

# Academic Affairs

## News & Reflections

### From the Acting Provost's Desk

We are already four weeks into the 2019 spring semester and enjoying the fruits of our labor; students are deep into class projects and tests and celebrating “I love WCU” month with staff and faculty. February is a great month!

While there is always much to engender pride in higher education, current pressures on universities also elicit cause for concern. Results from the 2019 Survey of Chief Academic Officers sponsored by Insider Higher Ed and conducted by Gallup, are illuminating. Below is an excerpt of the results of 475 provosts who completed the survey:

- Most are skeptical of the way some colleges have eliminated departments based on low numbers of majors.
- More than three-quarters (78 percent) believe that colleges are prioritizing technology and professional programs over those that support general education.
- 90 percent believe that high-quality undergraduate education requires healthy departments in traditional liberal arts fields such as English, history and political science.
- A majority are concerned about the impact of cuts to academic programs in higher education, and at their institutions.
- Only 31 percent of provosts believe that their students understand the purpose of general education requirements.
- Most report pressure from presidents, boards and deans to focus on academic programs outside of the liberal arts.
- Most provosts believe that students feel comfortable in classrooms, but some doubt whether this is the case for minority and conservative students.

Click on the following link for the full survey results: [2019 Inside Higher Ed Survey of Chief Academic Officers](#).

We have much work to do.

We are back to the task at hand...educating students, supporting faculty and staff, and making a difference in our communities. I wish you a great February!

Regards,

Carol Burton  
Acting Provost



## The Chancellor's List



The Chancellor's List Awards Reception recognizes the academic excellence of Western Carolina University students each semester. This prestigious designation is awarded to students who earned a 3.8 or higher GPA during the previous semester. Sponsored by Student Success in the Division of Academic Affairs, the spring celebration featured one of this year's outstanding [University Distinguished Speakers](#) to provide the keynote address.

On February 12, 2019, WCU welcomed keynote speaker ***Michael Steel, political analyst and former Chairman of the Republican National Committee***. Mr. Steele offered inspiring remarks about leadership. The event was free and open to the public.

Hosted in the Performance Hall of Bardo Arts Center, the ceremony also included remarks from Interim Chancellor, Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar and Acting Provost, Dr. Carol Burton. Students received their certificates during the reception that followed in the Star Lobby, as guests enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and to meet Mr. Steel. The ceremony was live-streamed and the link shared by the WCU Media office prior to the event, making it accessible to students who could not attend and for those who are recent graduates or enrolled in distance programs.

## Homebase Updates

In only its third year, Homebase College Ministry continues to change the trajectory for independent students at Western Carolina University. Homebase is a safe place where students who have aged out of foster care/residential services, are orphaned, homeless, emancipated or have little to no family support, can get the help and support they need to succeed in a college environment. Directed by Dr. Jim Dean, Homebase provides a food pantry (688 meals or food packages were provided last semester), clothes closet, and a computer lab. Homebase also offers life-skill classes on topics like time management and basic car repair, and has given students rides to off-campus doctor's appointments and health care services.

The computer lab is open from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily. Students can access the clothes closet and food pantry whenever Homebase is open. A simple, optional voucher system is in place to assist with tracking and encouraging students to use Homebase services. Departments or individuals can receive vouchers to distribute to students as needed by emailing [maps@wcu.edu](mailto:maps@wcu.edu).

The success of our program is told by the success of the students who use our services. Last semester, only two of the twenty-five independent students who used our services regularly, did not return to WCU: nationwide, only 4% of Independent students earn a 4 year college degree. Homebase is helping to flip that number at WCU and change the lives and futures of our underserved population of students.

# Distinguished Professor Spotlight

## Lisa Bloom

*Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies*

### Establishing a Climate of Innovation and Research at WCU



In the fall of 2018, distinguished professors Lisa Bloom, Tom Ashcraft, David Strahan, and Jerry Miller hosted WCU's first "Unconference." The purpose of the Unconference was to allow faculty to (a) share interests and passions and make connections across disciplines; (b) discuss the possibilities, barriers and potential solutions for creating a culture of innovation and research at WCU; and (c) voice perspective and ideas of what would make a successful hub of innovation and research at WCU.

Approximately 35 faculty gathered and discussed possibilities. Here are just a few of the ideas that participants generated and that we are working on.

