

# Academic Affairs

## News & Reflections

### From the Provost's Desk



As we enter the winter holiday season and the last few days of 2017, we can be appreciative and proud of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and administrators. We have accomplished much this calendar year -- successfully achieved our 10-year reaccreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges, developed construction plans for the new science building, Apodaca Hall, prepared for NC Promise in 2018, and achieved another record enrollment of 11,034, just to name a few! It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding calendar year!

This past year has also presented our Western Carolina family with some significant challenges. Our beloved Chancellor, Dr. David Belcher, will go on medical leave beginning January 1, 2018. It is with heart-felt appreciation and great love and affection that we wish David and Susan a most beautiful and peace filled holiday and much deserved time together. Our prayers and best wishes will always be with them.

Thank you all for everything you do to make Western Carolina University the extraordinary place that it is; I wish you the very best for the holiday season and a very happy new year. See you in 2018!

Go Cats!

Sincerely,

Alison Morrison-Shetlar  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

### Provost on the Ground

Department of Psychology	Dec. 6
LIFE@WCU Holiday Reception	Dec. 7
Honors College Medallion Ceremony	Dec. 13
School of Nursing Convocation	Dec. 14
Senior Toast	Dec. 15
WCU December Commencement Ceremonies	Dec. 16

# Updates from Undergraduate Studies

*from the Office of Undergraduate Studies*

Effective with the 2018 spring semester, the Liberal Studies Program will be temporarily administered by Richard Starnes, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Starnes will work with Dr. Jen Schiff, associate professor of Political Science/Public Affairs, who is chairing the Liberal Studies Committee for the second year, as well as the other members of the committee to ensure the program's successful administration and oversight. Dean Starnes will also oversee the Mountain Heritage Center, working with director Pam Meister and her staff, while Carol Burton assumes the Acting Provost role beginning January 1.



Congratulations to all of our graduates! Special wishes to Dele Ohonme, our Provost Office student worker.  
(Pictured second from the left)

# Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation Update

*from the Executive Director for Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation*

Dr. Salido is busy promoting the great things that WCU is doing across the region.

Recent activities include:

- Presented at the Amplified Workforce Development Summit in Asheville, November 29. Spoke about WCU's role in advancing economic mobility for the region's citizens and how WCU contributes to creating a qualified workforce.
- Attended the UNC Engagement Council retreat. Joined other UNC system schools to advocate for UNC General Administration resources that support engagement activities at the system campuses.
- Attended the UNC Economic Transformation Council meeting. Contributed to the UNC System's effort to support the state in attracting businesses like the Amazon headquarters.
- Involved in developing a LEAD Outdoor Recreation conference with colleagues in the College of Engineering and Technology, Education and Allied Professions, and Health and Human Sciences and the Center for Career and Professional Development.
- Organized regional leaders to discuss how WCU can impact broadband availability in WNC.
- Worked with leaders in Asheville to promote the natural products industry.
- Awarded ARC funding, with Wendy Cagle and Yue Hillon, to perform a natural products industry market analysis.
- Promoted WCU at regional venues like rotary clubs, county board meetings, and various organization events.
- Attended events that expand WCU's network with the region including: area chambers of commerce meetings, business and company events, economic development meetings, conferences, and trade shows.
- Represented WCU on regional and state boards.
- Worked with faculty to connect students to internships.
- Met with program directors and department heads to understand engagement activities and goals.



# Council on Inclusive Excellence

*from the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer*

As part of Western Carolina University's commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs has established the Council on Inclusive Excellence (CIE). Members of the inaugural council received a letter of appointment from Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar on December 7, 2017.

The Council will be charged with the immediate review, strategic consideration, and implementation of the 2017 Joint Taskforce on Racism's recommendations. Beyond the Joint Task Force on Racism's recommendation, the CIE will work to support the institution's Strategic Goals and implement its charge.

The members of the inaugural Council on Inclusive Excellence are:

## Co-Chairs

- Dr. Rebecca Lasher
- Ricardo Nazario-Colón

## Faculty Representatives

- Dr. Ellie Blair
- Dr. Tom D'Angelo
- Dr. Nelson Granda-Marulanda
- Dr. Brandi Hinnant-Crawford
- Dr. Milton Laufer
- Dr. Eleanor Petrone
- Dr. Brian Railsback
- Dr. JoBeth Shafran

## Staff Representatives

- Chris Dahlquist
- Dr. Lowell Davis
- Pamela Degraffenreid
- Dr. Martha Diede
- Dan Gibson
- Dr. Kevin Koett
- Dr. Dana Patterson
- Sky Sampson

## Student Representatives

- Kaderus Bailey
- Baylie Baker
- Caroline Duffy
- Kirsten Oliphant
- Jenifer Montoya Velasquez
- Michael Caleb Queen



# Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Updates

*from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness*

## Outcomes Assessment Reporting Professional Development Workshops

Did you know that last month, there were four professional development workshops on campus that focused on program-level student learning outcomes? Ramp up your assessment of those outcomes by registering for one of the four Program Assessment Methods Workshops that will be held in January and February. Register now at: [https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8IdGZ0EZUxqz8nb](https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IdGZ0EZUxqz8nb)

These 90-minute professional development workshops are a collaborative effort between the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness and the Coulter Faculty Commons. They are designed for those who assess student learning outcomes or who will be managing/coordinating the assessment process. By the end of the workshop, participants will be ready to communicate and apply basic tenets in the design, selection, and carrying out of assessment methods. Doing so will provide meaningful information allowing one to make sound judgements about the extent to which students are achieving program-level student learning outcomes. Key topics include the trustworthiness of data and sound data collection methodology. These workshops are designed for the beginning and developing levels or those who want to better understand WCU's focus on program assessment. Four workshop dates are available.

- Wednesday, January 24, 2018 (2:30-4:00 p.m., Hunter Library 186)
- Thursday, January 24, 2018 (2:30-4:00 p.m., Hunter Library 186)
- Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (2:30-4:00 p.m., Hunter Library 186)
- Wednesday, February 14, 2018 (2:30-4:00 p.m., Hunter Library 186)

TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE WORKSHOPS, PLEASE BRING WITH YOU THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (AS BEST YOU CAN):

- An EXISTING Program-level Assessment (course-embedded test/scoring key, assignment/scoring key, and/or assignment/rubric are most useful)
- All Program-level Student Learning Outcomes for an educational program (certificate, standalone minor, or degree program)
- Program Curriculum Map (aligning all student learning outcomes with the scope and sequence of courses students will take)
- Program Assessment Plan (3-5 year plan)
- OPE Assessment Report Feedback (distributed in early October)
- Laptop to revise your assessment methods

If you find you are unable to attend, please notify Dr. Steve Wallace, Director of Assessment at [srwallace@wcu.edu](mailto:srwallace@wcu.edu) as soon as possible - space is limited.

For more information visit:

- Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/oipe/assessment-and-program-review/student-learning-outcomes.aspx>)
- Coulter Faculty Commons (<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/faculty/coulter-faculty-commons/index.aspx>)

## Office transitions

We are excited to welcome Dr. Dwayne Tutt in the new position of Associate Director for Institutional Research and Analytics. This position replaces the analyst position held by Kay Turpin prior to her retirement in June. Dwayne comes to us with extensive corporate analytics experience, and most recently from Livingstone College, where he served as an instructor in their business program.



We are sad to announce the departure of Ms. Alison Joseph, business and technology applications analyst, after 8.75 years in the office. However, we are happy for her, and for WCU, that she continues her work with WCU as the Assistant Budget Director, in the Division of Administration and Finance.

Please route your data requests to either Pam Buchanan, Executive Assistant, or to Tim Metz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness.

# Coulter Faculty Commons

*from the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs*

On the stormy seas of Higher Education, a ship called the Coulter Faculty Commons (CFC) sails on a quest to gather treasures from around the globe to enrich the good people of Western Carolina University (WCU). This bounty takes many forms. Sometimes it is a new pedagogical practice, an innovative teaching technology, or skill that enhances student engagement and success. During the summer voyage, nearly four dozen faculty joined the growing ranks at WCU that have been certified to “Apply the Quality Matters Rubric.” This was their first step into a larger world where the best practices of on-line course design are tailored to complement their teaching style and subject matter. Quality Matters certification and implementation is not easy and their willingness to pursue certification demonstrates how truly dedicated these faculty members are to student success.

The eclipse that heralded the beginning of the fall semester was anything but a harbinger of an ill wind to tear our sails. Rather it was a sign of the wonders of the universe and the endless possibilities for growth and innovation that the CFC is spearheading. By blending modified classroom practices with state of the art audio and video technology, the instructors in the Master of Social Work program are simultaneously teaching at Biltmore Park and Cullowhee. The success of these pedagogical pioneers has proven that remote student engagement is an effective means to promote program growth. More importantly, this innovative approach provides learning opportunities for students that might not otherwise be able to reap the benefits of what being on the Cullowhee campus can offer. This prototype has worked so well that the CFC and IT will join forces with the Doctor of Physical Therapy program to extend the remote teaching capability even further.

Not all of the CFC’s accomplishments have been above the waterline. In addition to the routine and regular upgrades to the Blackboard learning management system, there has been another feature change that will be prominently evident in Spring 2018. The basic shell created for all courses will now include the structure and tools suggested by the best practices of Quality Matters. This will save faculty from the burden of building a course from scratch and give them more time to work on the more creative aspects of teaching. Internally, it means that the CFC will spend less time on Blackboard course design matters and can focus on helping faculty take their teaching to the next level.

