

Academic Affairs

News & Reflections

From the Provost's Desk

Dear Catamount Family,

Western Carolina University highly values our hundreds of international students, faculty, and staff from around the globe. We are committed to being an inclusive and welcoming campus and the diversity that a multi-national population brings to our university enriches our community immeasurably.

The recent Executive Order issued on Friday, January 27th, by President Trump, limits immigrant and non-immigrant visa holders from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the US for 90 days. We are reviewing the impact of this Order, particularly seeking clarification for our own campus community. This is a very fluid situation. We are reaching out to everyone on campus we know may be affected to offer support and bring clarity wherever possible.

We are in close communication with our colleagues across the UNC system and General Administration and are working together to stay abreast of developments. The office of International Programs and Services is available to provide guidance to those who have questions or concerns.

At this time, universities across the country are recommending people from the seven countries listed in the Executive Order to not travel outside the US and we encourage anyone affected by this Executive Order to consult an immigration attorney prior to international travel.

<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-international-programs-and-services/contact-ips/>

The UNC system will continue to closely monitor the situation and share developments as they become available. We will share those updates through the Academic Affairs Newsletter and other campus communications as necessary. In the meantime, take advantage of all the great things WCU has to offer, stay engaged in your work, and support each other.

Sincerely,

Alison Morrison-Shetlar

Provost on the Ground

Chancellor's List Event	February 6
Home Base Grand Opening	February 9
Department of Political Science and Public Affairs	February 14
Department of Anthropology and Sociology	February 15
School of Music	February 15
Faculty Scholarship Celebration	February 15
Center for Career and Professional Development Etiquette Reception	February 16
Leadership Academy	February 17

Undergraduate Studies Updates

from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

Academic Leaders' Summit

Academic leaders at WCU recently participated in a summit entitled *The Future of Higher Education: New Rules for Competition*. Key points of discussion included the changing nature of higher education, for example, the declining overall percentage of traditional age (18-24) entering college freshmen, growth in adult learners (ages 25 and above), emerging academic areas of interest for student majors, and the financial landscape for college students. Additional points discussed at the summit included:

- The number of NC high school graduates will increase from 68,000 in 2001 to 107,000 in 2018 but will decline to 98,000 in 2022;
- The number of Hispanic students is expected to grow from 2% of NC high school graduates in 2001 to 16% in 2031;
- At the college level, while there was an average increase in student services spending per student of 11% between 2001 and 2011, the average five-year graduation rates at public and private universities in the US remained flat at 52% between 2004 and 52.6% in 2015 (for the 2009 cohort), so more funding does not always result in increased returns;
- There have been three consecutive years of increased per student appropriations; however, only five states have increased overall funding since 2008 and the US remains at 15.3% below pre-recession levels of funding;
- While 5% of the total higher education enrollment is international, 10% of tuition revenues generated by universities are derived from international students;
- Foreign countries with significant enrollment in US institutions include: China, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Kuwait, as well as European nations;
- Higher education institutions located in urban areas are attracting the most student applications (almost 6 million), and seeing the greatest growth in share of the US population, than institutions located in towns (just over 2 million), followed by suburban institutions (approximately 1 million), and finally, institutions located in rural areas (less than 250,000);
- Adult undergraduates will grow twice as fast as traditional undergraduate students in the future;
- Projected degree completions point to master's level as the fastest growing (28% currently, to 31% in 2022), flat doctoral degree completions (6% currently and 6% in 2022), and decline in baccalaureate (66% currently and 63% in 2022);
- There have been more than 1,900 new graduate programs added nationally between 2011 and 2013.

Click on the following link to see the presentation made at the summit by John Tannous, Research Associate at the Education Advisory Board in Washington, DC https://intranet.wcu.edu/academicaffairs/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/academicaffairs/Documents/EAB_Western%20Carolina_1.24.17.pptx&action=default

Continued...