- Innovation Fridays- an opportunity for faculty to explore common interests and possibilities for collaboration.
- Revive a mentoring program that allows faculty to connect organically (as opposed to being assigned) with senior faculty.
- Establish venues for a "speed dating" type of event where faculty could rapid fire share their research interests, expertise, and passions.
- Hold events like the "unconference" at both WCU and UNCA to provide informal opportunities for faculty to share and spark innovation in research and teaching.
- Create an electronic bulletin board where faculty can post their interests and ideas and find colleagues with similar interests linked to the new WCU research webpage.

There are indeed some great examples of innovative interdisciplinary work happening across campus. Check out [research.wcu.edu](http://research.wcu.edu). It is a newly created one stop landing page for research at Western Carolina University. It includes research news, events, and resources for students and faculty.

Here are some examples of innovative interdisciplinary work happening on campus:

- Scott Eldredge and Candy Noltensmeyer from the Department of Communication are partnering with Melissa Snyder from Athletic Training, to develop and assess a two-sided communication curriculum that includes a component designed to improve the communication skills of athletic training students, and a component designed to improve the communication skills of the patients of athletic trainers.
- A team of six researchers from the Department of Social Work (Sur Ah Han and Tonya Westbrook), Department of Communication (Candy Noltensmeyer), and Department of Education (Lisa Bloom, Charmion Rush and Pam Buskey) have been researching the effects of lessons and experiences on the implicit and explicit biases of undergraduate students.

*Continued...*

- A group of 10 faculty members from the College of Education and Allied Professions have created an “Invitation to Innovation” group that meets regularly to share and discuss innovations in teaching.
- Morgan Kennedy from the School of Art and Design is working with Appalachian Women’s museum, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Heights Program and the history department on a project titled “Women of Western North Carolina,” an inclusive public art project proposal for the Z-Smith Reynolds Foundation.
- An interdisciplinary group of faculty and students from the programs of Chemistry (Dr. Carmen Huffman), Natural Resources Management (Dr. Aimee Rockhill and Trip Krentz), and Geology (Jerry Miller), are working to assess the performance of the Big Harris Creek river restoration project, the largest river restoration project in North Carolina.

To enhance the climate of innovation and research at WCU and to build on the momentum of the Unconference, we are planning “Innovation Fridays” (IF). Consider what IF you had the opportunity to meet someone who may have expertise in an area that would complement your research interests? What IF you had the opportunity to discuss ideas for innovation with equally enthusiastic colleagues from across campus? What IF an engaging discussion of innovation and research sparked a new idea for you?

To kick off our series of Innovation Fridays, join us on February 22 for "Innovation at Innovations." Please join us at Innovation Station at 4:00 pm, where we will explore possibilities for collaborative themes that will extend throughout the semester. Look for more information on other events to come. Please contact Lisa Bloom at [bloom@wcu.edu](mailto:bloom@wcu.edu) for more information.

# Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Appreciation Night at WCU

*from the Director of the Cherokee Center*



Western Carolina University hosted the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Appreciation Night at both the Catamount women's and men's basketball games at the Ramsey Center on Jan. 17.

"Each year, WCU celebrates its special partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and we do our best to honor them as the university resides on the sacred homelands of the Cherokee people," said Sky Sampson, director of WCU's Cherokee Center. "All of us at the university are so appreciative of the tribe as it continues to share this land and history with our students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors."

Appreciation Night included a brief welcome and recognition of tribal members from EBCI Principal Chief Richard Sneed, followed by a special demonstration of the Bear Dance by EBCI royalty – Little Miss Cherokee Morgan Hernandez, Junior Miss Cherokee Destiny Siweumtewa, Teen Miss Cherokee Juakina Perez and Miss Native American USA Karyl Frankiewicz – accompanied by singer Micah Swimmer.

"The Bear Dance is a traditional social dance for the Cherokee people," Sampson said. "During the dance, the Ramsey Center audience observed our demonstrators pawing and growling at each other all in fun and laughs. The dance was once a way for young women and men to socialize and court in a public setting."

"We are so honored to host these games in such a significant place at WCU, and we hope that each enrolled member felt appreciated on this special night," she said.



# Faculty Spotlight

## Jess Weiler

*Assistant Professor & Program Director, Educational Leadership*



Jess Weiler is an Assistant Professor and the Program Director for the Educational Leadership program in the College of Education and Allied Professions. Dr. Weiler received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. She worked as a speech-language pathologist and educator in both healthcare and educational settings throughout southern California before moving to Wisconsin where she served as a clinical and adjunct instructor at UW-Milwaukee, in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Dr. Weiler completed her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

After moving to the Asheville area in 2009, Jess worked as a high school administrator before moving to her present position at WCU. Her research and publications focus on school and district leadership for system-wide approaches to equity and leadership competence for equitable and socially just schools.

