



The Chalkboard

No Such Thing As TOO Social

Fall Retreat

The Freshmen/Sophomore Teaching Fellows' 2006 Fall Retreat was an excursion to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge for shopping and a show at the Comedy Barn. After a surprisingly comfortable bus ride to Gatlinburg, Fellows broke into groups and explored the town for several hours. Afterwards, we met, loaded the buses once again, and rode to the Comedy Barn in Pigeon Forge. The Comedy Barn experience was memorable, thanks to Zach Ferguson's onstage performance! Good job, Zach!

Game Night

We held our first social-a Game Night-on September 5th. A variety of games were offered for Fellows looking for good times and lots of laughs. As usual, food and candy were abundant! Our **Christmas Social** will take place on **Tuesday, December 5th from 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.** in the Teaching Fellows Office. We chose this date because it is Reading Day, and we hope this will allow *all* Teaching Fellows to attend.

Flatrock Playhouse

The *biggest* event of the semester will be a visit to the Flatrock Playhouse (FRP) to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." On **Friday, December 8th**, Teaching Fellows will travel by bus to FRP, one of North Carolina's most prestigious and well-known playhouses. We will depart from WCU at 3:45 p.m., stop at Cracker Barrel for supper, and then travel to FRP. The timing is perfect because we'll have an opportunity to relax and have a good time before the start of finals.

WCU Teaching Fellows

Fall/Winter Semester 2006



Flatrock Playhouse where the T.F.'s will be attending a play on December 8th.

© Are you aware of a Teaching Fellow who is doing something special here at Western? Please share the good news by contacting us! Send your news to Emily Collman (EC50271@wcu.edu) or call 227.4077 with any stories or suggestions!!

Giving Back- TF Service Projects

UNICEF!

Our primary fall service project was a fundraiser for UNICEF. This year, we set a very modest goal of \$100 for the entire group. However, thanks to your hard work and dedication, we raised \$293.05! All mon-

ies were given directly to UNICEF in order to help underprivileged children around the world.

Operation Christmas Child

Our most recent service project was a fundraiser to benefit Samaritans Purse.

The final donations totaled \$57, which allowed us to sponsor two children for Christmas. These donations made it possible to provide gifts to a boy and a girl in a developing country. Gifts included toys, school supplies, and personal care products. Way to go, WCU

In The News!!

This fall, several WCU Teaching Fellows were recognized for public service and academic excellence.

Katie Honeycutt, a sophomore Fellow studying K-12 Spanish Education, was recently in the news for helping at a bilingual health fair on October 7th in Sylva where she served as an interpreter. According to Katie, the health fair may become an annual event, and she hopes to get other Teaching Fellows involved in next year's fair.

Also in the news is Jessica Luedeman, a junior Fellow who won a \$1,500 undergraduate scholarship from Sigma Alpha Iota. Jessica plans to teach elementary grades music, and she will use this scholarship to further her education here at Western.

Holly Allen, a senior Elementary Education major, received the Outstanding Prospective Teacher Award for Fall 2006. She was nominated based on her outstanding performance while

she completed Internship II at Cartoogechaye Elementary School in Franklin, North Carolina.



"It was a way for me to get to know Latinos here and in the surrounding areas in Sylva and close to campus."
-Katie Honeycutt

BIRTHDAYS!!!

August

- 3- Erica Anderson
- 5-Paige Parker
- 6- Brittany McManus
- 13- Darren West
- 16- Sharayah Smith
- 22- Laurel Cobb
- 27- Kelly Mashburn
- 30- Marlee Bourey

September

- 1- Garrett Fisher
- 4- Jordan Davis
- 7- Clare Phelps
- 7- Tiffany Beck
- 18- Crystal Holland
- 23- Britney Sidden
- 25-Meredith Hartzog
- 26- Brandon Meeks

October

- 16- Jamie Buchanan
- 16- Erika Impagliatelli
- 16- Brian Walters
- 20- Matthew Ratliff
- 22- Kandace Green
- 27- Andrew Blair
- 31- Polly Rudoff

November

- 5- Thad Caldwell
- 6- Cory Braun
- 8- Lauren Rogers
- 18- Amber Gilliam
- 19-Zebadiah Elmore
- 20- Whitney Leatherwood
- 20- Matthew Hill
- 22-Casey Campbell
- 23-Brandon Hall
- 24- Alysha McCrary

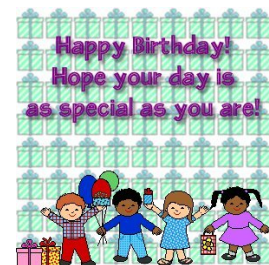
27- Stephanie Grigg

28- Rachel Jellis

December

- 4-Lindsay Godwin
- 8- Amber Harris
- 12- Chasity Ellis
- 12- Melissa Cook
- 14- Meghan Bryant
- 16-Christina Harris
- 22-Amanda Griffin

Happy Birthday to All of Our Teaching Fellows! We hope you have a great one!



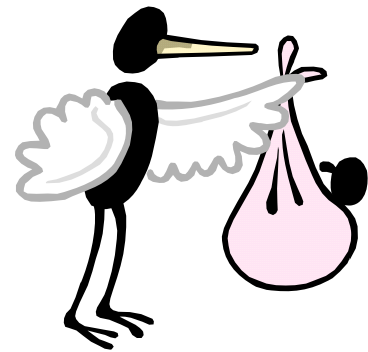
Congratulations! They're Expecting A Boy!!!!

