee.

Three clans of Little People exist: The Rock People, the Laurel People and the Dogwood People. The Rock People are tricksters who like to get even, while the Laurel People are humorously mischievous. The Dogwood People, however, are honest and loving, dependably looking out for mankind.

For Glenda Hensley, assistant professor in the department of stage and screen, the Little People stories held possibilities for a new course at Western Carolina University titled Theatre in Education, or TIE.

The goal of TIE is simple, says Hensley: “To be advocates for the arts in education.” The course is designed to expose elementary and secondary students to theater through culturally and educationally relevant performances and workshops. Eager to bring a Cherokee legend to the stage, Glenda met with two Cherokee elders and mentors, Davy Arch and Eddie Bushyhead, for permission to perform a staged adaptation of a story of their choosing. She left with what would become “Dogwood’s Search.”

In “Dogwood’s Search,” Man overhunts and overharvests the plants and animals. Angry at Man’s carelessness, the plants and animals join forces and rebel against Man, who quickly begins to freeze and starve. Man turns to Dogwood to make peace with the plants and animals, and by doing so, harmony is restored.





The massive undertaking of bringing a legend to the stage began in 2007 as a pilot model for WCU's Quality Enhancement Plan. The QEP is designed to prepare students for life beyond college by synthesizing knowledge gained from a variety of areas into an integrated whole. The production was so successful that the cast was invited to perform at the national American Alliance for Theatre and Education, or AATE, convention in July 2008 in Atlanta. By this time the course had ended, but Glenda, unable to turn down such a prestigious offer, recruited as much of the original cast as she could. She brought senior Erin Wagoner, a Motion Picture and Television Production major from Archdale, N.C., on board to adapt the original script for the tour's smaller cast. Roles were reassigned and doubled up, and the costumes refitted for this new cast.

Funded by the Office for Undergraduate Studies and the College of Fine and Performing Arts, "Dogwood's Search" began its tour, playing at the Colonial Theatre in Canton before heading to Atlanta for the convention.

Graduate student Sarah Lipham, a theater major from Canton, played Dogwood on

the tour and enthusiastically shared one of the obstacles the cast encountered at AATE. "When we got to Atlanta, the stage was too small for our set, so they had to add extra platforms so we could perform," says Sarah. "That was crazy!"

When classes resumed in fall 2008, "Dogwood's Search" finally found its way back home, playing for three days to fourth- and fifth-graders from Jackson County. This was the audience the show had been waiting for. "We always felt as though it wasn't finished. We were just missing the children's spark," Glenda says.

Two years later, the TIE course continues to educate and inspire audiences of all ages. Last year's production of "Tales of Trickery" teamed up with WCU's Low Tech Ensemble, a gamelan orchestra, and performed at the Canton Memorial Theatre and Jones Elementary in Asheville, as well as playing to a full house in WCU's Hoey Auditorium. In spring 2010 the TIE students staged another production, this one honoring the late Josefina Niggli, a writer, actress and former WCU instructor whom the university recognized with a yearlong series of events.

# An Ideal Outlook

HENRY PRINTZ



"Diversity is a mindset," says Jettana Thomas, student executive director of the Student Government Association's diversity program at WCU. "You have to be willing to accept change to move forward."

During her experience at High Point Central High School, Jettana was surrounded by a diverse student body. Now she wants to carry those experiences with her. A member of the Honors College pursuing a major in Social Work, she sees the value of diversity, not only in what it does for American society, but in what she will be able to accomplish after she graduates. "The only way to achieve diversity is to break down cultural barriers and get to the real core of a person – instead of what you perceive him or her

to be," she says. This viewpoint will no doubt be essential in her professional life. Jettana wants to work as a family lawyer, particularly so she can guide children of many races through the court system.

