

## SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS:

- Check your deadlines weekly
- Stay ahead on requirements
- Keep your eyes open for service projects
- Get Cultural and Multi-Cultural Event Information from TF Office
- Remember to stop in the office and say hi!

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# The Chalkboard

Volume 3, Issue 1

August - October

## Fall Retreat

This year the Freshmen and Sophomore Teaching Fellows tried something new. Instead of going on a one day retreat as we have in the past. Both classes met up for a picnic where we played games, some involving toothpicks, others with balloons and pantyhose. We all met up to watch "The Ron Clark Story" and on the last day, we all went to Dollywood. On our trip to Dollywood, we had a very special treat. The infamous

Gladys Graves joined us on our trip and taught us that you are never too old to enjoy a good roller coaster. Students spent all day at Dollywood. Some shopped, some rode roller coasters, most ate, and still others got soaking wet. Dollywood also offered an aviary, a train-ride and a gem mine. The shops offered everything from souvenirs to photo opportunities. No matter what they did, the students all had a great

time. After we left Dollywood, we ate and got back in time to hang out for a little while before heading to bed.



Cute Oven in one of the shops

## Discovery 2007

Sophomores participated in the annual Discovery Tour of North Carolina this summer. This was a time for all the sophomore Teaching Fellows in the state to travel across the state for a week and get a feel for regions that they

might never have visited before. This time also allowed sophomores to network with people from other campuses and other majors. It was an amazing, and exhausting experience for everyone involved. The trip started at NCCU and

ended here at WCU. Western Teaching Fellows managed to recruit our newest edition to our family, Chris Goodnight. We also thank all campuses for hosting us so graciously and for showing us the variety of campus foods.

# Freshman Interview with Kelly Litfin



Kelly Litfin

*"Teaching Fellows here at Western [are] amazing."*

*"Dodson every day is not so pleasing to the tummy."*



1. Full name/Year/Major/SAC(s)

Kelly Marie Litfin/Freshmen Class of 2011 / Music Education

2. Why did you choose Western? If it was not your first choice, are you glad you came here anyways?

I knew Western had a good program for education majors and music majors, so I decided that it was the best school for what I want to do.

3. What do you think Western has to offer that puts it ahead of other colleges?

Western is a smaller university, so the students get more attention and help when they need it. Also, the faculty and staff are very nice and helpful.

4. How has being a TF made a difference in your college career thus far?

Teaching Fellows here at Western is amazing. Since day one, I have felt accepted and cared about by everyone in the organization. TF is very well organized and offers so many opportunities to broaden my education.

5. Have you found seminar to be helpful? Which has been your favorite?

Yes, seminar is helpful. My favorite is when James Bell came to speak to us. He was an inspiration and gave very good advice for future teachers.

6. What has been your favorite teaching fellow activity?

I loved Dollywood. Not only was it fun, but I got to know so many people in the program. It let the freshmen feel included and important. It also broke the ice early so that the freshmen could feel comfortable around people in the program.

7. What has been your favorite experience in college so far and why?

My favorite experience in college so far has

to be performing with the marching band at the football game. It was a lot of fun and I've never seen a crowd react that way.

8. What has been your least favorite experience in college so far and why?

My least favorite experience in college is having to stay up so late to finish assignments. I'm not used to the workload here in college. They definitely babied us in high school.

9. If you could change anything here, what would it be and why?

The food. I just wish there was more of a variety. Dodson every day is not so pleasing to the tummy. =)

10. Something random and interesting about yourself, preferably quirky.

I can make a three leaf clover with my tongue. That's kind of weird though.

11. Share a defining moment in your life.

In high school, I was drum major for my high school's marching band for two years. After staying after several days to help someone who was having troubles with marching, Mr. Hamilton (my band director) came up to me and told me how encouraged he was that I would take time out of my day to help someone out. When he told me this, I realized that I enjoy helping people out. I feel like I have something to offer to people. I can help them out with what they do not understand.

12. Do you think our TFs have done a good job at welcoming you as freshmen to campus and to our program?

Yes!

13. What if anything could we do to make you feel more welcome?

I feel very welcome. I really think everyone does a very good job with involving freshmen in everything possible.