Jess enjoys yoga, traveling, and hanging out with her husband and their two boys (Liam, age 12 and Finn, age 7) on their hobby-farm in Fairview, NC.

Jess's favorite quote is from Martin Luther King, Jr., "We will have to have dedicated, courageous, and intelligent leaders. In this period of transition and growing social change. . . Leaders who somehow understand the issues. Leaders of sound integrity. Leaders not in love with publicity, but in love with justice. Leaders not in love with money, but in love with humanity. Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause."

This quote rings true for Jess as she feels "a leaders purpose should be connected to social justice--making society better for all of its members, especially those who have been and continue to be systematically marginalized and oppressed. We develop the capacity of all of our students, who are practicing educational leaders, to lead with an orientation toward equity and social justice for all of their students."

## Research and Scholarship Celebration

**Registration is Now Open for the 2019 Research and Scholarship Celebration!**

**The Deadline to Register is February 15th!**

Undergraduates Register for the 21st Annual Undergraduate Exposition

Graduates Register for the 27th Annual Graduate Research Symposium

Greetings Catamounts!

Mark your calendars and consider participating in the 2019 Research and Scholarship Celebration!

[The Research and Scholarship Celebration \(RASC\)](#) combines the Undergraduate Exposition and Graduate Research Symposium over a two-day event in April. On April 3, 2019, the Undergraduate Expo and the Graduate School will host a Faculty Panel, Keynote Speaker, and a combined Poster and Fine Arts Exhibition in the Ramsey Arena. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to present. Undergraduate oral presentations will be held across locations on campus from April 3 - 4, 2019.

The Graduate Research Symposium will be held on April 4, 2019 in the A.K. Hinds University Center, and will feature presentations by graduate and exemplary undergraduate students. In addition, the Graduate Research Symposium will host a Keynote Speaker, a special Graduate Student Panel, and an awards ceremony for graduate students.

RASC provides students from across diverse disciplines with the opportunity to present their research and creative works to an engaged audience on campus. All students from any discipline are welcome to register for this free event.

### **The 2019 RASC Showcase Event Schedule:**

See the list of Defining America and Degree Plus tagged events for the 2019 Research and Scholarship Celebration below, and check out the more detailed schedule on our [website](#).

#### **April 3: The Undergraduate Exposition at Various Locations Across Campus & the Ramsey Arena**

- Defining America Featured Oral Presentations from Parks & Recreation Management and Anthropology & Sociology; Blue Ridge Conference Room; 11:00 am–2:00 pm
- Faculty Panel and Keynote Address by [Dr. Mary C. Waters of Harvard University](#); Ramsey Arena; 4:00– 6:00 pm
- Poster Celebration, featuring both undergraduate and graduate poster presentations, Ramsey Arena; 6:00–7:30 pm

#### **April 4: The Graduate Research Symposium at the A.K. Hinds University Center**

- Exemplary Undergraduate Oral Presentations in the A.K. Hinds University Center; various locations in the UC; various times
- Graduate Student Panel; UC Theater; 11:00 11:45 am
- Graduate Research Symposium Keynote Address by [Dr. Laura Wright of Western Carolina University](#); UC Theater; 12:00 1:00 pm

## How to Register for RASC

### Registration will close February 15, 2019

Undergraduate and Graduate students will be directed to register on different forms. Graduate students should register via the [Graduate Research Symposium](#) website.

Prior to completing your registration please consult with your faculty sponsor on the instructions about your registration (available on our webpage).

The undergraduate student can select to [register](#) for one or more of the following:

- A Poster Presentation
- An Oral Presentation
- A Fine Arts Exhibit and/or Performance

### 2019 Exemplary Undergraduate Oral Presentations at the Graduate Research Symposium

Each year for RASC, the Graduate School invites a select group of undergraduate students to present during the Graduate Research Symposium (April 4, 2019). For selected students, it is considered a high honor to be included among the Exemplary Undergraduate Oral Presentations.

Undergraduate students who wish to be considered for this honor will need to select the oral presentation registration form on our [website](#). When completing your registration form please remember to check the box to be considered for exemplary status!

Your abstract will be reviewed by the 2019 RASC Faculty Committee, which is made up of representatives from across the colleges.

### Poster Presentation Workshop Being Offered!

Join Hunter Library's Scottie Kapel for a poster writing workshop in Hunter Library Room 186 to learn best practices in constructing formal posters for presentation.

