International Beach Trust Locates Office at Western

WCU is the new home to the offices of the Santa Aguila Charitable Trust, an international organization devoted to the protection and preservation of beaches around the world, and recent graduate Adam Griffith has been hired as director of the trust’s Beachcare program.

Griffith, who earned his master’s degree in biology from Western in May, is working out of space in WCU’s Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, known worldwide for its use of science to influence public policy affecting management of U.S. shorelines.

“Our immediate goal is to launch the official Beachcare Web site to inform, educate, protect and celebrate the world’s beaches,” Griffith said.

Other priorities of the trust include identifying beaches in trouble around the world, and providing the scientific basis for improving their management, he said. “I love the beach and am thrilled to work in the nonprofit and environmental fields,” Griffith said.

Established by Olaf Guerrand-Hermes, a member of the family that founded the Paris-based Hermes fashion house, and wife Eva after the death of 2-year-old-daughter Aguila in a car accident in 2005, the Santa Aguila Charitable Trust strives to educate the general public regarding issues that threaten the world’s beaches and coasts.

The relocation of the trust to WCU comes through the efforts of Rob Young, director of Western’s Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines and a member of the advisory board of the trust. The advisory board oversees the trust’s strategy and works to ensure its mission of global mobilization to stop the decimation of beaches worldwide.

“This effort will unite PSDS and Western with a very influential group of global movers and shakers in the name of environmental education and responsible coastal management,” Young said. “It is all very exciting.”

— By BILL STUDENC
Meet the newest members of the WCU community. Here are the names, photographs and brief biographies of more than 150 faculty and staff members who recently joined the Western family or moved into a full-time position.

Anne Aldrich, office manager and executive assistant, Provost’s Office; B.S., West Georgia State University; previously human resources director, Meridian Behavioral Health Services, Sylva.

Lance Alexis, director, Disability Services; Ed.D., East Tennessee State University; previously doctoral fellow, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn.

Cyndi Ammons, administrative support associate, Student Affairs; A.A.S., Cecil’s Junior College of Business; previously office manager, Smoky Mountain OB/GYN Associates, Franklin and Bryson City.

Kia Asberg, assistant professor, Psychology; Ph.D., University of Central Florida; previously psychology fellow, Yale University School of Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.

April Avery-Ferguson, assistant professor, Elementary and Middle Grades Education; Ed.D., Western Carolina University; previously principal, Riverside Elementary School, Newland.

Kay Babecki, administrative support associate, Facilities Management; B.S., Western Carolina University; previously legal assistant, Williams and Cassady, Dillsboro.

Kirsten Barger, special projects coordinator, Center for Service Learning; B.A., Goddard College; previously of Santa Fe, N.M.

Jeanette Beaudry, academic adviser, OneStop Student Services Center; M.A.Ed., Western Carolina University; previously flight attendant, US Airways, Charlotte.

Maggie Bergen, office manager, Center for Student Involvement; B.B.A., Georgia State University; previously paralegal, Rome, Ga.

Kristan Berry, academic adviser, Advising Center; M.A., Appalachian State University; previously graduate assistant, Appalachian State University, Boone.

Keith J. Bell, assistant professor, Applied Criminology; Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania; previously assistant professor of criminal justice, Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va.

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Kate Best, visiting assistant professor, Mathematics and Computer Science; M.A., Miami University; previously mathematics and education instructor, Portland State University, Portland, Ore.

Hunt Boulware, assistant professor, History; Ph.D., University of Cambridge; previously visiting assistant professor, Anderson University, Anderson, S.C.

Jeff Brookshire, officer, Police; B.L.E.T., Haywood Community College.

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Stephen Brown, department head, Applied Criminology; Ph.D., University of Maryland; previously director of criminal justice and criminology honors-in-discipline program, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn.

Brian Buchanan, dayshift building and environmental services supervisor, Facilities Management.

Brian Byrd, assistant professor, Environmental Health Sciences; M.S.P.H., Tulane University; previously graduate research assistant, Tulane University, New Orleans.

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D.V. Simonian Caitlyn, visiting assistant professor; Stage and Screen; M.F.A., University of California-San Diego; previously industry professional, Los Angeles and New York.

Diana Catley, lead management engineer for Banner, Human Resources; Certificate in Education, University of Southampton; previously associate director of human resources, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tenn.

Michelle Clonch, director, Women’s Center and Women’s Programs; M.A., Rollins College; previously assistant director of counseling and psychological services, Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.

Scott Cook, assistant director for teacher recruitment, Education and Allied Professions; B.S.Ed., Western Carolina University; previously teacher and exceptional children department chair, Miami-Dade Public Schools, Miami.

Paula Coker, assistant visiting professor, Elementary and Middle Grades Education; M.S.A., University of North Carolina-Wilmington; previously educational programs specialist, Pender County Schools, Burgaw.

