A Welcome from the Provost

I wish to extend a warm welcome to the new faculty and staff who are joining our WCU family this year. My thanks go to all the faculty and staff for a successful and exciting 2014-15 academic year. We saw new heights in retention and student success, our programs, students, faculty and staff attaining awards, recognitions and accolades for excellence and several renovations and new buildings starting to emerge. It is a great time to be at WCU.

Once a month, we will be publishing this newsletter to share with you the myriad of good news items going on in Academic Affairs and in the community. I look forward to continuing to visit with you around campus and to hear of your work and contributions as we work together to achieve the 2020 Vision.

Happy new academic year!

Alison
Wes Moore is our Freshman Convocation’s keynote speaker this year. Wes is a youth advocate, Army combat veteran, social entrepreneur, and host of ‘Beyond Belief’ on Oprah Winfrey Network. His first book, The Other Wes Moore, became an instant New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller.

Born in 1978, Wes and his sisters were raised by their widowed mother. Despite early academic and behavioral struggles, he graduated Phi Theta Kappa in 1998 as a commissioned officer from Valley Forge Military College and Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 2001, where he also played football and earned a bachelor’s degree in International Relations. He then became a Rhodes Scholar, studying International Relations at Oxford University.

After his studies, Wes, a paratrooper and Captain in the United States Army, served a combat tour-of-duty in Afghanistan with the First Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. Wes then served as a White House fellow to Secretary of State Condeleezza Rice. He serves on the board of the Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the Johns Hopkins University, and founded an organization called STAND! that works with Baltimore youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Wes is committed to helping parents, teachers, mentors, and advocates who serve our nation’s youth. A portion of all book proceeds for The Other Wes Moore are being donated to City Year and The Dream Academy.

(retrieved from Author’s website: www.theotherwesmoore.com)

For More Information: www.onebook.wcu.edu

Africa! More than a Continent

Each year Undergraduate Studies has facilitated an interdisciplinary, institutional theme to connect curricular and co-curricular experiences across disciplines and provide a framework for common intellectual experiences for our students.

This year kicks off a two-year interdisciplinary exploration of *Africa! More than a Continent.* The theme allows faculty, students, and staff in campus offices and student organizations to use Africa’s past, present and future to explore broad questions in culture, the arts, health care, business, politics and policy, history, literature, education, the environment, science and technology, athletics, and society to name a few.

The theme will have a two-pronged approach. In the first year (2015 - 2016), the theme will focus on general awareness topics such as geography, politics, history, arts, food, culture, and health; then in the second year, (2016 - 2017), an embedded, deeper approach - including performance exchanges, study abroad, etc. The theme will facilitate exploration of the diversity of Africa as a continent comprised of more than 50 countries.

A unique opportunity for service learning has developed with the campus theme for 2016-2017. Western Carolina University has formed a partnership with *Samaritan’s Feet,* an international charity that supplies shoes for children in local communities as well as around the world. This partnership will open many opportunities for grassroots involvement of students, staff, faculty and our greater community.

(Retrieved from WCU Intentional Learning Plan - Africa! More than a Continent.)

For More Information:

http://www.wcu.edu/about-wcu/leadership/office-of-the-provost/ugstudies/intentional-learning-plan/Africa/
Announcements From Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Killian Open House

Join us for an Open House drop-in reception celebrating the opening of one of WCU’s most innovative teaching spaces. Drop by Killian 219 anytime from 1:00 - 5:00 pm on Wednesday, August 12th, following the University’s Opening Assembly, to view this newly renovated space.

The Space Management Committee (SMC), in conjunction with the Academic Space Advisory Board (ASAB), manages annual monies, designated as the Strategic Renovation Fund, which is allocated for targeted classroom improvements. This past academic year, the Strategic Renovation Fund was used for the innovative classroom remodel of the electronic classroom space in the Killian building. The process was faculty led, and resulted in space that showcases pedagogical flexibility and cutting edge technology. Please join us to see the new space and discuss the future of classroom renovations at WCU!

