From the Provost

As we look forward to the end of the year, this newsletter brings you up to date on some of the important initiatives that will move our institution forward. Whether you will be here on campus or away spreading the excellence of Western Carolina University, enjoy your summer and we’ll see you in the fall!

Program Prioritization Update

Kim Winter, Provost Fellow

Brief Timeline

Summer - 2013
• Chancellor’s report
• Notification to students (current, admitted, and prospective)

Fall - 2013
• Notification of program discontinuations to SACSCOC and UNC GA
• Category 3 programs developed Action Plans
• Discontinued programs developed teach out plans and monitoring reports

Spring - 2014
• Action Plan Progress Reports
• Monitoring reports for discontinued programs

For each of the programs recommended for phased discontinuation, an Appendix D was created and notification was provided to both UNC GA and SACSCOC. Dr. Tim Metz, Assistant Vice Chancellor in the Officer of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, worked with SACS notifications and issues related to accreditation. Dr. Kim Winter, Provost Fellow for Curriculum, worked with UNC General Administration to complete the necessary curriculum paperwork.

Furthermore, the discontinued degree programs completed Teach-Out Plans for all students. The plans were reviewed and signed by the student, advisor, department head, college dean or associate dean, the graduate dean (when applicable), and the provost fellow for curriculum. All teach-out plans are on file in the respective colleges.

(continued on next page)
Program Prioritization Update (continued)

Monitoring reports detail enrollment and student progress toward completion, and are due twice per year: January 1 and June 15. The reports are reviewed and signed by the department head, college dean or associate dean, graduate school dean (when applicable), and provost fellow for curriculum.

The remaining Category 3 programs completed action plans. Dr. Kim Winter worked with the programs on an individual basis in the development of plans, which included the following:

- enrollment and completion trends;
- program mission and vision;
- student learning objectives and outcomes;
- alignment to standards bodies as well as the WCU 2020 Plan;
- program development plan, including strategic goals, actions, and timelines;
- and program change/revisions.

A draft was created by October 1, 2013. Dr. Winter and the Action Plan Task Force members reviewed plans and provided feedback (e.g., each program had two reviewers during the draft stage). The final plan was November 1, 2013. The Action Plan Task Force met to discuss and provided formal feedback. Dr. Beth Lofquist and the task force met with each of the college deans in December to discuss, and each dean later met with their respective programs.

On April 1, 2014, each program provided a progress report to the Provost’s Office. It should be noted that some programs have made significant updates to the action plan. The overall idea of the progress report was to share progress made toward goals, strategic actions, and timelines that made up the action plan.

Provost on the Ground

Each month the Provost plans to visit academic departments within Academic Affairs. Dr. Morrison-Shetlar has visited several departments to date and really enjoys the opportunity to hear from the faculty and staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Visit Date</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Visit Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; Technology</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship, Sales &amp; Marketing and Hospitality &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science &amp; Public Affairs</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Modern Foreign Languages</td>
<td>April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Computer Science</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Global Management &amp; Strategy</td>
<td>May 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 15 was more than “Tax Day” for a four-person team working together since September. That’s the day WCU submitted its application to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to be reclassified as a “Community Engaged” university. WCU originally received this elective designation in 2009, and universities must reapply every five years. Applicants will be notified in December whether they will be reclassified, and the results will be announced publicly in January 2015.

Carnegie defines community engagement as those activities and collaborations between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

WCU’s application—coming in at over 100 single-spaced pages—is a comprehensive report of the university’s community engagement activities across all areas, including curricular, co-curricular, outreach and partnerships. Carnegie’s reclassification framework also requires applicants to document their organizational support for community engagement in their mission, strategic planning, marketing /public relations, fundraising, personnel, and budget processes. Institutions applying for reclassification were directed to focus on what has changed in these areas since the last classification.

To compile the report, data were collected from a wide variety of individuals and units across the university and in the community. Faculty members responded to surveys about their curriculum-based, community-engaged activities, including their scholarly productivity; students completed the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE); deans and department heads identified exemplary community engagement partnerships; community partners responded to surveys and participated in focus groups to assess their satisfaction and perceived benefit/impact of their WCU engagement partnerships; and various units provided documentation and reported their outreach activities.