Until that happens, Jettana continues to be unmistakably involved in the diverse cultural happenings on campus. Besides putting on the Student Government Association's National Diversity Day in October 2009, Jettana is involved in several campus minority groups, including Digali'i (a Native American student organization) and the Asian Student Association. Jettana also helps to organize a movie series that deals in diversity. Among some of the films screened on the last Sunday of every month are *Guess Who*, a film dealing with interracial marriage, and *Slumdog Millionaire*, which chronicles the struggles of two brothers in India. These films largely involve racial and cultural differences.

Jettana's work goes beyond the boundaries of racial and cultural differences, however. Sexual identity is another aspect of diversity that Jettana considers to be of major importance. The Student Government Association's Unity group works to promote acceptance of various sexual and gender orientations across campus. Jettana hopes to see acceptance applied – not only across a racial spectrum – but across all aspects of diversity.

In addition to her Social Work major, Jettana is pursuing a minor in leadership and she runs track. She does all of this while balancing her academic studies. "I just like to be involved," she says, an attitude that is evident from the energy of her excited smile and quick speech.

Jettana's constant struggle for cultural and gender acceptance sets an excellent example for other Western Carolina students. She reminds us all that diversity and equality are attainable goals. As she says, "You simply have to be willing to accept change and move forward."





## Retirement Just Seemed *Boring*

JESSE LOYD

At a first glance, you wouldn't think Mrs. Eva Thompson would have pulled an all-nighter the previous evening, staying up 'til 2 or 3 in the morning to study for an exam or write a paper, but there are a lot of things that you wouldn't know about Eva Thompson at first glance.

An Honors College student working on her B.S. in Social Work at Western Carolina, Eva is like any other junior working toward graduating with that perfect 4.0. She was glad to transfer credits from Southwestern Community College and Palm Beach Community College, credits she picked up over the years when she was out of the full-time student life. Raising a family and the hustle and bustle of everyday life can add up over time and make it hard to go back to school. After moving from Michigan to Florida and then to Sylva six years ago, Eva has fit in at Western Carolina just fine. Although she doesn't know exactly what area of social work she wants to go into yet, Eva realized early in her previous career that she loved helping people. She says, "I've always loved it ... and people knew I cared."

She worked as a medical transcriptionist before an orthopedic injury forced her to retire early. Before that, Eva had become one of the best at what she did and had moved to the top of her profession. By the end of her medical career she was a hospital transcriptionist in charge of everything from prescriptions to doctors' notes. "Retirement just seemed boring,"

she said, sighing. "I thought about things I could do, things I was good at ... and well, I like to talk."

Other than talking with people and helping them, Eva loves to play the piano. If she could find a way to combine music and social work, "I would do it," she says. She performs at nursing homes and she enjoys every minute. Her life hasn't had one dull moment. "You wouldn't know this, but I even performed ballroom dance for a couple of national judges at a contest in Atlanta awhile back," she whispered.

