Fifteenth Annual
Graduate Research Symposium

"Breakthrough to New Beginnings"

March 22, 2007
Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Graduate Research Symposium. Since 1992, the Graduate Research Symposium, sponsored by Graduate School and Research, has provided graduate students the opportunity to showcase their scholarly research and projects. I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for sharing your scholarly and creative work. In addition, I congratulate all the participating faculty and staff mentors for supporting and encouraging our presenters to participate in this meaningful experience.

For many of you, this will be your first opportunity to share empirical findings and creative works with the academic community. Today, you take that first step in becoming recognized as a scholar in your chosen discipline. The critical thinking skills that you learn as part of the research process will serve you well in becoming a consumer of information and a better citizen of the world. Your ability to speak with authority about your work will enable you to be heard by others and improve the world in which we live.

I congratulate you on this significant milestone in your academic development. It is my hope that your experience today inspires you to continue to think about how you might contribute to our understanding of the big issues facing our state and the world and propels you to take action.

I look forward to meeting each of you and having the opportunity to talk with you about your important work and your plans for the future. A celebration has been planned in your honor at Illusions in the University Center starting at 5:00 p.m. Come join your colleagues.

Dean, Graduate School and Research

Sponsored by: Wachovia Bank and Graduate School & Research, Western Carolina University
"Breakthrough to New Beginnings"

History of Western Carolina University

WCU was founded in August 1889 as a semi-public secondary school and chartered as Cullowhee High School in 1891. The founder, Professor Robert Lee Madison, wanted to provide an education for the young people in the region and train teachers to spread education throughout the western part of the state. In 1893 the Legislature designated the school as the first publicly funded normal school.

Over the next 40 years, the school expanded its curriculum and evolved into a junior college, and in 1929 it was chartered by the legislature as a four-year institution under the name Western Carolina Teachers College. Often called “the Cullowhee experiment,” Madison’s idea became the model for the other regional colleges in the state.

The demand for the liberal arts and programs in other areas of learning led to an expansion of the school’s offerings. Postgraduate studies and the Master of Arts in Education degree were added to the curriculum in 1951 after several decades of rapid growth and sweeping changes. In 1953, the name Western Carolina College was adopted.

In 1967 the institution was designated a regional university by the North Carolina General Assembly and Western Carolina University was given its current title. And, on July 1, 1972, WCU became a member of the University of North Carolina system.

Adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains, WCU has a commitment to the rich traditions of the Appalachian and Cherokee cultures. It’s Mountain Heritage Center, Cherokee Center, and Craft Revival Project reflect this influence—at the same time providing irreplaceable educational resources for the region.

The recently announced Millennial Initiative, doubling the size of the campus in 2005, will be a knowledge enterprise zone where university faculty and students, private industry, and government partners conduct research and development into scientific and technological innovations that have commercial applications. WCU continues its promise to the region by giving students intensive, hands-on educational opportunities while simultaneously promoting economic development.
Activities Overview:

11:00 a.m.  
Cardinal Room  
Multipurpose Room A  
Rogers Room

12:30 p.m.  
Catamount Room  
Multipurpose Room A  
Multipurpose Room B  
Rogers Room

2:00 p.m.  
Cardinal Room  
Catamount Room  
Multipurpose Room B  
Rogers Room  
Theater

3:30 p.m.  
Cardinal Room  
Catamount Room  
Multipurpose Room A  
Multipurpose Room B  
Rogers Room  
Theater

6:00 p.m.  
Cardinal Room  
Catamount Room  
Multipurpose Room A  
Multipurpose Room B  
Rogers Room

English I
Engineering Technology I
Math & Computer Science

Business
Engineering Technology II
Psychology I
English II

History I
Biology I
Psychology II
Health & Human Performance
Physical Therapy I

Health
Biology II
Public Affairs
History II
English III
Physical Therapy II

Health II
Chemistry
Art
Counseling
Education
11:00 a.m. **Cardinal Room:**

*English I*

Moderator: Elizabeth Addison

*“Hawthorne’s Women”*
Presenter: Krysten Buchanan
Sponsor: Elizabeth Addison

*“Leaving Paradise: Land Motifs in Moby-Dick”*
Presenter: Lynsie Lamitie
Sponsor: Elizabeth Addison

*“The Heart Under the Veil: Hawthorne’s Symbols as Confessor”*
Presenter: Karen Dodson
Sponsor: Mary C. Fenton

11:00 a.m. **Multipurpose Room A:**

*Engineering Technology I*

Moderator: James Zhang

*“Wireless Information System for the Lean Manufacturing Environment” (Poster Only)*
Presenter: Jason Naves
Sponsor: James Zhang

*“Comparison of Engraving Capabilities between the Haas CO2 Laser and the Oxford Lasers Solid State Laser”*
Presenter: Zak Kuhn
Sponsor: James Zhang
11:00 a.m.  