It has been said that the only constant is change and that is certainly true in higher education. Budgetary challenges, legislative mandates, increasing workloads, will continue to challenge the WCU family for the foreseeable future. The map of tomorrow has vast blank spots and mysterious corners marked “here there be dragons,” but we push into the unknown without trepidation. As we go forward, rest assured that the CFC will keep a sharp weather eye on the horizon. As learning partners on the voyage of discovery, we will continue to do our utmost to ensure that the good people of WCU are ready for whatever the future may bring.

John Hawes, CFC

# Distinguished Professors

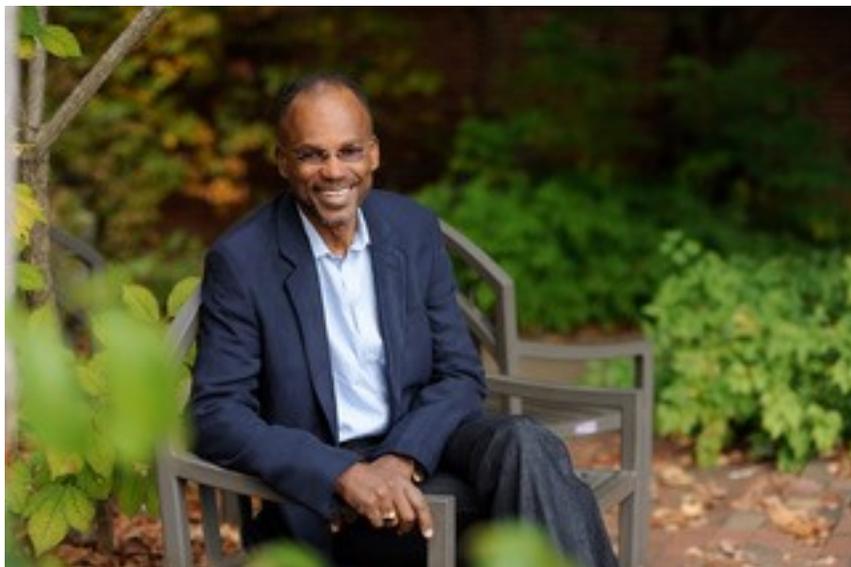
*from the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs*

The following article from Dr. Kofi Lomotey represents the first of a new series contributed by Western’s Distinguished Professors group. We will feature a different DP each month to raise awareness of the activities and interests of this outstanding group of faculty. By sharing the passion for their work, the DPs hope to spark ideas for collaboration across the university.

# Distinguished Professor Spotlight

## Kofi Lomotey, PhD

*Bardo Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership*



I grew up in New York City in the 1950s and 1960s. I had not intended to go to college when I graduated from high school. After high school, I got married and my first wife, Yolanda, and I had a daughter, Shawnjua Tien, who now lives in NYC with my oldest granddaughter, Ayanna (age 12). I worked on Wall Street for two years. When I did not see anyone on Wall Street who looked like me who was making more money than me, I decided to go to college. I attended Oberlin College where I majored in economics and minored in Black Studies. While at Oberlin, I got interested in education, particularly the education of black students. As a junior, I started a preschool/early elementary school. After earning my BA degree at Oberlin, I stayed in northwestern Ohio, working with Shule ya Kujitambua, the school I had started. A few years later, I enrolled at Stanford University

in educational administration. I earned my master's degree and my PhD at Stanford.

I then worked at the University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC) for two years before moving to the State University of New York-Buffalo (SUNY-B), where I taught for four years. Shortly after arriving at SUNY, I decided that I was going to be a university president and chose to follow the traditional route (i.e., assistant professor, associate professor, tenure, full professor, department head, dean and chief academic officer). From SUNY, I moved to Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge (LSU-BR) as the first black department chair in the history of the University—in 1992! Next, I moved to the City University of New York-Medgar Evers College (CUNY-Medgar Evers) in Brooklyn as chief academic officer. After four years at CUNY, I accepted the presidency at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) in Georgia. After four years at FVSU, I went to Fisk University as chief academic officer, before moving to Southern University- Baton Rouge as chancellor for four years.

My research and publishing interests include black principals, black education (infant to professional school), independent African-centered schools and urban education.

After being retired for 2.5 years, I came to WCU to teach in the University's re-engineered Carnegie-inspired EdD program, as the Bardo Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership. I have truly enjoyed my time at WCU. I have found the process of developing a new program exciting and invigorating. I enjoy teaching our students and I greatly appreciate my WCU faculty colleagues in educational leadership.

What has been most important to me through all of this has been my family. I was fortunate enough to marry A. Nahuja (my better three-quarters) more than 40 years ago while I was still operating the school, Shule ya Kujitambua, in Oberlin. Our first son, Juba, was born in Oberlin (1979) and our second son, Mbeja, was born in Stanford, CA (1982). Mbeja and his wife, Sandra, live in Raleigh, NC. Juba and his wife, Suzanne, live in Atlanta, with their three children: Isaiah Jelani (age 5), Nia Marie (age 3) and Norah Sanaa (6 months).