Cherokee Campus Theme

Planning is underway for the 2017-18 campus theme, Cherokee, with the new steering committee in place. The membership of the committee, which is chaired by Dr. Lisa Bloom, the Jay Robinson Endowed Professor in Education, consists of the following: Deidre Hopkins (Undergraduate Studies), Andrew Denson (History), Ben Steere (Cherokee Studies/Anthropology and Sociology), Jane Adams-Dunford (Student Affairs), Janina Dehart (Mentoring and Persistence to Success), Jennifer Cooper (Center for Service Learning), Jill Jacobs (Fine and Performing Arts), Jonnie Walkingstick (Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian), Kasia Podosek (Provost's Office), Kevin Koett (Student Affairs), Liz Skene (Hunter Library), Marlon Morgan (Communication and Public Relations), Pamela Duncan (English), Peter Koch (Mountain Heritage Center), Sky Sampson (Cherokee Center), and Thomas Martin (Biology). A website and other resources to support the theme are being developed.

Black History Month Events

from the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer

Why We Celebrate Black History Month: An interactive conversation about the importance of the celebration with Ekow King, Director of Intercultural Student Engagement University at Albany (SUNY).

Sponsored by Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs

February 1, 2017

Blue Ridge Ballroom

7:00 PM

N Word Series 1

Sponsored by Nu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

February 2, 2017

UC Multipurpose Room

7:06 PM

Salsa Lessons

Sponsored by Latino Appreciation Student Organization

February 3, 2017

Intercultural Affairs

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Tunnel of Oppression

A 20-minute interactive tour through scenes depicting oppression and discrimination of marginalized groups.

Sponsored by Intercultural Affairs

February 8, 2017

UC Grand Room

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Salsa Lessons

Sponsored by Latino Appreciation Student Organization

February 8, 2017

Intercultural Affairs

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Every Kiss Begins with K: A Valentine's Ball

Sponsored by the Kappa Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

February 11, 2017

UC Illusions

9:00 PM

\$5.00 general Public, Greeks \$4.00

All proceeds go the American Heart Association

CASE

Social Justice: Not just a trend but a call to action

Sponsored by Intercultural Affairs

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

UC Raleigh Room

Salsa Lessons

Sponsored by Latino Appreciation Student Organization

February 15, 2017, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

February 17, 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

February 22, 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Intercultural Affairs

Back to the Roots: Understanding Latin America's African Journey

Black History is not simply about African-Americans, but African descendants. LatinX people have a long history of African heritage within their lineage that is often ignored.

Sponsored by Latino Appreciation Student Organization

February 22, 2017

Intercultural Affairs

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Message Theater presents Jeff Stetson's one act play, "The Meeting".

The setting for this fictitious conversation between Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a hotel room the night after the bombing of Malcolm X house and a week before his fatal speech at the famed Audubon ballroom.

Sponsored by Intercultural Affairs and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs

February 27, 2017

6:00 PM

UC Theater

N Word Series 2

Sponsored by Nu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

February 28, 2017

Location TBA

7:00 PM

Updates on the Quality Enhancement Plan and Compliance

from the Director of SACSCOC Reaffirmation



Update:

The final DegreePlus proposal is currently being reviewed by the committee and key campus constituents. Carmen Huffman, Chair of the Quality Enhancement Plan Development and Implementation committee, and Drew Virtue, an assistant professor in the English department, have managed the completion of the official 75 page (+ 25-page appendix) proposal which will be submitted to SACSCOC on Feb. 22nd. Beginning Fall 2017, DegreePlus will be piloted with students in the Honors College, Academic

Success Program, and the Leadership Minor program which is jointly offered by the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement and the Human Services department.

