Students, Faculty, & Staff,

I am writing to inform you of a matter that I believe to be of significant interest to members of the campus community.

Officers from the Western Carolina University Police Department arrested Thomas Lee West of Fryeburg, Maine, at about 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 27, on two felony charges related to allegations of illegal entry of a residence hall room in Blue Ridge Hall and the installation of a video camera with the intent to secretly record the occupant.

At the time of the alleged incident, West was a graduate student employed at WCU. In the affidavit leading to the arrest, the victim identified him as a graduate community coordinator for the university.

After his arrest, West was taken to the Jackson County Magistrate?s Office where he was charged. He has been released on $20,000 secured bond, and has a first appearance date in Jackson County District Court at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 1.

We believe this to be an isolated incident that does not require a ?timely warning notification? to campus, but also believe it is important to make the campus community aware of the arrest.

Because this is an ongoing investigation within the judicial system, we are unable to make any additional comments at this time.

Thank you,

Ernie Hudson

Chief of Police