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Anne Campbell, administrative support specialist, Payroll; Certificate, Southwestern Community College; previously with STAT Nursing Services, Asheville.

Pam Buskey, instructor, Educational Leadership and Foundations; M.S.A., University of Findlay; previously instructor, University of Findlay, Findlay, Ohio.

Pamela M. Buchanan, director, Health Services; M.B.A., Western Carolina University; previously director of planning and operations, WestCare Health System, Sylva.

Robert J. Conley, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies; M.A., Midwestern University; previously writer and visiting instructor, WCU and institutions in Hickory and Albuquerque, N.M.

Michelle Clonch, administrative support associate, Facilities Management; A.A.S., Southwestern Community College; previously with WestCare Health System, Sylva.

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Anita Buchanan, telecommunicator, Police; previously team driver for trucking company and cook.

Brian Buchanan, dayshift building and environmental services supervisor, Facilities Management.

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Margo Raff, service learning coordinator, Center for Service Learning; M.A., University of San Francisco and Michigan State University.

Mark Redd, visiting instructor, Mathematics and Computer Science; M.S., Western Carolina University.

Christina Reitz, visiting assistant professor, Music; Ph.D., University of Florida; previously visiting assistant professor, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

Amanda Rigdon, administrative support associate, Nursing; A.A.S., Haywood Community College; previously marketing director, Elk Country Realty, Maggie Valley.

Sherry Robison, dietetic internship director, Health Sciences; M.S., University of Memphis; previously pediatric nutritionist, Children's Developmental Services Agency of the Smokies, Sylva.

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Jason Sides, assistant professor, Political Science and Public Affairs, Ph.D., Florida State University; previously assistant professor, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky.

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Tom Tisdale, athletic trainer for soccer and men's basketball, Athletics; B.A., California Lutheran University; previously athletic trainer, Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Dennis Wagner, head football coach, Athletics; M.A.A., St. Cloud State University; previously offensive line coach, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

Al Webster, building and environmental services technician, Facilities Management; previously with Webster Nursery, Sylva.

Betty White, assistant professor, Clinical Laboratory Sciences; M.A.T., University of Memphis, Tenn.; program director of clinical laboratory science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

Chris Williams, specialist, Human Resources; B.S., Western Carolina University; previously material delivery center manager, Lafarge North America, Frederick, Md.

Deneen Williams, administrative assistant, Global Management and Strategy; B.S., Western Carolina University.

Mark Wilson, director, Forensic Science Program; Ph.D., George Mason University; previously supervisory special agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory Division, Quantico, Va.

Bruce Yarrington, university specialist, WCU Cherokee Center and Qualla Financial Freedom Program; B.A., Saint Leo University; previously program manager, MetLife Financial Services, Asheville.

Shawna Young, director of student outreach and assessment, Student Affairs; M.A., New York University; previously director for administration and education, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

Catamount, official Catamount mascot, Athletics; previously wildcat, Western North Carolina.
Online Project Management Program Ranked No. 1 'Best Buy' Nationally

Western's online master's degree program in project management has been given a No. 1 national ranking in quality and affordability by the distance education information clearinghouse GetEducated.com. The program is listed first among a group of top 39 “best buys.” The rankings are based on a review of 127 distance-learning graduate management and administration programs offered through accredited universities across the nation.

The project management program at WCU was reviewed and “judged to offer a high quality distance degree to a national audience at tuition rates well below the national average,” said GetEducated.com spokeswoman Kathy Morrison. North Carolina residents who enroll in WCU’s program pay about $4,709 to complete it, while the GetEducated.com review indicated that the average cost for obtaining the degree across the nation is $20,181.

Accredited by the Project Management Institute in 1983, WCU’s program transitioned into a Web-based format in 1998, and the first group of students who completed it, a high quality distance degree to a national audience at tuition rates well below the national average,” said GetEducated.com spokeswoman Kathy Morrison. North Carolina residents who enroll in WCU’s program pay about $4,709 to complete it, while the GetEducated.com review indicated that the average cost for obtaining the degree across the nation is $20,181.

Accredited by the Project Management Institute in 1983, WCU’s program transitioned into a Web-based format in 1998, and the first group of students who earned their degrees fully online graduated in August 2000.

—By RANDALL HOLCOMBE
**Western Carolina University is a University of North Carolina campus and an Equal Opportunity Institution.**

**September 2008**

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1,475 copies were printed at a cost of $602.70, or $.42 each.

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4-6 p.m. Room 130, designer for Federated Department Stores (including Sierra Club). 