My four grandchildren are the joy of my life; I enjoy spending time with them and teaching them what I know.

Aside from teaching, providing service and continuing to publish, I spend a lot of time with my grandchildren, particularly those who are in Atlanta. I enjoy watching college and professional basketball. My wife and I are season ticket holders with the Atlanta Hawks.

# Staff Spotlight

## Penney Marshall Parker

*Administrative Support Associate, Communication Sciences & Disorders*



Penney J. Marshall Parker earned degrees in Holistic Theology (AIHT/AL) and Natural Health (FCNH/Florida), and holds several licensure in other areas of Healthcare and service to others. She has been a Licensed Massage and Bodywork Therapist for the past seventeen years, with a focus on Gerontology and individuals with special needs. Additionally, she is an ordained minister and has served as both a Law Enforcement & Hospice Chaplain. Penney is currently studying to become a facilitator for ACIM (A Course in Miracles) workshops.

Penney is the Office Manager for the Department of Communication, Sciences, & Disorders here at Western Carolina University, and an Adjunct Instructor for Southwestern Community College.

The newest hobby Penney has taken up is learning to play her flute again as she did in years past, with hopes to audition for the Music Department. She also enjoys gardening. A fun fact is that Penney once worked as a professional clown having split personalities among Penneywinkel, Laughing Spirit, and Orange the clowns. She studied under Glen Little, renowned master clown Frosty Little, for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Penney's favorite quote is by Trevor Romain, "If you don't take care of your body, where else are you going to live?" When she speaks of "body", she means your physical body, your mental body, and your spiritual body. To Penney, so often we are about caring for others; this quote is simply a reminder of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

# Faculty Spotlight

## Sarah Henderson

*Assistant Professor, Nursing*



Sarah Henderson is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing. Prior to coming to Western Carolina University, Professor Henderson served her community as a public health nurse with the Haywood County Health and Human Services Agency.

Sarah brings 13 years of clinical experience to the classroom, as well as experience in staff development and education. Her clinical background includes experience in public health, acute care, hospice care, pediatric home health, and geriatrics.

Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia in 2004, and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a focus in nursing education from WCU in 2016.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and is the Secretary for WCU's Eta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Sarah serves on the Haywood County Health and Human Services Board, and resides in Haywood County with her three sons Trevon, Avery, and Brantley.

Sarah has several areas of research interests including active learning techniques, nursing workforce development, and promotion of nursing as a career.

She enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her sons.

Sarah was the first girl born on her father's side of her family in 54 years, and is the first in her family to graduate from college.

Sarah's favorite quote is by Mother Teresa, "Be faithful in the small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

Sarah's children are her biggest blessing and her greatest accomplishment and they are a constant reminder that love is unconditional. She found this quote when she was in grad school as a single mom working full time and going to school full-time, with a very hectic life. She and her family were on the journey together and making great sacrifices. She found in them her strength to push forward.

"As we go about our daily lives there are little things that happen along the way that seem insignificant at the time, but when we look back we realize they were big things and they had a great impact on someone's life." Sarah has learned to make time for the little things like reading one more book before bed or playing a game of checkers instead of washing dishes, because it's those things that mean so much to her family.



# Student Spotlight

## Caroline Duffy

*Graduate Student, Higher Education Student Affairs*



Caroline is currently employed as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs.

She loves to travel! When Caroline was an undergraduate student at WCU, she was able to study abroad 5 different times in Spanish-speaking locales such as Valencia, and Granada, Spain, Valparaíso, and Viña del Mar, Chile, and Havana, Cuba. This is how she became fluent in Spanish. One of Caroline's goals is to become fluent in all of the Romance languages. This past summer, she was able to complete an internship in Dortmund, Germany at the FH Dortmund University.

Caroline's favorite quote is by Carlos Fuentes, "The Hispanic world did not come to the United States. The United States came to the Hispanic world. It is perhaps an act of poetic justice that now the Hispanic world should return."

Sarah Caroline Duffy is a graduate student, pursuing her M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs. She will graduate Spring 2018.

In 2012, she attended Heidelberg University, a small private liberal-arts institution in Tiffin, Ohio. She started out as pre-vet with a major in biology, but quickly learned within the first couple of months that it was not her forte. She changed her major to international studies, with a double minor in environmental science and spanish.

Caroline later transferred to WCU to be closer to home. She earned her B.A. in International Studies, and her B.A. in Spanish, minoring in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) in 2016.



Want to include news in next month's issue?  
Please send information to [scmelton@wcu.edu](mailto:scmelton@wcu.edu)