Previous News:

Our QEP, named DegreePlus, will improve student success by re-conceptualizing and incentivizing student engagement. It will complement curricular learning and build on the premise that learning is not restricted to the classroom but includes student activities like working part-time jobs, being a member of academic clubs, participating in athletics, attending seminars, and conducting volunteer work. DegreePlus comprises three levels: (1) exposure and experience, (2) reflection and articulation, and (3) integration and application. In level 1, students will engage in five pre-approved activities in four different skill categories (cultural responsiveness, teamwork, leadership, and professionalism). These activities will be organized on an experiential transcript that will help students communicate all the work that they have accomplished. After completing activities, students will progress to level 2, where they will meet with a mentor who will ask students questions that probe their experiences and learning. Students will then complete personal reflections that may be written or performed. At level 3, students will develop a project that applies one or more skills that they learned in level 1. The project can include curricular experiences like internships, field experiences, research, or capstone courses or extracurricular experiences such as serving as the president of a student organization. Level 3 also involves a new event called "DegreePlus Day" which is an annual, culminating event to celebrate students' progress and achievement in the DegreePlus program. After the DegreePlus experience, students will be better prepared for their professional aspirations and for a life of learning.

For more information, please see: degreeplus.wcu.edu

Compliance Certification

Update:

On February 6-7, we are having a preliminary visit from the Chair of the SACSCOC onsite committee, Dr. Terry McConathy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Louisiana Tech University. She will advise us on our Focused Report, which contains our responses to the off-site committee's findings of 16 non-compliance issues. She will also advise us on the onsite visit logistics and accommodations, the DegreePlus written proposal, and scheduling.

Previous News:

We recently received the review of our Compliance Certification report from the SACSCOC off-site review committee. Overall, WCU came out of this preliminary review in good shape. However, we were found noncompliant with several standards. We have been busy collecting materials like transcripts, CVs, syllabi, updated organizational charts, reports on facilities, and student complaints to address issues of non-compliance. Heartfelt thanks go out to the many people who have been extremely helpful in gathering this evidence in such a short timeframe. Because of the excellent team effort that is occurring across campus, we are confident that we will be compliant with those standards.

Making a case for compliance with SACSCOC Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1

While WCU fared quite well in the recent SACSCOC off-site review as part of the decennial effort to reaffirm our institutional accreditation, our peer evaluators did find WCU not compliant with Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1. This standard addressed institutional effectiveness and requires ongoing unit-level evaluation of goals and outcomes with evidence of improvements made as a result of analysis of results. The standard is composed of five sub-standards each addressing a different facet of university operations: educational programs, administrative support services, academic and student support services, research, and community/public service.

Even though we know significant effort is taking place across the university to make improvements and be strategic in decision making, we find ourselves lacking in the ability to collect and articulate the good work we are doing.

Throughout the Spring, the OIPE in partnership with the Coulter Faculty Commons will be working with academic units to ensure each unit has clearly articulated goals with related measurable outcomes. Thank you in advance for your contributions to this effort as we make our case for compliance.

Focused Report

Our next step is to develop a written response, with appropriate evidence, to address items of non-compliance. This “Focused Report” will be submitted to the review committee by mid-February.

Open-forum

We will hold an open forum on February 9, 2017 from 2:30 - 3:30 pm at the UC Theater to communicate the final DegreePlus proposal and get additional feedback from students, staff, and faculty. We will also let the university know of our compliance progress as we anticipate the April 4-6 on-site visit.