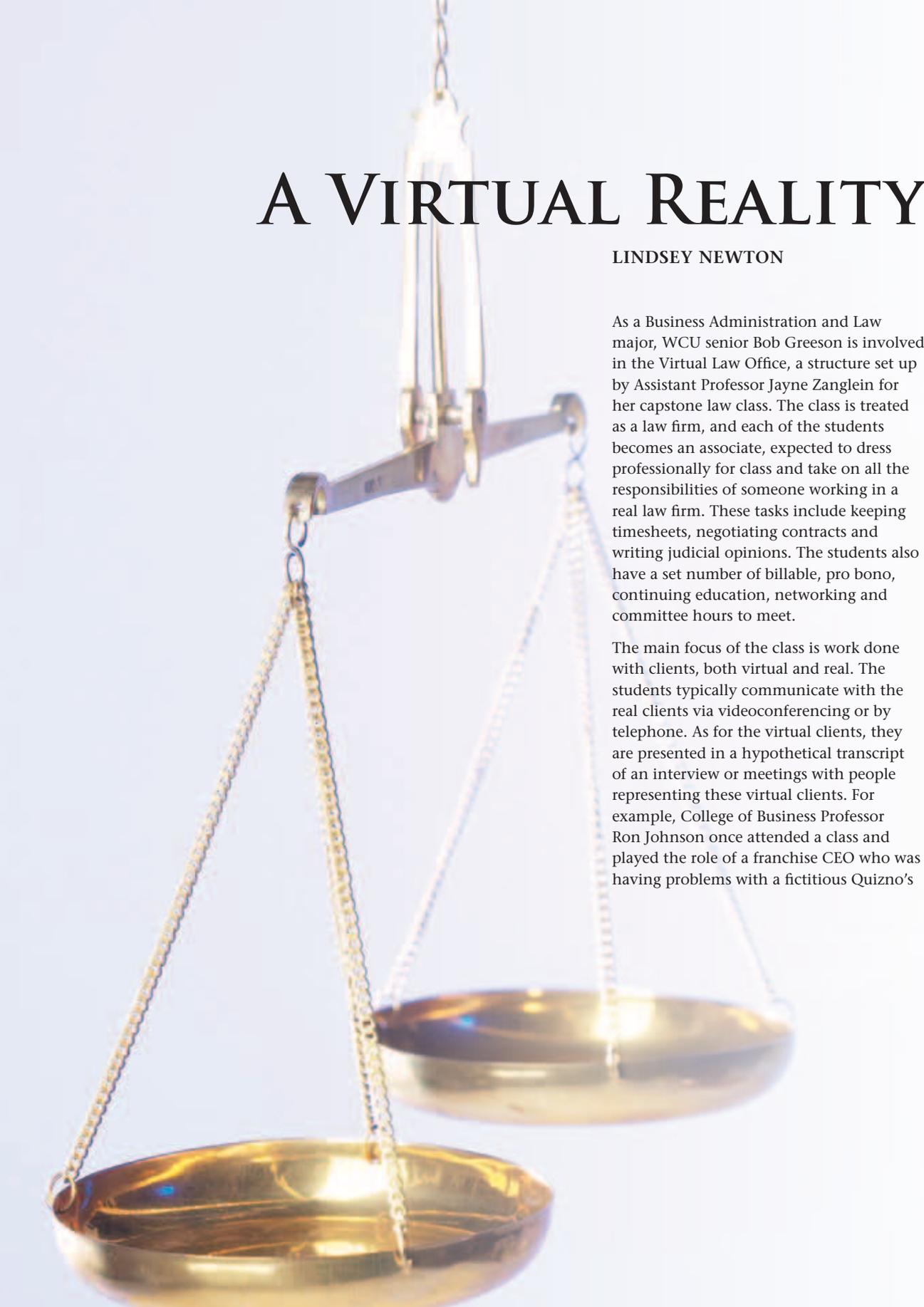
Now Western Carolina has become her new home. She adds, "I like the teachers the best. They help Western Carolina feel like home." Keeping her goal in mind, Eva plans to graduate on time and enter the social work field with eagerness and vigor. As a nontraditional student with years of real-life experience, she offers this advice:

**"Believe in yourself and don't give up. Don't back down from the challenge."**

If it gets hard, just put one foot in front of the other and keep going. If you have a goal, don't let anybody tell you you can't. Mine was finishing college, and years later, I am."

### Want to Learn More?

For more information about the Social Work Department at WCU, visit [socialwork.wcu.edu](http://socialwork.wcu.edu).



# A VIRTUAL REALITY

LINDSEY NEWTON

As a Business Administration and Law major, WCU senior Bob Greeson is involved in the Virtual Law Office, a structure set up by Assistant Professor Jayne Zanglein for her capstone law class. The class is treated as a law firm, and each of the students becomes an associate, expected to dress professionally for class and take on all the responsibilities of someone working in a real law firm. These tasks include keeping timesheets, negotiating contracts and writing judicial opinions. The students also have a set number of billable, pro bono, continuing education, networking and committee hours to meet.