**Multipurpose Room A:**  
Engineering Technology I  
Moderator: James Zhang

“Test Panel Design For DC Motors” (Poster Only)  
Presenter: Brad Garland  
Sponsor: James Zhang

“Low Power, High Data Rate Wireless Protocol for Wireless Sensor Networks”  
Presenter: Nyaga Mbitiru  
Sponsor: James Zhang

“Performance comparison of a real world UWB system with a simulated UWB system”  
Presenter: Jeremy Cason  
Sponsor: James Zhang

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."  
- William Butler Yeats
11:00 a.m.  

**Rogers Room:**  
Math & Computer Science  
Moderator: Erin McNelis  

“Honest Permutations, n-kings, and Cayley's Mousetrap”  
Presenter: Chris Johnson  
Sponsor: Joseph Klerlein  

“Iso-Taxicab Geometry: Retooled and Reworked”  
Presenter: Samir Daoud  
Sponsor: Jeffrey Lawson  

“Multidimensional Quadrature Techniques and Applications”  
Presenter: James Ruff  
Sponsor: Erin McNelis  

“Who and what it takes to be a Super Bowl champion, using Factor Analysis and Logistic Regression”  
Presenter: John Michael Blaser  
Sponsor: Erik Heiny
12:30 p.m.  **Catamount Room:**

**Business**

Moderator: Paul Jacques

“**Consumer Agents: Examination of Buyer-Centric Brands in Consumer Markets**”
Presenter: Veselina P. Vracheva
Sponsor: Paul Jacques

“**MBA Program, College of Business, WCU: Marketing Plan**”
Presenters: Sentil Prakash Chinnachamy & Shree dhevi Rajagopalan
Sponsor: Steve W. Henson

“**Medical Device Manufacturers**”
Presenter: Scott Korfmann
Sponsor: Steve W. Henson

12:30 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room A:**

**Engineering Technology II**

Moderator: James Zhang

“**Human Tremor Modeling and Detection**”
Presenter: Brant Price
Sponsor: James Zhang
12:30 p.m.  

**Multipurpose Room A:**  
**Engineering Technology II**  
Moderator: James Zhang  
“Design Considerations for Knee Rehabilitation Machine”  
Presenter: Cassidy McMahan  
Sponsor: James Zhang  

“Design of Experiment and Regression Analysis on Injection Molding Machine for Quality Improvement”  
Presenter: James Henderson  
Sponsor: James Zhang  

“Signal Analysis using Empirical Mode Decomposition and AutoRegression Techniques”  
Presenter: Xiaoxi Nui Martin  
Sponsor: James Zhang  

12:30 p.m.  

**Multipurpose Room B:**  
**Psychology I**  
Moderator: Millicent Abel  
“Perceived Stress as a Function of Academic Major”  
Presenter: Ross W. May  
Sponsor: Millicent Abel
12:30 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room B:**
*Psychology I*
Moderator: Millicent Abel

“Effects of Sex and Time on Memory in Eyewitness Recall”
Presenter: Charles B. Elliott
Sponsor: Millicent Abel

“Examining the Validity of the Graduate Record Examination in Predicting Success in Graduate School”
Presenter: Tiffany Williams
Sponsor: Millicent Abel

“The History of PTSD and It’s Treatments”
Presenter: Emma Pluta
Sponsor: Valerie Schwiebert

12:30 p.m.  **Rogers Room:**
*English II*
Moderator: Elizabeth Addison

“The Price of Virtue for the Eighteenth-Century Woman”
Presenter: Karen Dodson
Sponsor: Mary C. Fenton
12:30 p.m.  **Rogers Room:**  
**English II**  
Moderator: Elizabeth Addison  
“Essay or Proto-Short Story?: Evaluating Addison and Steele’s Role in the Evolution of the Short Fiction Form”  
Presenter: Eric Newsom  
Sponsor: Mimi Fenton  
“Anne Kingsmill Finch, Countess of Winchilsea”  
Presenter: Eleanor Tutwiler  
Sponsor: Mimi Fenton

2:00 p.m.  **Cardinal Room:**  
**History I**  
Moderator: Laura Cruz  
“In the Spirit of Cooperation - Resistance and Compliance to Brown vs Board in West Virginia”  
Presenter: Whitney P. Altizer  
Sponsor: Alexander Macaulay
"Breakthrough to New Beginnings"

2:00 p.m.  

**Cardinal Room:**  
*History I*  

**Moderator:** Laura Cruz  

“*Beggar Thy Neighbor: The Military Revolution in Early Modern England*”  
**Presenter:** James R. Kozuch  
**Sponsor:** Laura Cruz  

“*From Buffalo Chips to Smokey the Bear Hats: Gender Inequality in the National Park Service, 1970-1995*”  
**Presenter:** Christina Fulcher  
**Sponsor:** Gael Graham

2:00 p.m.  