New web presence for the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

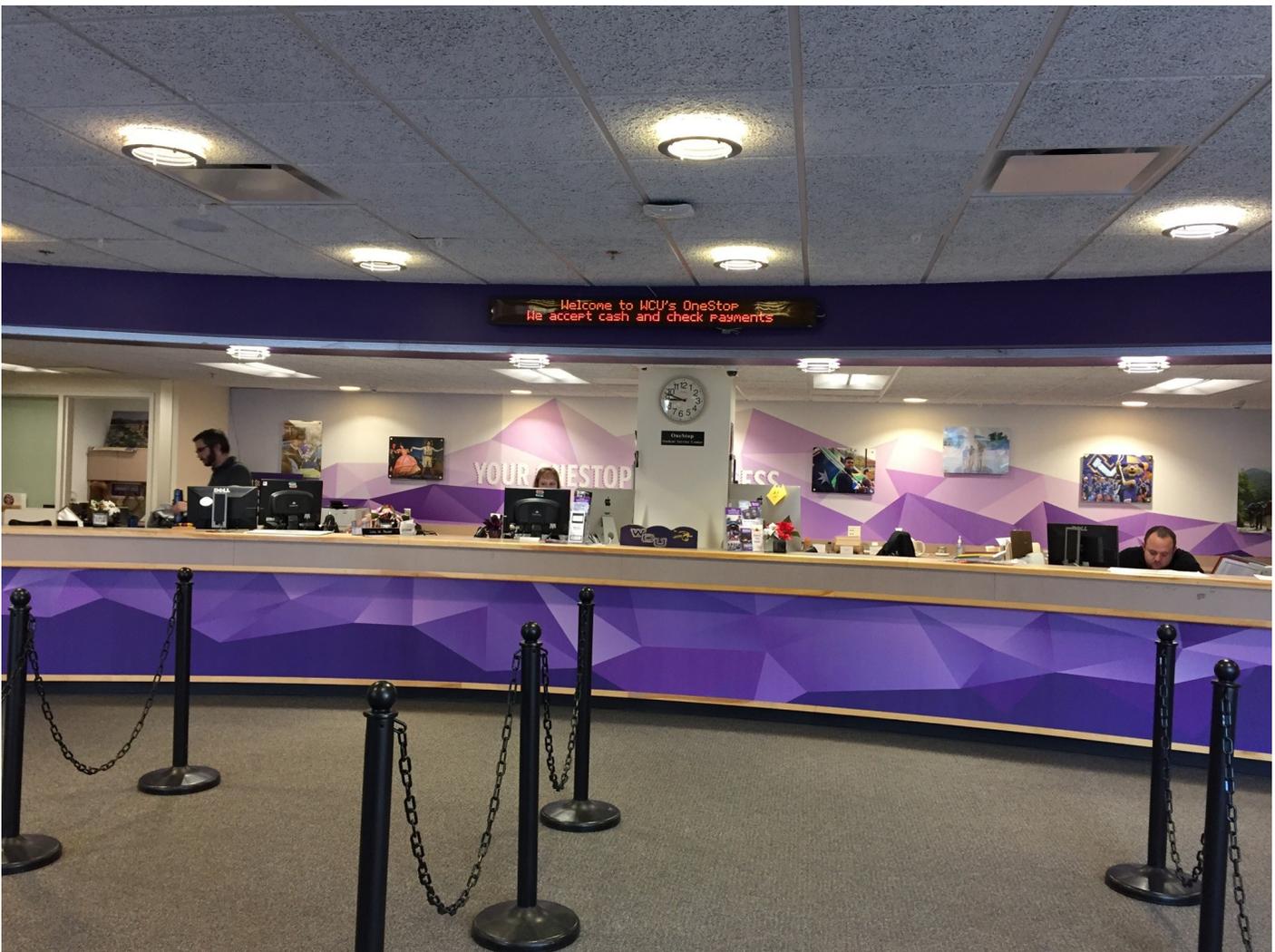
The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness is pleased to announce its website has been revised and updated. The new webpage is part of the comprehensive redesign of the Western Carolina University website which began in December 2015. The project was approached with intent to improve the user experience, and make it easier for visitors to locate the desired information. Please be aware there is much content still to be added to the OIPE website, and even a few pages which have been established as placeholders for information yet to come. We are working on content as quickly as we are able. Please visit us at <http://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/oipe/index.asp>, and we are happy to receive your feedback on the design and content of our new page.

OneStop News

from the Division of Student Success

On February 12, the OneStop will have served the Western Carolina Community for 12 years! The OneStop has continuously evolved throughout these years to better assist Western's changing student body and technology. We operate on the principles of collaboration, knowledge and support. During the 2016 year, we aided over 26,000 students, parents, staff and faculty. While students are our primary customers, we also provide assistance to faculty and staff. The OneStop not only provides support to the departments located in the Killian Annex but we also work closely with the international programs, parking services, and admissions.