The main focus of the class is work done with clients, both virtual and real. The students typically communicate with the real clients via videoconferencing or by telephone. As for the virtual clients, they are presented in a hypothetical transcript of an interview or meetings with people representing these virtual clients. For example, College of Business Professor Ron Johnson once attended a class and played the role of a franchise CEO who was having problems with a fictitious Quizno's

“We have to pretend for a minute that we aren't students and that these clients have real problems, issues and concerns.”

franchise. Zanglein's students interviewed him, completed research and wrote a letter to the fictitious Quizno's. Zanglein explains, “I like the virtual clients because it allows me to control the content and pace of the assignments.”

Originally from Thomasville, N.C., Bob has worked on a project for a group of real-world clients in the city of New York. The goal of this project was to assist the Associated Musicians of Greater New York with its collective bargaining agreement with the Ballet Theatre Foundation, Inc. Bob, along with his classroom partner Mathew Blyth, helped to organize the agreement and rewrite it in plain English. Bob says, “Some of our clients are real, and that gives us motivation because, just like in the business world, people are counting on us to provide quality work.”

When asked what prompted her to create this course, Zanglein says, “I wanted to give the students a realistic work environment that would prepare them for the real business world. A virtual law office seemed like a natural choice.” Zanglein is licensed to practice law in New York; however, her students are not licensed to practice law, and therefore do not give legal advice to the real-world clients. Instead, the students offer their assistance by doing projects involving legal issues for entrepreneurs, which prepares them to consult with actual lawyers. This allows the students to get a taste of what they will be doing in their future careers and to make mistakes within the safety of the classroom. As Bob says, “We have to pretend for a minute that we aren't students and that these clients have real problems, issues and concerns.”

Zanglein not only acts as the professor of the course, but also as senior partner of the firm. She has co-authored multiple



articles with her students that have been published in national journals. The firm gets paid for these articles, which creates a scholarship fund used for student travel. A previous trip included going to Washington to hear arguments of the Supreme Court, attending the American International Group Inc. bailout hearing; and visiting the Smithsonian Institution. Students in Zanglein's firm also have found real-world clients independently and served them by addressing business problems such as how to avoid lawsuits. Zanglein states, “This work benefits the community as well as the students and university.”

Overall, Zanglein has been pleased with the course and with the progress of her students. “Our students will be able to make the transition from student to business professional with ease.”

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2010

Below are the projects accepted, titles, student presenters, and their sponsors for NCUR24 at the University of Montana in Missoula, MT. In terms of presentations accepted at the conference, Western Carolina University was second in the nation. Funding for travel to NCUR24 was made possible by members of the Honors College Advisory Board, chaired by Dr. Mark Whitehead, and special assistance from the Office of Chancellor John Bardo.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

"Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me! A Study of Entomological Activity in Western North Carolina"  
*Stephanie Peters, presenter | Cheryl Johnston, sponsor*

"The Plague: An Extensive Look at the Etiology, Distribution, and Ramifications of One of the Most Deadly Diseases in Human History."  
*Cayli Meizel, presenter | Anne Rogers, sponsor*

"Buddhism and the 'Third' Gender: Yesterday and Today"  
*Christina Esmay, presenter | Philip Coyle, sponsor*

## BUSINESS

"Investigating the Ethical Issues That are Present in Cruise Line Industry"  
*Ashley Leserra, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Exploring the Difference Between the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company and Marriot International"  
*Yrome Graham, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Investigating the Human Resource Coaching Strategy of J. Alexander's Restaurant Corporation"  
*Christopher Govan, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Investigating Corporate Social Responsibility and Front-Line Employee Involvement in the Hospitality Industry"  
*Charity Harris, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"NCAA Letters of Intent: Where's the Commitment?"  
*Mary Moore, presenter | Debra Burke, sponsor*

"Investigating the Impact of Employee Morale"  
*Norma Coggins, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Investigating the Organized Cultured Environment and Service Standards of the Four Seasons"  
*Hayley Duncan, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Examining the Human Resource Management Practices of Brinker International, Inc., and How These Practices Have Contributed to the Firm's Ability to Expand Despite Unfavorable Economic Conditions."  
*Hannah Armstrong, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Investigation of Harrah's Casino Efforts to Reduce Problem Gambling Within Human Resource Management"  
*Holly Hyatt, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Investigating the Relationship Between Company Culture and Customer Satisfaction in the Airline Industry"  
*Aaron Wilson, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