Spring Semester Dates:

- Monday, February 25, from 4:00 5:00 pm
- Thursday, February 28, from 12:00 1:00 pm
- Thursday, March 21, from 12:00 1:00 pm, for a poster critique session

Please Note: Students can opt to attend the dates that best suit their schedules and poster needs.

In addition, Scottie Kapel will teach students more about the NC Docks permanent repository for academic work. NC Docks is a great way to archive professional presentations and academic work for future reference, resume building, and portfolios.

To register for your workshop, please email Scottie Kapel at [skapel@email.wcu.edu](mailto:skapel@email.wcu.edu)

# Updates from Undergraduate Studies

*from the Office's of Undergraduate Studies*

## Campus Theme

The 2018-2019 campus theme: *Defining America*, had a busy and successful Fall 2018 semester with a plethora of programming coming your way during the Spring 2019 semester. As in years past, the campus theme committee is planning a culminating tour for the 2018-2019 campus theme. This year's tour will take on a World's Fair motif.

The *Defining America World's Fair* will showcase programs and projects that have been carried out over the past academic year. The Defining America World's Fair subcommittee, chaired by Dr. April Tallant, is currently seeking faculty, staff, and students who want to get involved.



There are three ways to get involved with *Defining America World's Fair*:

1. Identify an issue/event/achievement/course project/research/creative work/etc., and showcase it in a hands-on/interactive way, connecting to your respective discipline. Consider sharing what your discipline might look like in the future and getting your students involved!
2. Consider inviting your students to participate, connecting the experience to your class, showing up on the evening of the event, and soaking it all in!
3. Contribute something to the time capsule that demonstrates our place in time!

The *Defining America World's Fair* is on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, from 4:00-6:00 PM in the University Center Grand Room. To express your interest and/or claim your space, complete the form found [HERE](#) by Thursday, February 28, 2019. If you have any questions, contact Dr. April Tallant at [atallant@wcu.edu](mailto:atallant@wcu.edu).

*Defining America World's Fair Subcommittee*

*Jane Adams-Dunford, Student Affairs*

*Glenda Hensley, New Student Transitions*

*Peter Koch, Mountain Heritage Center*

*April Tallant, Honors College*

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**America**  
Past. Present. Future.

## Academic Integrity

The WCU Student Government Association passed a resolution on student cheating on February 27, 2018. In response to this resolution and as a result of discussions held by the Faculty Senate Academic Policy and Review Council (APRC), the Provost established an Academic Integrity Task Force.

Academic Integrity Task Force members include Barbara Ballentine (College of Arts and Sciences), Debra Burke (chair, College of Business), Mattie Davenport (Writing and Learning Commons), Lowell Davis (Student Success), Bruce Henderson (College of Education and Allied Professions), Scottie Kapel (Hunter Library), Brian Kloeppel (Graduate School), Kevin Koett (Student Affairs), Jeanine Irons (Coulter Faculty Commons), the Faculty Senate Chair, Damon Sink (previously, Brian Railsback), and Holli Stillman (Undergraduate Studies). The Task Force was charged with reviewing current policies and processes regarding academic integrity at WCU and recommending meaningful changes and strategies to improve the culture and processes.

The task force has been meeting regularly since March, 2018 to better understand academic integrity at WCU and to determine ways to combat the issue moving forward. Task force members started their process by examining other institutions, looking specifically at policies and procedures, honor codes and academic integrity models, education and resources for faculty and students, as well as technology. Additionally, the task force has been working diligently to update WCU's current Academic Integrity Policy.

To determine students' knowledge and experiences regarding academic integrity at WCU, the Academic Integrity Task Force, along with Dr. Alvin Malesky, professor and department head of Psychology, created a survey that was distributed to students on January 22, 2019 and remained open for approximately two and a half weeks. The task force plans to include the survey results, resources, and recommendations in its final report at the end of the Spring 2019 semester.

If you have any questions regarding the Academic Integrity Task Force, contact Debra Burke at [burke@wcu.edu](mailto:burke@wcu.edu).

## Liberal Studies

The Office of the Provost and the Liberal Studies Committee invite participants to apply for a summer faculty development opportunity to be held on Tuesday, June 4 and Wednesday, June 5 from 8:30 am-4:00 pm each day.

WCU's Liberal Studies Program engages in an annual assessment of its curriculum to determine how well the program is meeting its stated student learning objectives. To this end, Goal 1.2 of WCU's 2020 Vision articulates the broad objectives of the program as developing a student's ability "to integrate information from a variety of contexts; to solve complex problems; to communicate effectively and responsibly; to practice civic engagement; and to clarify and act on purpose and values."