**Catamount Room:**  
*Biology I*  

**Moderator:** Laura DeWald  

“*Influence of Mycorrhizal Fungi on Oriental Bittersweet, Celastrus Orbiculatus*”  
**Presenter:** Carly Nichole Lett  
**Sponsor:** Laura DeWald  

“*Golf courses and their ability to provide landscape connectivity in Western North Carolina*”  
**Presenter:** Jennifer L. Extine  
**Sponsor:** Laura DeWald
2:00 p.m. **Catamount Room:**
Biology I
Moderator: Laura DeWald

“The effects of the decline of the American Chestnut and different management techniques on the genetic diversity of northern red oaks in Western North Carolina”
Presenter: Stephanie Grant
Sponsor: Laura DeWald

2:00 p.m. **Multipurpose Room B:**
Psychology II
Moderator: David McCord

“Problematic Usage Among Highly-Engaged Players of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games”
Presenter: Christopher Peters
Sponsor: L. Alvin Malesky

“Gender and Crossword Puzzles”
Presenter: Wes Knepper
Sponsor: Hal Herzog

“”One of the best inventions ever!” A Qualitative look at Facebook Usage”
Presenter: Amy Mary Scheck
Sponsors: Ashley Owens & L. Alvin Malesky
2:00 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room B:**
Psychology II

**Moderator: David McCord**

“Use of the RC Scales in a Complex Neuropsychological Patient Sample”
**Presenter: Lauren Drerup**
**Sponsor: David McCord**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
- Nelson Mandela
2:00 p.m. **Rogers Room:**
Health & Human Performance

Moderator: Justin Menickelli

“The Proficient Use of Time in Elementary Physical Education Classes: A Multiple Subject Analysis”
Presenters: Jamie Brockwell and Darius Bryson
Sponsor: Dan Grube

“The Relationship between Mental Preparation and Performance in Collegiate Baseball Players”
Presenter: Ryan McCurry
Sponsor: Justin Menickelli

2:00 p.m. **Theater:**
Physical Therapy I

Moderator: Linda Eargle

“The correlation between gender, BMI, handedness, and age in healthy individuals and the cross-sectional area of the (1) median nerve, (2) ulnar nerve, and (3) multifidus muscle using real-time ultrasound imaging”
Presenters: Jon Schumacher, Cameron Coghill, Brett Frye, Cole Hyatt, Anna Vaughn, Candice Wells
Sponsor: Todd Watson
2:00 p.m.  
**Theater:**  
*Physical Therapy I*  
Moderator: Linda Eargle  

“Teaching Personal Trainers Exercise Programs Specific to Clients With Low Back Pain”  
Presenters: Jessica Propst, Sarah Beth Henderson,  
Sponsor: Linda Eargle  

“A Qualitative Study of Practicing Physical Therapists’ Professional Views: A Comparison between an APTA membership sponsored facility and a non-APTA membership sponsored facility in Western North Carolina”  
Presenter: Jacob Bean  
Sponsor: Linda Eargle  

3:30 p.m.  
**Cardinal Room:**  
*Health I*  
Moderator: Wayne E. Billon  

“Nutrition Knowledge of Female Athletes Participating in NCAA Division I Sports”  
Presenter: Johnnie Jones  
Sponsor: Wayne E. Billon
3:30 p.m.  **Cardinal Room:**

Health I

Moderator: Wayne E. Billon

“Utilization of an Evidence-based, Standardized Order Set in the Treatment of Severe Sepsis”
Presenter: Kathi R. Balsinger
Sponsor: Marianne Hollis

“Stressors and Stress Reactions: A comparison of Nursing Students At the Community College and At the University During the First Year of the Nursing Program”
Presenter: Amy Putnam
Sponsor: Judy Mallory

3:30 p.m.  **Catamount Room:**

Biology II

Moderator:

“Role of calling song in mate choice and speciation in the cryptic katydids Amblycorypha alexanderi, A. rotundifolia, and a song morph known as "Craggy" (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae)”
Presenter: Dawn Cusick
Sponsor: James Costa
3:30 p.m.  **Catamount Room:**  
Biology II  
Moderator:  

“Soil characterization for river cane restoration in Western North Carolina”  
Presenter: Adam D. Griffith  
Sponsors: Rob Young & Kathy Mathews

“Comparison of Bulk Soil and Hemlock Rhizosphere Bacterial Assemblages Assessed By Different Screening Methods”  
Presenter: Emily A. York  
Sponsor: Seán O’Connell

3:30 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room A:**  
Public Affairs  
Moderator: Chris Cooper  

“Community Policing and Crime Reduction: Fact or Fiction?”  
Presenter: Matthew Autry  
Sponsor: Chris Cooper