"Examination of the Relationship Between Success of Fast Food in South America and Training Techniques"  
*Eduardo Moreira, presenter | Kyuho Lee, sponsor*

## CHEMISTRY

"Variations in Lewis Acidity of Trivalent Boron Systems with Amines"  
*Tyler Jones, presenter | William Kwochka, sponsor*

## COMMUNICATIONS

"Cut and Dry: A Comparison of Male and Female Circumcision"  
*Rachel Sherrill, presenter | Betty Farmer, sponsor*

## CRIMINOLOGY

"Criminal Statutes of Limitations: Need or Nuisance?"  
*Jessica Burkley, presenter | Lorrie Willey, sponsor*

## ECONOMICS

"Healthcare Services and Its Affect on the Economy"  
*Brodie Lowe, presenter | Inhyuck Ha, sponsor*

"An Analysis of Subprime Lending and the Policy Behind It"  
*Hayden Smith, presenter | James Arnott, sponsor*

## EDUCATION

"Warning! Graphic Content May Improve Writing Performance!"  
*Emily Collman, presenter | Penny Saurino, sponsor*

"Education in Guatemala: The Sixty-Nine Percent Literacy Rate Exposed"  
*Amanda Smith, presenter | James Davis, sponsor*

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

"Meta-Materials and the Speed of Light"  
*Sean Reardon, presenter | Weiguang Yang, sponsor*

## ENGINEERING

"Free Energy: 350°F Solar Heater"  
*Joseph Schwierking, presenter | Wesley Stone, sponsor*

## ENGLISH

"Shattered Borders: Josefina Niggli De-Regionalized"  
*Bobby Willover, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor*

"I Noot Not How Men Hym Calle: The Religious Identity of the Canterbury Tales' Merchant"  
*Kirsten Huscusson, presenter | Brian Gastle, sponsor*

"Alcoholism: Curse or Cure? The Depiction of Alcoholism in Native American Literature"  
*Andrew Sutton, presenter | Mae Claxton, sponsor*

"The Jig is Up: 'Hills Like White Elephants' and the Case for Hemingway's Ambiguity"  
*Bobby Willover, presenter | Brent Kinser, sponsor*

## FILM STUDIES

"Parallelism in Poe's 'The Fall of the House of Usher': A Cross Media Examination of the Man and the Mansion"  
*Cayli Meizel, presenter | Brian Railsback, sponsor*

"Sense of Self: An Exploration of Personal Identity in Modern Film"  
*Jason Beck, presenter | Christopher Hoyt, sponsor*

## HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

"An Investigation into North Carolina's Culture of Obesity."  
*Nicole Jesserer, presenter | Gibbs Knotts, sponsor*

"Insidious Elbow Pain in a College Female"  
*Brandy Jones, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

"Scheuermann's Kyphosis in a High School Football Player"  
*Andrea Kaufman, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

"Acute Shoulder Injury in a Collegiate Football Player"  
*Amanda Taylor, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

"Cervical Fracture in a High School Football Player"  
*Emily Whittington, presenter | James Scifers, sponsor*

## HISTORY

"Welcome to Disneyland: A Roller Coaster Ride Through History"  
*Melanie Wells, presenter | Laura Cruz, sponsor*

"The Real Housewives of the Plantation: A Reinterpretation of the Antebellum Plantation Wife"  
*Rachel Drawdy, presenter | Laura Cruz, sponsor*

"The Hidden Message in a Soldier's Letters"  
*Jenny Jessup, presenter | Alex Macaulay, sponsor*

"Grimm Reminders: A Reconstruction of German National Identity Through Fairy Tales"  
*Angela Merritt, presenter | Laura Cruz, sponsor*

"The Cross and the Compass: A Study of Masonic and Christian Relations in the Eighteenth Century."  
*Matthew Neely, presenter | Laura Cruz, sponsor*