To help assess if the program is meeting its goals, the Liberal Studies Committee is asking for faculty volunteers to help score Liberal Studies student artifacts. Over two days in June, all participants will be instructed on interpreting the Liberal Studies rubrics and evaluating related student work. Faculty assessors will then work in groups of two to score the student artifacts assigned to them.

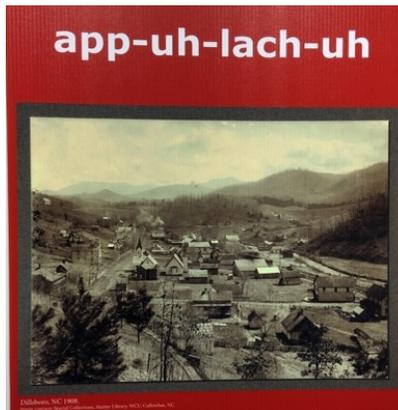
All participating faculty will receive a \$400 stipend (in July 2019 paychecks) to compensate them for their time and effort; breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please note that previous assessment experience is not required.

Interested, full or part-time instructional faculty members, should submit: 1) a current CV, 2) a brief statement (no more than 250 words) articulating your experiences with assessment and/or Liberal Studies, and 3) home Department Head's approval for participation to Jen Schiff, Liberal Studies Assessment Director, at [jsschiff@wcu.edu](mailto:jsschiff@wcu.edu) by 5:00 pm on **Friday, February 15, 2019**. Selected faculty will be contacted by Friday, March 1.

## Mountain Heritage Center

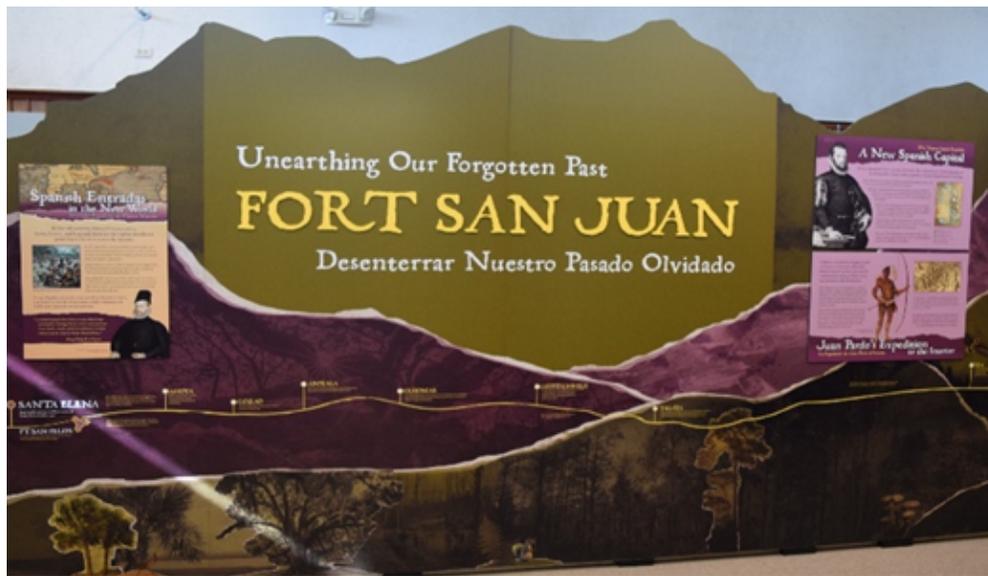
The *I Want You: Western North Carolina during World War I* exhibit is now on display in Hunter Library 161 through April 26, 2019. This exhibit looks at World War I and how it transformed our region. Stories of western North Carolinians during the war include women in new work roles, African Americans and Cherokees in the US Army, and how propaganda created support for the war effort.

A second exhibit, *North Carolina in the Great War*, developed by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, adds a wider perspective on the war's impact in our state.



In Hunter Library 230, through December 2019, you can find the *Defining Appalachia* exhibit. Western North Carolina and southern Appalachia is a cultural crossroads that has been visited and inhabited by people from many different cultural backgrounds. Stop by to discover the talented and hard-working people who have shaped this region and learn about their varied backgrounds and cultures that they share with others.

