Lower campus residence halls get their new names
WCU’s Board of Trustees formally named the three lower campus residence halls currently under construction during its recent annual retreat. The buildings are set to be complete in fall 2022 and spring 2023.

The three separate residence halls will be called Water Rock Hall, Shining Rock Hall, and Black Rock Hall.

“In honor of WCU’s stewardship role in the western mountains of North Carolina, the university in 2009, chose the names of Balsam and Blue Ridge for the residence halls in the central core of the campus,” said WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown. “To carry this tradition into the future and to create an integral core of residence halls on the lower campus, we proposed these names to our board and I am happy with the board’s positive response.”

References to the Smokies, the Plott Balsams, and the Blue Ridge mountains have been reflected in the mission of the university from its inception in 1889. Indeed, the central tenet of the founding of WCU, the “Cullowhee Idea” was to serve the people of this place and to provide for their educational needs. Once complete, the new residence halls will be used to house incoming freshmen.

Week of Kindness
You Matter

WCU Week of Kindness
November 15th - 19th

#WheekOfKindness

Welcome New Catamount
Desmond McCowan (he/him/his), is a new contract clinician in CAPS. He completed his Master’s Degree in Psychological Counseling from Columbia University in 2017 and is actively pursuing licensure as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor in the state of North Carolina. He is also a WCU alum, having received a B.S. degree in Psychology in 2014.

Desmond has primarily worked with young adults and minors in school and hospital settings. His counseling approach entails creating a safe space for self-actualization by helping clients incorporate desired lifestyle and behavioral changes.

He utilizes Person-Centered strategies to address clients of various needs and multicultural backgrounds. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time in nature, working out at the gym, as well as, singing on and off-key karaoke with friends.
New guidelines established for Land Acknowledgement

Western Carolina University has established a set of official guidelines for use of the university’s Land Acknowledgment with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Land acknowledgments have been utilized in higher education events and activities to give respect and recognition to the ancestors that were here before the institution was established and expanded. The WCU Land Acknowledgment considers Western North Carolina’s rich indigenous culture dating back 13,000 years. In doing so, the university encourages public awareness about the past, present, and future of indigenous identity thriving in both the community and campus. Use of the Land Acknowledgement also inspires partnership, collaboration, and active relationship building between WCU and the EBCI.
Learn more about the Land Acknowledgement, uses, and restrictions - [wcu.edu/discover/about/land-acknowledgement.aspx](http://wcu.edu/discover/about/land-acknowledgement.aspx).
6th Annual Miracle Silent Auction is LIVE!

All proceeds from this auction will go towards an endowment to cover the costs for children and their families to attend specialized camps that provide much needed respite from the relentless burden of chronic illness.

An in-person Auction Preview Day will be held in the Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, November 16th, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Fresh baked goods will be available for purchase.

Visit the Auction

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University Awards

The nomination process for university awards is open. Please take time to visit the university awards website for more information on the awards and the selection criteria.

A link to the nomination ballot was emailed earlier this week. The link is unique to you and should not be shared with anyone else. You do not have to complete the nomination ballot in one session. You can edit your responses until the nomination period ends on December 3, 2021.

Below is a list of awards -

**Faculty Awards**
- Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award
- Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award
- Innovative Scholarship Award
- Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for Faculty

**Staff Awards**
- WCU Award for Excellence in Community Engagement
- Judy H. Dowell Outstanding Support Staff Award
- Paul A. Reid Service Award for Administrative Staff
- Bright Idea Staff Award
Student Affairs Leadership

The Student Affairs Leadership Team (SALT) met on Tuesday, November 2 via Zoom.

SALT Meeting Notes

Unit Highlights

Campus Activities

- SGA is sponsoring 'A Week of Kindness,' November 15-19.
- The *Whee Takeover* will be held Monday, December 13, 5:30-8:00 pm with the theme "Whee Take Off!"
- DCA is still accepting applications for student employment, especially for the tech crew.
- Leslie Calvin will again support the Human Development and Leadership Retreat (HDLR),

Campus Services

- Meal Plan proposals have been submitted for 2022-2023.
- Catamount Dining is still working to recruit employees, especially non-student workers.
- The Lodge at Brown is now open for dinner service.
- Residential Living is promoting the implementation of Policy 96.
- Residential Living is also recruiting RA’s for the spring semester.
taking place on November 19 - 20.

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**Health & Wellness**
- CRW is working with the Student Veteran Association on programming ideas to connect military veterans with outdoor recreation programming.
- CAPS met with University Marketing on ways to increase efforts to highlight their services and to help decrease mental health stigma.
- Health Services had 903 patient encounters.
- The booster shot is available for self-scheduling at the COVID Vaccine clinic at Madison Hall.
- Katherine, Amy, and Kayla met to discuss an ugly sweater yoga/mindfulness event.

**Marketing & Assessment**
- The Access, Equity, and Success" sub-committee of the Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Inclusive Excellence has been actively meeting to identify areas of focus.
- Jane will serve on the Associate Director of Assessment search.
- The Southeastern LatinX Student Leadership Conference will be held on April 1 - 3.
- The One Book sub-committee held the 'Coffee with a Cop’ program on November 8.
- Travis Jordan was hired as the new Executive Director of Marketing.
Dean of Students

- DSCE successfully held OkSober Fest! They also participated in Recalibrating your Compass and National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness week tabling.
- ICA hosted the Advising Center for a drop-in session on advising day.
- ICA will use the MLK, Jr. Leadership dinner/keynote to recognize student leaders with awards. Use this link to nominate a Student: [ICA Student Award Nomination Form](#).
- Linda "LC" completed the Greek Advisor's manual.
- IFC held a town hall meeting to talk about recruitment.

Undergraduate Enrollment

- The remaining Fall Open House date is November 20. Spring dates are February 26 and March 26, 2022.
- The [2022 FAFSA Tracker is Live!](#)
- Orientation will plan for in-person sessions beginning Spring 2022.
- November is National Scholarship Month.
- For fall 2022, first-year students admitted to the Honors College will receive a $1,000 Brinson Honors College Premier Pathway Scholarship, to help commemorate and celebrate the college’s 25th year in 2022 and designed to positively affect yield.

DSA IT Committee
Want to advertise a program? Need to recruit students for employment? Seeking student feedback? Engage is a great resource to help you communicate with students. Just use the event submission form to advertise in Engage.

The next DSA IT Committee will be held Friday, November 19th @ 9:00 am via Zoom.

**CATAMOUNTS CARE**

WCU will continue to emphasize its Catamounts Care community standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout the academic year. We also encourage faculty, staff, and students to follow current CDC guidance with respect to recommendations on face coverings in other circumstances and locations. Current CDC guidance recommends face coverings in indoor locations for ALL individuals in areas with high or substantial transmission of COVID-19. CDC guidance is subject to change based on current conditions, and the University may alter its face-covering requirements as needed.
Remember to visit the COVID-19 website for the latest campus updates and resources.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

THANK YOU

In a year of transition, we want to take this time to thank you for all you do for our students and to make this campus a great community. May each of you have a bountiful, peaceful, and wonderful Thanksgiving break.
The Last Lecture Award

NOV. 18 AT 5:30 PM UC THEATRE
DR. CANDY NOLTENSMEYER
Important Dates
November 15 - 19 - Week of Kindness
November 24 - 26 - Thanksgiving break
December 11 - Last day of classes