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

"Endometriosis and Fertility: Is Now or Never Really the Only Option?"  
*Shannon Owen, presenter | Emily Sharpe, sponsor*

## LITERATURE

"A Thirst for Innocence"  
*Kimberly Waddell, presenter | Catherine Carter, sponsor*

## MUSIC

"Music Theory: The Musical Elements That Give Life to Lyrics"  
*Alyssa Gillikin, presenter | Terri Armfield, sponsor*

"Free Masonry and Mozart: A Look at the Simple Woman"  
*Courtney Allen, presenter | Mary Kay Bauer, sponsor*

"Fiddling Traditions of the Toe River Valley"  
*William Ritter, presenter | Scott Philyaw, sponsor*

"Computers in the Music Industry: A Critical Look at Technology's Effect on Artistic Integrity"  
*Rebecca Lautier, presenter | Murat Yazan, sponsor*

"Christian Harmony: A 19th Century Tradition in the 21st Century"  
*Nicholas Gattis, presenter | Christina Reitz, sponsor*

## NURSING

"Health Care Disparities in Rural Hospitals: Language Barriers, Caregiver Perceptions, and Health Literacy"  
*Jessica Holland Kirby, presenter | Jamie Davis, sponsor*

## PHILOSOPHY

"Humans Vs. Nature: The Morality of Preservation"  
*Mariah Hornby, presenter | David Henderson, sponsor*

"Reason: As Defined by Film Noir and Classical Detective Stories."  
*Matthew Johnson, presenter | Christopher Hoyt, sponsor*

"Derrida's Re-Thinking of an 'Unfortunate Necessity'"  
*Marshall Solomon, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

"To Be, or To Become..."  
*David Young, presenter | James McLachlan, sponsor*

"How We Decide: John Rawls, Jurgen Habermas and the Ethics of Public Debate"  
*David Young, presenter | Daryl Hale, sponsor*



## PHILOSOPHY CONTINUED

“Samsara is Nirvana: Existential Logic of the Autonomous Self in Schelling & Nishida”  
*Jared Utecht, presenter | James McLachlan, sponsor*

“The Historiography of the Concept of Depression and its Social Consequences”  
*Nicholas Sanford, presenter | Christopher Hoyt, sponsor*

“The Role of Women in the Ancient Greek Realm”  
*Morgan Turner, presenter | Daryl Hale, sponsor*

“Why Does Socrates Remain Quiet About Imperialism, While Pericles Praises it so Highly?”  
*Morgan Turner, presenter | Daryl Hale, sponsor*

“Second-Generation Immigrants”  
*Rebecca Rolon, presenter | Christopher Hoyt, sponsor*

“Zombie Chaos: An Analysis of the Evolution of Apocalyptic Literature”  
*Matthew Kirby, presenter | James Davis, sponsor*

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

“The Media and Politics Relationship”  
*Justin Caudell, presenter | Gibbs Knotts, sponsor*

“When Journalists Protect Their Sources, Who Protects the Journalists?”  
*Seth Crockett, presenter | Janet Ford, sponsor*

“Religion & Stem Cell Research: A Partnership”  
*Travis Tallent, presenter | Christopher Cooper, sponsor*

“Corruption, the Missing Link: The Connection Between Democracy and Terrorism”  
*Hayden Smith, presenter | Todd Collins, sponsor*

“The Level of Education Spending and its Relation to Voter Turnout in the United States”  
*Timoteo Hines, presenter | Todd Collins, sponsor*

“Oil and Democracy”  
*Brad Semma, presenter | Gibbs Knotts, sponsor*

“Stretching the Inverted U: How Far Can Current Inequality Theories Take Us?”  
*Phillip Matulich, presenter | Todd Collins, sponsor*

## PSYCHOLOGY

“Determinants of Male Attractiveness: ‘Hotness’ Ratings as a Function of Perceived Resources”  
*Gregory Shuler, presenter | David McCord, sponsor*