“Air Pollution Reduction Strategies”  
Presenter: Keith Bamberger  
Sponsor: Chris Cooper
3:30 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room A:**
Public Affairs

Moderator: Chris Cooper

“Women in State Legislature And Access to Emergency Contraception”
Presenter: Sarah Kehrberg
Sponsor: Chris Cooper

3:30 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room B:**
History II

Moderator: David Dorondo

“Under the World’s Spotlight: Spain 1936-1945”
Presenter: Matthew McDonough
Sponsor: David Dorondo

“Continuing a Proud Tradition: World War II and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian”
Presenter: Angela Ragan
Sponsor: David Dorondo
3:30 p.m.  

**Rogers Room:**

**English III**

Moderator: Annette Debo

“Zora Neale Hurston’s Work of Art: The Husbands in Their Eyes Were Watching God and Developing Black Masculinity”
Presenter: Joi H. Keen
Sponsors: Annette Debo

“Motherhood and The Mirror Stage: A Lacanian Look at Toni Morrison's Beloved”
Presenter: Julia P. McLeod
Sponsor: Annette Debo

“(Un)Masking Gender in Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway”
Presenter: Lindsey Peterson
Sponsor: Annette Debo

“An Image of Achebe's Madman”
Presenter: Colin Christopher
Sponsor: Annette Debo
3:30 p.m. **Theater:**
Physical Therapy II

Moderator: Karen Lunnen

“Clinical Anatomy: A Teaching/Learning Experience Involving PT and PTA Students”
Presenters: Carlos Wilson, Will Bulk, Meg Murphy, Nicole Rule, Megan Sellers, Dave Simpson
Sponsor: Kathy Starr

“Relationship among self report and physical performance of balance and gait in community-dwelling older adults: a service learning project”
Presenters: Day Watson, Jamie Harris, Carla Palmer, Gina Ohmann, Jenni Wood, Kristen Boles
Sponsors: Lori Schrodt & Sue McPherson

“Service-Learning to Provide Training for Fitness Aides at Cherokee Life Center”
Presenters: Rebecca Murphy, Tiffany Purcell, Samantha Smith, Jenny Wallace
Sponsor: Karen Lunnen
6:00 p.m.  **Cardinal Room:**
**Health II**

Moderator: Marianne Hollis

“The Maintenance of the Relationship between Coaching Efficacy and Team Efficacy in Basketball”
Presenter: Brian Rhodes
Sponsor: Justin Menickelli

“Lay Rescuer Automatic External Defibrillator Training: Perceptions of Readiness and Performance Response Time of High School Staff”
Presenter: Linda Pelz
Sponsor: Marianne Hollis

6:00 p.m.  **Catamount Room:**
**Chemistry**

Moderator: Scott Huffman

“High Performance Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry of Human Phosphatidylcholines in soil as a Method for Determining the Post Mortem Interval”
Presenter: Stephen Ballew
Sponsor: Scott Huffman
6:00 p.m. **Catamount Room:**
Chemistry

Moderator: Scott Huffman

“**Determination of Lead and Arsenic in Plants Employed for Phytoremediation using Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES)**”
Presenter: Youngsoo Cho
Sponsor: David J. Butcher

6:00 p.m. **Multipurpose Room A:**
Art

Moderator: Marie Cochran

“**Collaborative Service Learning: Inside and Outside the Art Classroom**”
Presenter: Sally Jacobs
Sponsor: Marie Cochran

“**Visual Representation in Youth Culture & Everyday Living**”
Presenter: Tara O'Loughlin
Sponsor: Marie Cochran
6:00 p.m.  **Multipurpose Room B:**
Counseling

Moderator:

“Melville and Hawthorne: The Relationship That Transformed Moby Dick”
Presenter: Brandy Kiger
Sponsor: Elizabeth Addison

“Rape Prevention Programs Targeting Male-Perpetration: What's Out There?”
Presenter: Tiffany Reid
Sponsor: Valerie Schwiebert

6:00 p.m.  **Rogers Room:**
Education

Moderator:

“Students' Perceptions of the Dual Enrollment Experience in Rural Western North Carolina”
Presenter: Robin B. Buchanan
Sponsor: Gayle Moller

“Internet Use in relation to Personality, Loneliness, and Depression”
Presenter: Natalia Shtompel
Sponsor: David McCord
6:00 p.m.  

**Rogers Room:**

**Education**

Moderator:

“Increasing Intrinsic Motivation through use of Self Determination Theory”
Presenter: Bob Carpenter
Sponsor: Lisa Bloom

“Teaching Empathy to Others”
Presenter: Lee Ann Bogle
Sponsor: Donna James

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You are cordially invited to a Reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Illusions in the UC.
### Symposium Participants:

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