What is the hot topic among WCU Teaching Fellows? It's all about our beloved director, advisor, mentor, and friend—Jackie Smith!

Jackie and her husband, Graham County Middle School Assistant Principal, Rex Smith, received the good news last summer.

The newest addition to the WCU Teaching Fellows family—a boy—is scheduled to arrive next April.

Feel free to stop by anytime to congratulate Jackie and talk baby talk! (Hint—just remember, don't eat her chocolate chip cookie dough!). Congratulations, Jackie and Rex! We love you!



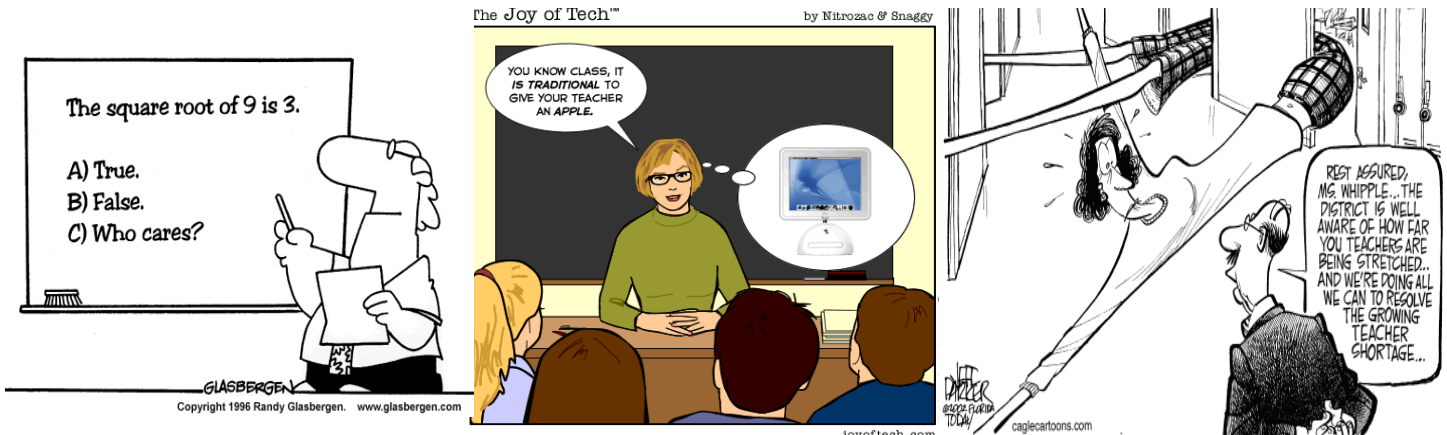
Jackie's baby boy with his delivery stork!!

Dates to Remember:

- © Dec. 1— Student Special Requests due to Lynne Stewart
- © Dec. 18— Grade/Credit Hours Reports due to Sherry Woodruff
- © Dec. 18— December 2006 Graduate notification to Sherry Woodruff
- © Jan. 12— Junior Enrichment Registration Deadline to Danny Bland
- © Jan. 12— Senior Orientation Week
- Applications to School Systems
- © Jan. 16— Requests to Delay Summer Experiences due
- © Jan. 19— Letters of Consideration for Bus Facilitator for Discovery 2007 Due to Gladys Graves
- © Jan. 27— Recruitment Day!!
- © Jan. 31— Senior Exit Forms for all December graduates due to Lynne Stewart

REMEMBER: Items must be received by the NCTFP Office in Raleigh *by the date shown on this list*. Do NOT wait until the last minute. Do it now!

Cartoons!!! Even Teachers Need to Laugh!



Study Abroad: A Message from Lydia Poetker

Note: Lydia is a junior Teaching Fellow from Taylorsville. She has spent the fall semester studying in Costa Rica. The following is an excerpt from her correspondence with Jackie.

As of now, my experience in Costa Rica has been very challenging but very nice. It is quite interesting to live in another country away from all friends and family just to learn. Culture shock hasn't been as difficult as not having your usual support group available.

For small adventures, I have been on a number of excursions through my program, Academic Programs International, which have been beautiful and memorable in their own way. However, the highlights, or the parts I will cherish the most, are the moments where I was able to give back or help the people here in the same way they have helped me. Going on short trips throughout the country and seeing places like Tortuguero National Park is something that

can be repeated and does not have much of an impact on the person who is doing it other than a greater appreciation for God's creation.

In my opinion, what is most important during my time here is to learn about the people and be a blessing in their lives which is something that does make an impact in their life and my own. Moments I will always remember are the hours I spent practicing English with my host brother, trying to explain Algebra in Spanish to my host sister, walking around town for exercise with my host-mom (for her physical exercise and for me verbal exercise), hanging out with my first Tica friend in a café, and the odd spurts of conversation and smiles I've shared with the locals.

It's a pleasure to be able to give back to the people who help me and are patient with me everyday. When I first arrived, I felt so helpless because I realized how very little Spanish I knew but now I truly understand that it is

what you do and not what you say that really matters in any culture.

Thus, I am very grateful for my time abroad. Although it was hard at times, I have learned much about Central America, the people, the language and myself. This experience will always be held dear to my heart and it will be a delight to share it with others.

Lydia



Lydia Poetker is shown with new friends she met in Costa Rica.