Concluding that community engagement is both deep and wide, WCU’s 2015 Carnegie reclassification application documents community engagement as a priority in the university’s mission and strategic plan, in its fundraising and budget processes, in its curriculum and faculty reward systems, and in its trajectory of outreach and partnerships. An executive summary of the report is currently being developed and will be distributed to all WCU faculty and staff. Some notable numbers include:

(continued on next page)
Carnegie Community Engagement (continued)

- Over 200 course sections from 25 departments, taught by 135 faculty members, to nearly 3,000 students meet the service-learning course designation criteria. These course sections incorporate community-based activities that connect academic content through critical reflection.

- Of the 291 faculty members who responded to the 2013 Curriculum-Based Community Engagement Faculty Survey, approximately 60 percent reported scholarly productivity directly tied to at least one of their courses during the 2013 calendar year. Significantly, 18 unique peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters related to community engagement were published (or were in press) by 33 WCU faculty in 2013.

- More than two-thirds (69 percent) of WCU’s academic departments have a community-engaged course at the core course level.

- Exemplary community engagement is occurring in capstone and senior-level courses in all of the colleges.

- Internal/external funding for WCU’s community engagement activities totaled nearly $3,000,000 in 2013-14.

- $158,000 in scholarships were awarded to students meeting a range of criteria, including commitment to community engagement and service in 2013-2014.

- The number of community service hours coordinated by the Center for Service Learning totaled nearly 15,000 in 2012-2013.

Led by Dr. Betty Farmer, professor of communication/public relations and provost fellow for engagement, the Carnegie community engagement reclassification team included Dr. Carol Burton, associate provost for undergraduate studies; Dr. Lane Perry, director of the Center for Service Learning; and Mr. David Onder, director of assessment. For more information, contact Farmer at Bfarmer@email.wcu.edu.

International Fest

The Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) was proud to host its annual International Festival (I-Fest) on April 9 at the UC Lawn. The event fostered cultural awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the world’s diversity through music, food, dance, arts, and crafts. I-Fest kicked off with a colorful international flag procession, followed by a welcome address by the Provost. Visitors were able to enjoy diverse music and dance while walking around to the 31 internationally-geared booths, including two food vendors, two craft vendors, and the remaining hosted by various organizations and international students.

The event was a huge success in promoting the internationalization of the WCU campus, with an estimated 300 visitors, which included approximately 100 students visiting from schools in the surrounding area.
Staff Spotlight
Laura McFalls
Administrative Support Associate, Geosciences and Natural Resources

Laura is the new Administrative Support Associate in the Geosciences and Natural Resources department. She came to Cullowhee in February from Virginia Tech and has been “always made to feel welcomed here at WCU. Transitioning from working at Virginia Tech with over 67,000 students to the campus of WCU has proved to be the best decision of my life.” Laura is a native of Haywood County where she attended Tuscola High School, Southwestern Community College and Haywood Community College where she earned a degree in paralegal technology. At Virginia Tech, she worked in the Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences Department, which is why she says that transitioning to the Geosciences and Natural Resources department seemed a natural fit. Laura says, “truly there is no place I’d rather be,” and looks forward to many more years here at Western. Laura is a huge OU Sooners Fan as both of her parents attended Oklahoma University where her father played football. Laura loved being outdoors, by the lake, and reading and writing in her spare time.

Student Spotlight
Charles Turner
Senior, Biology with a concentration in Molecular Biology, Fayetteville, NC