The OneStop is staffed by three professional staff members, Linda (LC) Carmody, Lisa Frady, and Aramis Martinez, who each have a Master's degree in Education, and 10 student employees. LC is the director and works closely with Lisa and Aramis in the operation of the OneStop. The student employees primarily answer the phone lines and help with the flow of traffic during busy times. The professional staff takes payments, help customers decipher financial aid requirements, understand bills and process transcripts. On any given day, about two hundred people come through the OneStop and approximately 100 phone calls are answered. During busy times, such as the opening of the semester, the total count of individuals assisted can be over one thousand in a single day. We hope students continue to feel comfortable coming to the OneStop for anything they may need for many years to come.



International Education Week 2016

from the Office of the Associate Provost, Academic Affairs



The office of International Programs and Services (IPS), in collaboration with various units across campus, hosted International Education Week, November 14-18, 2016. International Education Week is held annually, across the nation, to celebrate the benefits of international education and worldwide exchange as a joint initiative of the US Department of State and Department of Education.

International Education Week kicked off with a presentation on Africa and Africans in World History and Culture by Dr. Saheed Aderinto, Associate Professor in the Department of History.

Dr. Aderinto engaged students in a purposeful discussion about notable African civilizations, peoples and cultures from a perspective of shared global experience. This discussion included the impact of geography and religion in the founding of African societies and how those factors continue to influence the world today.

Other programming during the week celebrated the cultures of China, Japan, and Germany. Dr. Ling LeBeau, Director of IPS, Sihong Lisa Li, visiting scholar from China, and the Chinese Language Group hosted China Night. The Chinese Language Group is comprised of WCU students, faculty and staff that meet weekly to learn the Chinese language and culture. The group performed cultural skits, sang a classic Chinese folk song and gave a presentation on Chinese ethnic and pop culture. Yumiko Ono, Instructor of Japanese in the Department of World Languages hosted Japan Night. This program included presentations about Japanese culture, information on studying abroad in Japan and first-hand reflections of life in the United States from current Japanese students. The International Catamounts (I-Cats), a student group, hosted a cultural presentation on Germany. This presentation was given by three German exchange students who shared facts and led a discussion on the country and culture, as well as shared food from Germany.

Additional events throughout the week included the Global Citizenship Summit hosted by Dr. Ingrid Bego, Assistant Professor in the Political Science and Public Affairs Department. For this event, students represented countries from around the world in a model-UN fashion to produce a joint resolution. Intercultural Affairs (ICA) hosted a Native American Heritage Program and presented the movie *Apocalypto* along with food and discussion. In addition, ICA and IPS hosted *I Learn America*, a documentary of the journey of five immigrant teenagers and their experiences adjusting and learning about a new country, city and high school. A student-led discussion about immigration in America followed the movie. Finally, the Bardo Arts Center hosted a talk by Michael Roy, a Muralist whose art reflects international inspiration.

To wrap up the week, IPS hosted a Study Abroad Panel of enthusiastic study abroad returnees and a Study Abroad Information Session full of information and details for potential study abroad students.

International Education Week is a wonderful opportunity to engage the campus in sharing and learning more about the world, international education and cultural, and worldwide exchange. If your department would like to host an event for next year's International Education Week (November 13-17, 2017) or if you have any suggestions or feedback, please contact IPS at international@wcu.edu.

Student Spotlight

Adam Lytle

Undergraduate Student, Accounting



Adam Lytle is an undergraduate student majoring in accounting here at WCU. He is originally from Indiana.

He works as a resident assistant in the Balsam Residence Hall, and is an active senator for the Student Government Association. Adam currently serves on the Joint Taskforce on Racism as well.

A talent Adam enjoys to show, is that he can walk on his hands!