Following the World War I exhibit in Hunter Library 161, the Mountain Heritage center will be hosting the *Unearthing our Forgotten Past*, from May to December 2019. On loan from the Exploring Joara Foundation, this exhibit uses information

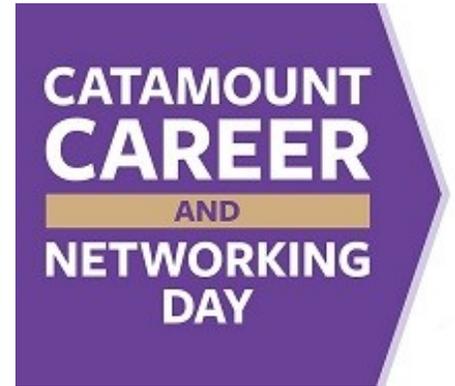


from archaeological excavations near Morganton to showcase Joara (AD 1400-1600), one of the largest Native American towns in what is now western North Carolina. It also tells the story of Spanish exploration and the founding of Fort San Juan in 1567, nearly 20 years before the English settlement of Roanoke on the North Carolina coast. Spanish soldiers only occupied the fort for about 18 months; the relationship between the fort and Joara deteriorated and resulted in the death of almost all the soldiers and the burning of the fort. Joara was abandoned by the early 1700s.

All exhibits are open to the public during Hunter Library's normal hours of operation. Classes are welcome and encouraged to visit.

## Center for Career and Professional Development

Join the CCPD for our bi-annual Career Fair on **Wednesday, February 27, 2019** from **11:00 am-3:00 pm** in the **Ramsey Center!** This event will feature employers, non-profits, and graduate schools who are recruiting students. Students will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from these organizations about full-time, part-time, volunteer, and graduate school opportunities. This event is open to all students and alumni regardless of year in school or academic major.



## Updates from the Office of Institutional and Planning Effectiveness

*from the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, Dr. Tim Metz*



### **New Director of Assessment hired**

The position of Director of Assessment has been filled. Amy Strickland, who most recently served as Director of Assessment and Planning for the Bryan School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, will begin work at WCU on March 15th.

### **Spring Census update**

The Spring 2019 student enrollment census was conducted on Monday, January 26th. Total enrollment at census was 11,028 students, and is the first-time Spring enrollment has exceeded 11,000. Total enrollment grew by 7.8% over Spring 2018 enrollment, which is the largest growth rate realized over the past 10 years (the average annual Spring-to-Spring growth rate is 1.9%). Graduate student enrollment (1,629) is the highest since the Spring of 2014. In addition, WCU realized its largest Spring-to-Spring undergraduate enrollment growth rate (8.6%) and largest transfer student growth rate (36.8%) in the past 10 years. Total student credit hours grew by 7.8%, in comparison to Spring 2018.

### **Professional development opportunity: Peer evaluation of 2018-19 Continuous Improvement Reports**

Last July, the first annual institution-wide peer evaluation of program/unit Continuous Improvement Reports (CIR) took place, with 22 volunteer participants. This year's event is planned for the week of July 22-26, and is expanding to 26 participants. Both faculty and staff peer evaluators are needed. This is a great opportunity for individuals who desire to improve their understanding of program-level strategic planning, goal setting, and identification and measurement of outcomes. Participating 9- and 10-month faculty will receive a \$1000 stipend for the five-day event. To be considered, please register using this link: [https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5gNcoF6Zyf6OjHv](https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5gNcoF6Zyf6OjHv).

# Student Spotlight

## Roslyn Gowens

*Graduate Student, Higher Education and Student Affairs*



Roslyn Gowens is a graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program. She is due to graduate May 10, 2019 with her Masters in Education.

Roslyn is the Graduate Program Coordinator for Leadership Programs, and serves as a National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Advisor with Greek Student Engagement and Development.

Roslyn's hobbies include hiking/getting outside, finding speaking engagement opportunities, and reading about trending topics in Student Affairs.

Her favorite quote is from Maya Angelou, "just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, still I'll rise."

This quote reminds Roslyn that through every challenge in life, she has risen to the occasion each and every time, and "still proceeded on to get an education and now have the ability to educate others in many ways. No matter what life throws, I will always rise."

# Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation Updates

*from the Executive Director of Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation, Dr. Arthur Salido*

The Outdoor Gear Design and Manufacturing Summit will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2019, on the Cullowhee campus. Dr. Salido has been planning this summit along with Dr. Andy Coburn and Dr. Wes Stone as part of the ARC POWER Grant. Companies and professionals who are active in gear design and manufacturing are being invited to learn more about WCU's student, faculty, and equipment resources that help catalyze businesses. The day will kick off with tours of the Rapid Center, followed by a Hackathon, including presentations from Engineering & Technology students. After lunch, attendees will meet with faculty to talk more about WCU's work in the outdoor industry. For more information, please contact [Courtney Holder](#).