Facility Coordinator Training

According to the University’s policy on Space Utilization and Allocation (policy #65), members of WCU’s Space Management Committee (SMC) have spearheaded an effort to establish a training program for Facility Coordinators across the institution. Face-to-face training sessions will take place on both August 4th and September 1st. Online training materials will also be available. These efforts should result in better communication, improved facilities management, and enhanced emergency preparedness. Tim Metz, AVC for Institutional Planing and Effectiveness, has been in touch with the assigned coordinators and their designees to schedule these training sessions. If you are asked to assist by your building’s Facility Coordinator, please know that your efforts are appreciated.
Student Spotlight

Erica Nicole
Alumni Entrepreneurship

Erica Nicole knew as a child that she wanted a future in the music industry. She grew up as a fan of Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson and Reba McEntire. When her parents insisted that she pursue a college education as a launch point for her dreams, she took up the challenge. She talked with family friends and alumni of WCU who encouraged her to give the College of Business Entrepreneurial degree a look. “This program was unique at the time, with very few schools offering anything that could compare,” she tells us. Finding a perfect fit for her business plans, she dove in and devoured the opportunities at Western. She credits the professors who really saw her potential and encouraged her to master the core fundamentals as applied to her unique business model. She completed her undergraduate in 2004 and used the skills she’d learned to launch a successful music industry career. Today, Erica Nicole, employees thirty-two people.

A couple of years ago, she returned to WCU to attend graduate school via the distance education platform, to complete her Masters in Entrepreneurship. In an industry that changes daily, she saw the need to gain the additional skills offered in the program. Her professors understood her industry specific objectives, and were able to think outside the box, so as to be on the cutting edge of something new. Upon finishing a challenging two years, she reflected that, “The entire experience was exactly what I needed...from marketing to pitching for sponsorships and endorsements and brushing up on concrete details, giving me opportunities for first-hand application of what I was learning in class.” For Erica Nicole the years since graduation have been a whirlwind. She has toured all over the United States. Her tireless work ethic and powerful vocal range have made her one of the top newcomers in the music industry.

Erica landed her first two consecutive Top 20 records on the MusicRow Country Breakout Chart with “I Listen To My Bad Girl” and “It’s Comin’ Down.” Then, she won her first NIMA Award (Nashville Independent Music Award) for Best Female Country Artist of the Year. This year she’s been nominated for four NIMA awards. The work and success has only begun for Erica. “I’m Making Mine” is working it’s way to the top of the charts.

“My experience and what I’ve learned, I attribute to WCU and the professors that mentored me.” Her advice for success, “Never stop, don’t ever let anyone tell you that you can’t do it.”

This dynamic, focused young woman is a force to be reckoned with and her future is bright!

Visit her website at: http://ericanicolemusic.com
Faculty Spotlight

Adriel Hilton
Assistant Professor & Director of the Higher Education Student Affairs Program

Adriel A. Hilton is an assistant professor and director of the Higher Education Student Affairs program (formerly College Student Personnel program) at Western Carolina University.

He previously served as the inaugural assistant vice president for inclusion initiatives at Grand Valley State University (GVSU). His responsibilities included consulting, advising, and providing support and informational resources on the subject of diversity and inclusion to all levels of administration, faculty and staff. Additionally, he acted as a liaison to GVSU’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women’s Center, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center.

Dr. Hilton honed his expertise in higher education administration and teaching in his previous position at Upper Iowa University (UIU), where he served as executive assistant to the President and assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees and the first ever Chief Diversity Officer at the University. He was also an adjunct faculty member at both UIU and the University of Northern Iowa during this period.

Following completion of his doctoral work, Dr. Hilton served as the initial public policy fellow at the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC). The GBC serves as the leading visionary, resourceful and action-oriented group of private-sector leaders in the Baltimore region.

Most recently, Dr. Hilton co-edited a textbook titled, “Exploring Issues of Diversity Within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).” This text was created for use in courses on diversity in higher education and sociology of higher education. In addition, the book was designated to provide an overview and better understanding of diversity and multiculturalism that exists at HBCUs.

Dr. Hilton’s distinguished career includes many honors and awards, notably, the 2015 Sadie M. Yancy Professional Service Award by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals and the 2015 Outstanding Professional Contribution & Distinguished Scholar Award by the North Carolina College Personnel Association.
Tony Miller joined Western Carolina University in August of 2012 as the associate director for Distance Learning in Educational Outreach. In his position, Tony is responsible for assisting with the administration of the university’s distance learning programs with responsibilities which include marketing, recruiting, and supporting student services.

A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, he worked for 22 years at Capitol Technology University in Laurel, Maryland where he was Director of Graduate Admissions. He also held leadership positions in Graduate Recruiting, Career Services, International Admissions and Undergraduate Admissions.

Tony and his wife, Lauren, have three children. Tony and Lauren were hoping to move to western North Carolina when the position for associate director opened at WCU.

“Moving to North Carolina has been a great transition for my family. We enjoy living in this area and it’s great to be near family. Being a part of the WCU family is especially rewarding. I appreciate the University’s strong commitment to students and to the community. Having the opportunity to use my passion for working in student services and helping adult learners further their education at WCU continues to be a remarkable experience.”