Some interests include binge watching every Netflix drama available, going adventuring in the mountains with his friends, reading, and food in general.

Adam enjoys running, playing card games, and playing any recreational sport. He also enjoys dancing (which can be seen below).

His favorite quote is from John Green, *The Fault in our Stars*, “if you want the rainbow, you have to deal with the rain”.

Dance Marathon event, November 2016



Faculty Spotlight

Angela Dills

Gimelstob-Landry Distinguished Professor of Regional Economic Development



Angela Dills is the Gimelstob-Landry Distinguished Professor of Regional Economic Development.

She earned her B.A. in Economics and Spanish at the University of Virginia, and her M.A. and PhD in Economics from Boston University.

Angela has held faculty positions at Clemson University, Mercer University, Wellesley College, and Providence College prior to coming to WCU. Her research deals with policy questions, particularly in education and health. She has published work on peer effects, school choice, alcohol and drug prohibitions, social host laws, contraceptive insurance mandates, and higher education. Angela's current research projects include examining the effects of liberalizing marijuana laws; how expanding transportation options affects health, education, and crime-related outcomes; and peer effects in higher education. In addition, she is working with local economic developers to provide them with county-level economic data to aid them in their efforts.

She and her husband, Sean, have three young children so her biggest 'hobby' is spending time with them. This entails things like: reading Harry Potter to their 3rd grader Julian (they are almost finished with only 50 more pages left in the last book! What will they read next is a question they ponder.), taking their six-year old Porter to Reid Pool for a Friday evening swim, and helping their 2 year old, Ryn, learn to pedal her tricycle so she can keep up with her big brothers.

The Dills enjoy short family hikes. Angela does a good bit of cooking and baking in her spare time. And, as she has since grade school, she regularly has her nose in a book (Louise Penny is a current favorite as are pop social science books a la Malcolm Gladwell)....although these days that book is likely an ebook.

Angela's parents are WCU alumni! How cool is it to work at the University where her parents met?! Angela is an Air Force brat, but her dad is from Franklin, and went to Franklin High School, then to WCU, and later retired on his grandparents' land in Otto, NC. Making a home near where she used to visit her grandparents and then, later in life, her parents, feels at once familiar and new.

Reframing unpleasant aspects of life helps keep it all in perspective. "The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life..." -C.S. Lewis

Staff Spotlight

Lynley Hardie

Executive Assistant, Office of the Provost



Lynley Hardie is an Executive Assistant in the Office of the Provost.

She grew up in Hillsborough, NC and attended Orange High School where her extra-curricular activities included creating busy signals on the cordless phone and ice skating with her friends on the weekends. Lynley graduated from WCU with her undergraduate degree in Interior Design in 2000. She loves drafting and making perspectives drawings. Lynley is currently working on her Master of Public Affairs, and plans to graduate in Spring 2018.

Lynley began her employment at WCU in March of 2012 in the Chemistry and Physics department where she helped the faculty and students with just about everything you could think of including administrative tasks, travel planning, overrides, section building, more overrides, opening the door to the stockroom, and even more overrides. Lynley has been in the Provost Office since April 2016 where she continues to help faculty, department heads, her fellow office mates, and the Associate Provost, Brandon Schwab. This year Lynley is a member in the Leadership Academy cohort.

This has given her the opportunity to pause and think about how to help and serve others around her and how to use her own personal skills to help others succeed.

In June, Lynley and her husband will celebrate their 18th anniversary! Together they have a 15 year old daughter. They love going to the movies, hiking (of course they live in Jackson County), having family game night, collecting toys from the 80's and going to as many Clemson games as they can manage.

“If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great.” – League of Their Own.

Thinking of this quote keeps Lynley going when she feels discouraged or distracted from her goal. Most of the time when something is challenging it just makes her want to do it more. Another favorite quote is, “No crying in baseball,” because sometimes we can't help ourselves...



Want to include news in next month's issue?

Please send information to sctobin@email.wcu.edu