Some of Dr. Salido's other recent activities include:

- Helping plan an Advanced Manufacturing Conference with the College of Engineering and Technology, April 5 2019
- Supporting ScaleUp WNC, a small business growth development program organized by Mountain BizWorks that will take place at WCU throughout March, April, & May 2019
- Partnering with the Rural Center to bring the Homegrown Leaders leadership institute to campus May 29-31, 2019
- Presenting WCU's outdoor recreation economic engagement opportunities to the Board of Trustees on February 28
- Working with Dr. Yue Hillon and Wendy Cagle to support students through the WCU EPIC club
- Meeting with WCU leaders to discuss external funding and engagement opportunities
- Working with the UNC School of Government to plan a town hall event with NC Impact on the WCU campus
- Partnering with Growing Outdoors WNC, the Asheville Chamber, Riverlink, and the Town of Woodfin, to recruit a high-level project to Woodfin, which would create teaching and learning opportunities in the outdoor recreation industry
- Partnering with regional higher-education institutions and the Land of Sky on community and economic development initiatives

# Updates from the Chief Diversity Officer

*from the Chief Diversity Officer, Ricardo Nazario y Colon*

## **Black History Month Programs**

- “Dark Girls,” sponsored by Health and Wellness Education

February 14 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm), UC Theater

This powerful film explores the bias within African American culture against women with darker skin. There will be a facilitated discussion with Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Jane Adams-Dunford, immediately following the film. This is a Degree Plus event (Cultural Responsiveness Skill), and the first 25 students will receive a free T-Shirt.

- 2019 Engineering Week Keynote Speaker, sponsored by CET

February 18 (6:00 pm-7:30 pm), UC Theater

Dr. S. Gordon Moore, Executive Director Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion Institute Georgia Institute of Technology, will speak as part of the 2019 Engineering Week.

- Tunnel of Oppression, sponsored by ICA

February 19-20 (8:00 am-5:00 pm), Blue Ridge Conference Room

The Tunnel is an eye-opening, conscious-raising experience: a brief introduction for those who have rarely experienced oppression or an acknowledgment to those who have. After a 25-minute guided tour in and out of various rooms, participants are debriefed by professional counselors and/or University staff and faculty members to discuss their reactions, which can sometimes be emotional.

- "Ethics and Insurrection: Boldly Confronting Oppression," sponsored by Philosophy & Religion Department

February 21 (6:00 pm-7:30 pm), Bardo Arts Center 223

Dr. Lee McBride, Associate Professor in the College of Wooster’s Department of Philosophy, will give a public lecture on his work, based on the second chapter of his book.

- “Race – The Power of an Illusion,” sponsored by the Chief Diversity Office

February 25 (6:00 pm-7:00 pm), Bardo Arts Center 130

If race is not biology, what is it? This film uncovers how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics, and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status and wealth to white people.

- “Black Migration: What will be Your Journey?” sponsored by the Chief Diversity Office

February 27 (6:00 pm-8:00 pm), UC Multipurpose Room

Creston Lynch, Associate Director for University Life at George Mason University, will speak about his experience of "migration" and how it mirrors the experiences of African Americans and Black Americans throughout history.

## National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)

One Module 2 session is currently available for sign-up: February 22, 1pm-4pm in Camp 143. Brandon Lokey and Jenny Stewart will be facilitating. [Register Now](#) for this session.

More Module 1 & 2 sessions will be scheduled soon. Combined Module 3 & 4 sessions will be available late Spring 2019. Visit the [Diversity SharePoint site](#) to learn more about NCBI and available training sessions. Please direct questions to [ncbi@wcu.edu](mailto:ncbi@wcu.edu).

## Southeastern LatinX Student Leadership Conference (SL-SLC)

The [Inaugural Southeastern LatinX Student Leadership Conference \(SL-SLC\)](#) will take place on April 12-14, 2019, primarily in the University Center. Presented by the Latino Appreciation Student Organization (LASO) with support from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs, this year's theme is Maximizing Nosotros: Empowering LatinX Students for Success with three tracks: Owning Our Values, Challenging Ourselves and Claiming our Roots.

Presentation proposals are still being accepted on an ongoing basis. Visit our [Call for Presentations](#) to learn more and to submit a proposal.

Register by **February 25, 2019, at 11:59 pm** to receive the early advance rates listed below:

- \$25 for WCU Students
- \$80 for Individuals/Advisors
- \$70 (per person) for Groups of Ten

Please direct questions to [sllc@wcu.edu](mailto:sllc@wcu.edu).