Charles will be a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) fellow at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases’ (NIAID) Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) in Hamilton, MT for the next year. He’ll be working for Dr. Steve Porcella, the Research Technologies Section Chief at RML. He learned of the program while participating in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine’s Medical Education Development Program last summer. He was selected to attend the four day long Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities program in Bethesda, MD this February, where he learned about the NIH’s postbac IRTA fellowship. He plans on attending medical school after this year in order to become a physician. He is a former U.S. Army special operations combat medic and separated from the Army in 2011 so that he could continue his medical education and become a physician. He’s excited to work for Dr. Porcella and his team because he will learn various experimental techniques, the biotechnology, the experimental design, work with a wide variety of organisms, network, collaborate and soak up as much as he can from the scientists he’ll be around. Turner says, “He [Dr. Porcella] seems like he really enjoys mentoring, developing and teaching. I’m very excited to join the team, contribute and get to work with what seems like a great bunch of people to be around. I’m very humbled, grateful and fortunate to be given this opportunity to continue learning, growing and improving myself. I look forward to the experience, guidance and professional development I will gain.”
Dr. Dave Kinner graduated with his BA in Geology from Amherst College in 1996, his MS and PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1999 and 2003, respectively. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey’s Landslide Hazard Team as a Mendenhall Post-Doctoral Fellow, and came to Western in 2006. He has won the Arts and Sciences Teaching Award (2011), and was a finalist for the Board of Governor’s Teaching Award this year. He was the Geology program coordinator from Fall 2011 to Spring 2013 and was a member of the University’s Program Prioritization Task Force last year.

“The Geology program is very active in getting students engaged in undergraduate research, which is something that drew me to Western. We have a research requirement for our degree that can be met through students doing an individual thesis or through a group research capstone. Mark Lord (Dept. Head of Geosciences and Natural Resources) and I were curious about whether we could use the group research approach in our classes as a pedagogical approach. We wrote a grant for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to test this approach at all curricular levels, and we were funded (~$200,000) in 2011. From that time, we have had students doing hydrology research in our classes and are examining how students benefit from this approach. We have provided around 180 student research experiences through this effort.

Dr. Kinner has recently accepted the honor of serving as Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. He says, “I am excited to become the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in July. The college has an engaged faculty who are doing many interesting things in their research, teaching, and service, and I believe strongly that these disciplines are critical to a strong and marketable college education.”

Dr. David Kinner (pictured left) has a general research focus in hydrology and geomorphology and teaches classes in soils, water, geomorphology, and introductory geology.
Academic Affairs Searches

Associate Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences

The College of Health and Human Sciences is in the process of interviewing for the associate dean position. There was a healthy applicant pool, and three candidates have been invited to campus for face-to-face interviews. CHHS hopes to have a permanent associate dean in place by July 1, 2014.

Associate Provost

Campus visits for the associate provost candidates will be held May 1-7, 2014. Please visit the Academic Affairs Administrative Search page for more detailed information including candidate materials, dates and times of public events.

Dean of the Kimmel School

A search committee was appointed by Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar to identify recommended candidates for the dean of The Kimmel School of Construction Management & Technology. For more information, please visit the Kimmel School webpage or the Office of the Provost webpage.

College Highlights

Fine and Performing Arts

The Friends of the Arts Silent and Live auction on April 4th netted over $60,000 in new Arts Scholarships and Arts Program Support. Our college thanks the 170 donors of items, our sponsors, and all those magnificent people who took home a lot of good will and wonderful items.

The CFPA BAC Galaxy of Stars series is the only stand-alone pay as you go performance series on campus. This series does not receive any state or student fee support. In 2013-2014 the six event series had an 89.6% occupancy rate for the 960-seat BAC hall. The Friends of the Arts patrons and sponsors help make this series possible.

Three programs in the College of Fine and Performing Arts had a 100% retention rate from fall 2013 to spring 2014-The School of Stage and Screen Acting and BA program, Film and Television program, and School of Art and Design Interior Design program. The overall average for all programs in the college is 97.95%.

The School of Art and Design hosted a MFA/BFA/RAD (River Arts District) show at the Tannery Studios in Asheville on Friday, April 25th. The opening included patrons from the arts community in Asheville, WCU faculty and students.

The Cotton Club is on tour the second week of May to Tuscola H.S. / A.C. Reynolds H.S. / Green Hope H.S., Raleigh / Apex H.S., Raleigh / West Potomac H.S., Washington D.C. and Fairfax H.S., Washington D.C. This tour features WCU’s Catamount Singers and Electric Soul in collaboration with the Department of Communication’s Don Connelly.

Business

The College of Business Scholarships and Awards Ceremony and Reception were held Saturday, April 26, 2014. This ceremony recognized 100 students,
including 74 scholarship awards, 10 student BBT awards, and 16 Outstanding Student Program Awards.