“Do Men Really Have Superior Spatial Navigation Abilities? Results of Experiment Point to No.”  
*Gregory Shuler, presenter | James Goodwin, sponsor*

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

“‘Go Back to the Shadow’: Augustinian Evil in Tolkien”  
*James Thomas, presenter | John Whitmire, sponsor*

“Righteousness in a World of Despair: Transcendental Film Style in Bresson’s *Au Hasard*, Balthazar and Joffe’s *The Mission*”  
*Edwin Lohmeyer, presenter | James McLachlan, sponsor*

## SOCIAL WORK

“Is America Starving?”  
*Michael McLamb, presenter | Inhyuck Ha, sponsor*

## SOCIOLOGY

“The Effects of Second Home Development: Comparing the Community Attachment of Residents in a Small Appalachian Community”  
*Morgan Childers, presenter | Anthony Hickey, sponsor*

“A Contribution to Disproportionality in HIV Rates: Healthcare Disparities in North Carolina Minorities”  
*Erin Gymburch, presenter | Mary Byrnes, sponsor*

“How Do Deployments Affect Military Families?”  
*Ashley Shemery, presenter | Peter Niecekarz, sponsor*

“Towards a Modern Definition of Appalachia”  
*Katy Elders, presenter | Chris Cooper, sponsor*

## SPANISH

“Cuba: The Forbidden Country”  
*Brittany Bottoms, presenter | Daniel Ostergaard, sponsor*

“ESL: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”  
*Christine Weathers, presenter | Lori Oxford, sponsor*

“La Búsqueda Del Sueño Americano: The Pursuit of the American Dream as a Primary Motivation for Latino Immigrants”  
*Marie Rawlings, presenter | Mark Couture, sponsor*

## THEATRE/DRAMA

“The Actor and the Tattoo: Worst Enemies to Best Friends”  
*Rebecca White, presenter | Susan Brown-Straus, sponsor*

## WOMEN’S STUDIES

“Shattered Innocence: An Examination of Global Human Trafficking”  
*Amanda Bienhaus, presenter | Michelle Scifers, sponsor*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## JORDANA STEPHENS BERRY | JESSE LOYD

After graduating from Western Carolina in summer 1994, Jordana Berry was back on campus in fall 2009 – not to relive the good old days, but to recruit for Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Jordana Stephens Berry has spent almost all of the 15 years since her graduation working in higher education. Saint Leo University on the west coast of Florida was her first job in administration, and after four years there she moved to her current job at Mercer, where she holds the title of associate director for student affairs and admissions for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Jordana knew she wanted to attend Western Carolina “since I was 12 years old,” she says. She attended the 1984 Cullowhee Experience, a summer program for gifted students, and she knew Cullowhee would be her future college home.

As a member of the Honors Pathway while she was at WCU (because there was no Honors College then), she resided in Walker Residence Hall, the Honors dorm at the time. She worked on the Western Carolinian staff, and she says that she “picked up a copy while I was here to see if it had changed.” She was always interested in writing, so it seemed only natural to graduate with an English writing and editing degree and a journalism minor.

Out of all of her memories of WCU, she says, “The people were the best memories.”

## MATTHEW CHADWICK | ALLI RAY

Matthew Chadwick graduated from WCU in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in Music with a focus in music business. He also attended WCU for graduate school and earned a master’s degree in Project Management in 2005. Where is Matthew now? He’s currently living in Virginia Beach, Va., and working at Regent University as the director of enrollment management. During his free time, he enjoys playing with his two boys, golfing, fishing and when possible volunteering with the Virginia Beach Military Aviation Museum. He does some writing and recording of music and leads worship with his church praise team. In the future, Matthew plans to write a book about the collegiate admissions process, including the differences between public and private universities and specifics about college preparation for high school students and resources to help students gain acceptance into their first-choice schools. In addition, Matthew wants to pursue a doctoral degree in either Organizational Leadership or Education. He doesn’t know when or from which university but says he’s “shopping around.”