**Visiting designer**

Management. 12:30 or 5 p.m. Bird 224. $. (227-2088)

**Weight Loss Tuesdays**

Diet, exercise and stress management. 12:30 or 5 p.m. Bird 224. $. (227-2088)

**Movie**

“Nueve Yo!,” a comedy/drama about a Dominican man’s quest to get to New York City. Subtitled. 7:30 p.m. UC theater. (227-3873)

**Catamount Concert Series**

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk, soprano, accompanied by Andrew Adams on piano. 8 p.m. RRAC. (227-7242)

**Wednesday, Sept. 9**

**Weight Loss Tuesdays**

Diet, exercise and stress management. 12:30 or 5 p.m. Bird 224. $. (227-2088)

**Movie**

“Hombre Miranda al Sudeste,” a drama about a patient in a mental hospital who claims to be an extraterrestrial. Subtitled. 7:30 p.m. UC theater. (227-3873)

**Catamount volleyball**

vs. UNC Asheville. 7 p.m. RRAC. $. (227-7338)

**Wednesday, Sept. 9**

**Faculty Conversations**

Propose and hear ideas. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost. 8:30-10 a.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-3012)

**Evening of Spoken Word**

 Featuring Gabriela Garcia Medina. 9 p.m. Club Illusions, UC. (227-7479)

**Wednesday, Sept. 9-Sunday, Sept. 21**

**Theater**

“Plaza Suite,” by the University Players. A comedic portrait following three couples successively occupying Suite 719 of New York City’s Plaza hotel. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. HA. $. (227-2479)

**Thursday, Sept. 10**

**Mountain Heritage Center open house**

A welcome to students, faculty and staff. Noon-2 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

**Open Mic Night**

Sponsored by Last Minute. MHC. (227-7129)

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

**University Club**

TGIF gathering for members and guests. 5 p.m. with chili cook-off to follow. UCclubhouse, Central Drive. $. (227-3933)

**One Night Stand comedy**

Featuring Adam Ace. 7 p.m. UC theater. $. (227-7206)

**Friday, Sept. 12**

**University Club**

TGIF gathering for members and guests. 5 p.m. UC clubhouse, Central Drive. $. (227-3933)

**Catamount football**

vs. Liberty. Kids Weekend. 6 p.m. WS/BW. $. (227-7338)

**Monday, Sept. 15**

**Barry Drake**

Rock ‘n’ roll historian. 7:30 p.m. UC theater. (227-7479)

**Tuesday, Sept. 16**

**Weight Loss Tuesdays**

Diet, exercise and stress management. 12:30 or 5 p.m. Bird 224. $. (227-2088)

**Visiting designer**

Amy Laughhead-Riese, lighting designer for Federated Department Stores (including Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s). 4-6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2151)

**Movie**

“The Seven Samurai” (1954). Residents of a 16th-century Japanese farming community hire a band of samurai to protect them against bandits. Subtitled. 7 p.m. UC theater. $. (227-7206)

**Friday, Sept. 19**

**Movie**

“Get Smart.” 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. UC theater. $. (227-7479)

**University Club**

TGIF gathering for members and guests. 5 p.m. UC clubhouse, Central Drive. $. (227-3933)

**Friday, Sept. 19**

**Saturday, Sept. 20**

**Catamount Clash volleyball tournament**

Friday: vs. Norfolk State, 2:30 p.m.; vs. Arkansas State, 7:30 p.m. Saturday: vs. Presbyterian, 2 p.m. RRAC. $. (227-7338)

**Sunday, Sept. 21**

**Catamount women’s soccer**

vs. South Carolina. 2 p.m. CAC. $. (227-7338)

**Exhibits**

**Fine Art Museum**


“Worldviews” – Selections from Western Carolina University’s permanent collection. Ongoing. Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thurs. and 1-4 p.m. Sat. (227-3591 or http://fapac.wcu.edu)

**Mountain Heritage Center**

“Bells in the Valley” – Slideshow spotlight, September.

“People of One Fire” – Cherokee pottery. Gallery B. Through Sunday, Nov. 16.

“The Artistry of Plain-Style Furniture” – An exhibit of furniture handmade in Western North Carolina during the 1800s and early 1900s. Gallery C. Through Monday, Dec. 15.

“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People” – Text panels, illustrations, artifacts and murals that trace the Scotch-Irish Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, through the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina. Permanent exhibit. Gallery A.

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri. (227-7129 or http://www.wcu.edu/mhc)

**Hunter Library**

“Bartam’s Journey: The 1775 Journey of William Bartram to Western North Carolina” – Exhibit on the life and observations of botanist William Bartram, on display through December on the ground floor. (227-3398)

**Submissions:**

Send news items, calendar notices and address changes to Reporter@email.wcu.edu or WCU Calendar, 420 H.F. Robinson Building. Submit items for The Reporter calendar at least four weeks prior to the event.

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