## Sophomore Interview with Jasmine Wilson



Sophomore Jasmine Wilson

*"We are like a family where as larger programs don't know half the people in their class."*

### Full name/Year/Major/SAC

Jasmine Wilson/ Sophomore/Elementary Education/ SAC-Spanish

### 2. Why did you choose Western? If it was not your first choice, are you glad you came here anyways?

I chose Western because of the small class sizes. I didn't want to go to a big university and be in a classroom with 300 other people. Small class sizes make learning personal and the professors really care.

### 3. After having gone on Discovery, what do you think Western has to offer that puts it ahead of other colleges?

Western's Teaching Fellows program is very unique. We are like a family where as larger programs don't know half the people in their class.

### 4. How has being a TF made a difference in your college career thus far?

Being a Teaching Fellow puts me ahead of all the other education majors...not that I'm better than any other education major...it's just that I have been given more opportunities to get out into the classroom before other education majors in my class and I receive information about course requirements before the others.

### 5. Have you found seminar to be helpful? Which has been your favorite?

YES!! So far my favorite has been when the Teacher of the Year Diana Beasley and James Bell came to speak...their enthusiasm and love for education is an inspiration.

### 6. What has been your favorite teaching fellow activity?

My favorite Teaching Fellows experience has been helping with Recruitment Day. I really enjoy meeting the perspective Teaching Fellows and telling them why Western is best!

### 7. What has been your favorite experience in college so far and why?

I have had soo many wonderful college experiences, that it would be nearly impossible to narrow it down to one favorite.

### 8. What has been your least favorite experience in college so far and why?

My least favorite experience was having to listen to the "Preacher Man" standing out in front of Dodson Cafeteria shouting his offensive beliefs.

### 9. If you could change anything here, what would it be and why?

I would try to get more student involvement in the activities that we do have on campus, so that the administrators would offer more activities in the future. Many student are, in my opinion, "part time students," they go to class and do homework, but that's it. They don't go to any sports activities and they are not involved in any organizations. In order to get the full college experience, you must get involved in other things besides class work.

### 10. How has the Discovery Trip changed your perspective on your future?

The Discovery trip changed me in a number of ways. It allowed me to see the kind of schools I am interested in teaching in and the schools that I would not want to teach in. It also taught me a kind of patience that I never knew existed. I had to be tolerant of people that if I were put in a different situation, I would not have been so considerate.

### 11. What is your biggest concern for this academic year?

My biggest concern for this year is my study habits. I have never really had to study. But this year, well this semester, I am in classes that I actually have to do homework (besides reading assignments from the text book) and study for tests. I don't really know how to study and it is going to be a challenge to make myself buckle down and get the ball rolling.

### 12. If you have already begun your tutoring experience at Smokey Mountain, tell me a little about your experiences.

My tutoring experience has been wonderful so far. I have absolutely fallen in love with the students and I am going to be very sad when my field experience is over. I discovered that one of the students in the class lost a parent on the very first day of school. It broke my heart while at the same time made me realize that I will have to deal with these types of situations in my classroom.



Western Carolina University  
Teaching Fellows Program

Have a story, picture or suggestions  
for the Chalkboard? Call or Email

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\*please include Teaching Fellows in  
Subject box to avoid deletion.

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship is a state-funded scholarship awarded after a rigorous selection process including writing samples and local and regional interviews. This scholarship is awarded to 500 deserving individuals each year. This scholarship may be used at any of 18 campuses across the state. Once accepted into the Fellowship, students enter a program designed to help them excel both in college and in their own classrooms. All Teaching Fellows are required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 (2.25 as a Freshman) and be in good academic standing to remain in the program. All Fellows must also complete Summer Enrichment each year which is one of the ways that NC Teaching Fellows puts its students one step ahead.

Check out the scholarship website at:

[www.teachingfellows.org](http://www.teachingfellows.org)



## Congratulations and Condolences

**The Western Teaching Fellows would like to offer congratulations to Josh Rogers on his new baby girl, Kyleigh. Kyleigh Rogers**



**We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Casey Black on the loss of her father, Robert O. Black, Sr.**

**We also extend our love and support to Polly Rudoff for the loss of her father David Rudoff. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with you and your families.**