**SOUTHEASTERN LATINX**  
STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

# Updates from Academic Affairs

*from the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Dr. Brandon Schwab*

## Faculty Scholarship Celebration

The Graduate School and Office of Research, with support of the Office of the Chancellor, Hunter Library, Undergraduate Studies, Honors College, and the Office of the Provost invite you to the 30th annual Faculty Scholarship Celebration and reception on Thursday, February 21st from 4:30 – 6:00 pm in the Blue Ridge Conference Center. This ceremony will acknowledge works from scholars across the university, announce the Hunter Scholar Award, the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Awards, Provost Internal Grant recipients, and Million Dollar Circle Awardees. This celebration will also host an exhibit of selected scholarly works.

Please join us in celebrating faculty scholarship!

## Inaugural Asian Pacific American Heritage Week (April 8-12) at WCU

**Ling LeBeau**

WCU is presenting its inaugural Asian Pacific American Heritage (APAH) week April 8th through April 12th. The Asian Pacific American Heritage Week originated from Congress in 1979 as a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. WCU's celebration of APAH was initiated by the Office of International Programs and Services and is supported by the Campus Theme Committee, Visiting Scholar Committee, Office of Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Intercultural Affairs, Asian Student Association, and faculty from the College of Business, and College of Arts and Sciences. The APAH week initiative reflects WCU's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Two well-known scholars will deliver lectures and host forums to faculty and students during the week. Dr. Tami Kim, Assistant Professor of Marketing, from the University of

Virginia, will give a lecture and forum on Monday, April 8th at noon and the evening of Monday, April 8th. Dr. Kim has been featured in various media, including the New York Times and the Washington Post. On Wednesday, April 10th, Dr. Manjula Bharathy, Fulbright Scholar at Rutgers University, and professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, will present her documentary XXWhy on transgender issues in India, selected as the best documentary in international and national film festivals.





This year also marks the 40th anniversary of WCU's International Festival. On Wednesday, April 10th, there will be various cultural activities focusing on APAH, such as Lion Dance and Japanese calligraphy. Asian movies will be shown on the evenings of Tuesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 11th, along with educational activities, in the UC Theatre.

The APAH Week committee include: Dana Patterson, Steve Ha, Yumiko Ono, Yang Xiong (student), Kaitlin Ritchie, Scarlette Briones, and Ling LeBeau. We are grateful to the collaborative efforts of the committee members who have worked together since last semester and we are proud to present the inaugural APAH week for our campus.

### **Madison Professor**

We are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the next Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor.

#### **Description:**

The title of Madison Professor, most recently held by Dr. David Shapiro, will be granted to an individual who has proven her/his value to the institution over time and has established themselves nationally or internationally in a field that supports WCU's mission and vision.

#### **Eligibility:**

The designation is reserved for individuals with tenure and the rank of full professor. Individuals will have had at least 5 years of uninterrupted service at WCU, normally at the rank of full professor. Madison Professors have an established record of widely-recognized scholarship, teaching excellence, and service to the institution and community.

#### **Selection:**

Individuals meeting the eligibility criteria may be nominated or apply for the professorship by submitting a letter of nomination (or self-nomination), current CV, and statement from the candidate on intended use of the professorship. Application materials should be submitted electronically to Lynley Hardie at: [lehardie@email.wcu.edu](mailto:lehardie@email.wcu.edu) before March 8, 2019.

We thank the following individuals who have accepted nominations to serve on the selection committee:

- Tom Ashcraft
- Angela Dills
- Hugh Jack
- Erin McNelis
- Bill Ogletree
- Charmion Rush
- Brian Railsback

Contact Brandon Schwab with questions about the professorship or selection process.

# Staff Spotlight

## Melissa Johnson

*Administrative Support Associate, Social Work*



Melissa Johnson is an Administrative Support Associate for the Department of Social Work. Melissa earned her B.A. in History from The University of West Florida.

Melissa is a Christian, and loves learning about Christ through her weekly meetings with her Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) group. She has been blessed with a wonderful husband, Tom, and they are proud pet parents to Sadie, a beautiful Boxador, and two cats, Ernie and Tabitha. Melissa adores traveling with her husband, baking, decorating, drawing, and dogs.

Melissa doesn't have a single "favorite" quote, but two scripture verses that come to her mind are Titus 3:4-6: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us,

not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." 1 Peter 4:10 is another favorite, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Want to include news in the next issue?

Please send information to [scmelton@wcu.edu](mailto:scmelton@wcu.edu)