In addition, 17 faculty members were recognized at the event, including the faculty award winners and finalists, the Bloomberg Teaching awards, and the BBT awards.

Dr. Darrell Parker, dean of the College of Business, stated: “It is a tremendous success to be able to extend this level of awards and recognition. Our count was over $170,000 in scholarships. Of course there was also strong representation of the COB among the university events as well. We have a great team in the College of Business. As we rush toward the end of the semester it is important to keep the great successes of the year in mind.”

Arts and Sciences

This year, the College of Arts and Sciences had 147 students participate in the poster and presentation sessions at the Undergraduate Expo, 49 NCUR presentations, and 30 Graduate Expo representations as well as numerous students presenting at professional presentations off campus.

The College of Arts and Sciences had 48 scholarships funds to award. This allowed 60 student recipients for a total of $53,416 in scholarship awards.

Twelve faculty members within the College of Arts and Sciences received a total of $1,123,097 in funding to support research.

Twenty-three faculty and staff nominations within the College of Arts and Sciences were recognized at the Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards ceremony.

Kimmel School

The Kimmel School was awarded Golden LEAF Foundation Grant of $500,000.

Awarded 9 Summer Research Projects for Kimmel School faculty members and students.

On May 2nd, the Kimmel School hosted over 100 guests from 30+ companies to showcase engineering capstone projects. Fifty-two engineering undergraduate seniors participated in 20 one-year industry sponsored projects ranging from medical devices to automotive technologies to Army Special Forces.

Twelve Engineering and Technology students were presented with program awards

Four Engineering and Technology students were presented with scholarships

The Construction Management department published 45 articles in 2013-2014

92% graduating senior placement in Construction Management Department

NAHB Residential Construction Competition team placed 6th out of 35 in the national competition in Las Vegas.

Education and Allied Professions

Ten graduate students and 12 undergraduate students gave presentations at the 60th annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Nashville, TN. Joseph Melnyk was awarded the Graduate Student Research Award for the entire conference. Martha Davis was also a semi-finalist for this award.

Hunter Library

Timothy Carstens, long-time member of the Hunter Library faculty, is the new associate dean of library services.

Elizabeth Skene is the library’s new digital initiatives librarian. She will be responsible for creating and managing a growing digital collection of historically
significant materials that focuses on the history of WCU, Western North Carolina and the Southern Appalachia.

At Hunter Library, we choose our two most outstanding student workers each year and honor them by highlighting their contributions on printed posters displayed in our building. For the 2013-14 year, library supervisors chose Lauren Rybak of Winston-Salem and Sarah Ducharme of Hendersonville.

Elizabeth Marcus, a member of the circulation staff at WCU’s Hunter Library for the past eight years, has a new position, research and instruction librarian. In her new job, which began April 15, Marcus also serves as the undergraduate experience librarian.

Health and Human Sciences

Over 200 attendees enjoyed continuing education in the mountains at this year’s 22nd annual Cullowhee Conference on Communicative Disorders.

Five students presented abstracts at the Prehospital Care Research Forum in Washington, DC in March, of which, one received the Best Research of the Year Award.

The School of Health Sciences awarded 20 Clinical Commendations to EMC students including 16 for Cardiac Arrest Saves and 4 newborn deliveries.

The WCU Center for Service Learning awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for Organization Community Service.

Emergency Medical Care graduates from 2013 have had a 100% pass rate on North Carolina EMT-Paramedic Exam, 100% pass rate on North Carolina EMT-Paramedic Exam, and a 100% job placement rate.

Lisa Lefler (CBNHP) and Tom Belt (Cherokee Language Program) were asked to participate in the Native Health and Culture symposium at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian in April.

Honors College

As of May 2, there were a record 189 “live” Honors freshmen deposits.

A $20,000 gift established the Dr. Mark and Katherine Whitehead Honors College Scholarship Fund.

One-hundred and sixty-three will graduate with The Honors College diploma in May; the average cumulative WCU GPA for this class is 3.72.

The Honors College Medaling Ceremony was held in the UC Grand Room on May 1st.

One-hundred and twenty freshmen were inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta (national Honors society) at a ceremony hosted by the Chancellor and Honors College on April 28.