## ALUMNI UPDATES CONTINUED



### DAVID L. POWELL | NIKKI HARROLD

David L. Powell is putting his double major to work as senior pastor of Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin, N.C. While serving on the Honors College Board of Directors, Powell obtained degrees in both Communication and Political Science. "Being a part of the Honors College was meaningful and part of the reason I have fond memories of WCU," says Powell. He has found that being a member of WCU and the Honors College gives him a "greater ability to aid students in making higher education choices," one of his responsibilities as senior pastor.

### BRENDA SALLEE | *Note from Nepal, Brenda Sallee (BA English, 2007)*

"Sitting in English classes in Coulter I never imagined my first writing job would be in Nepal – home of Everest, Maoists, yaks, and an inexhaustible supply of story material. I write for OM Nepal, telling the stories of the Nepali church, which has grown through persecution from five known believers in 1951 to an estimated one million today. The stories I write now matter to me more than ever before, and that makes me appreciate all those classes in Coulter. At Western Carolina I studied how to wield the power of written words. The skills, strategies, and words of wisdom I learned there help me to convey the beauty, intensity, and grit of life in this crazy country onto A4 sheets of paper."

### MICHELE HEAD WIGGINS | KAYLA COE

Michele Head Wiggins graduated from WCU in 2004 with a Business Administration and Law major. At WCU, Michele was a member the Honors College Board of Directors and was later secretary and president. She also was secretary for the Business Law Society and studied abroad at the London Metropolitan University in England during her senior year. After graduating, she attended law school at Brigham Young University and became certified in basic, advanced and domestic mediation. She later worked in Sydney, Australia, as an assistant for an international legal counsel. During her third year of practice, she won a Public Interest Service Award and the Distinguished Clinical Practice Award. Michele is currently working at an educational and assessment center and recently bought a house.

**Megan Cavanah** (B.S. Math, 2010) is continuing her work in applied math at the graduate level at WCU.

**Kristen Michelle Cooper** (B.S. Communication, 2010) is working at IB Acquisitions, Inc., a direct marketing firm in Greenville, SC.

**Brittani Udena Davis** (B.S. Communication, B.S. Sociology, 2010) is working with AMERICORPS and plans to do graduate work at UNC-Charlotte in Communication or Sociology.

**Janette Lea Hammett** (B.S. Nutrition and Dietetics, 2010) is in the graduate program at WCU in Health Sciences to pursue a Masters in Nutrition.

**Tyler David Jones** (B.S. Chemistry, 2010) is at UNC Chapel Hill pursuing his Ph.D. in Chemistry.

**Megan Lee Jordan** (B.S. Psychology, 2010) will begin her graduate studies in the Physical Therapy program at Winston-Salem State University in January.

**Annalise Theresa Marie Lysen** (B.S. Environmental Health, 2010) is pursuing graduate study in College Student Personnel at WCU.

**Laura Caroline MacCall** (B.S. Biology, 2010) is attending the Wingate University School of Pharmacy.

**Shaun Patrick Martin** (B.A. English, BA Philosophy, 2010) is pursuing the MA English/Rhetoric and Composition at NC State.

**Erin Elizabeth Ponder** (B.S.N. Nursing, 2010) is working at the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC as a Registered Nurse (RN).

**Katelan Suzanne Price** (B.S. Math, 2010) is returning to WCU to pursue the Masters of Accountancy.



**Kinsey Jane Roten** (B.S.N. Nursing, 2010) is working at the Charles George VA Medical Center Surgical Intensive Care Unit as a Registered Nurse (RN).

**Jessica Crystal Spear** (B.S. Chemistry, B.S. Math, 2010) is pursuing the PhD in Chemistry/Physical Chemistry at Texas A&M.

**Amanda Michele Talbot** (B.A. English, 2010) is interning with the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

**Leah Nicole Titus** (B.S. Hospitality and Tourism Management, 2010) is interning at Walt Disney World in Florida.

**Kate Michele Vafai** (B.S. Construction Management, 2010) is currently a field engineer with Hensel Phelps Construction Company on a project at Eglin AFB in Crestview, FL.

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