Work on mixed-use facility to begin this spring

The next phase of a project on campus to build a new mixed-used facility on the site of a structure damaged by fire in November 2013 is expected to get underway this spring with construction beginning as early as May. … (CONTINUE READING)

Changes to weather policy in effect

WCU has divided its “Adverse Weather and Emergency Closings” policy into two polices and incorporated changes in accordance with updated guidelines issued by the N.C. Office of State Human Resources. … (CONTINUE READING)

College of Business restructures, names new directors

A reorganization within the College of Business has streamlined its four academic departments into three schools, and faculty members assumed leadership of the new units this month (January). … (CONTINUE READING)

Campus MLK events set for Jan. 19-24

Brandon A. Robinson, an attorney, two-time WCU alumnus and member of the WCU Board of Visitors, will be the keynote speaker for the institution’s annual celebration in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday, Jan. 21. … (CONTINUE READING)

Radio re-creation group to present ‘Robin Hood – The Legacy’ on Feb. 26

The award-winning creative team from WCU that has done everything from destroying the world with a production of “War of the Worlds” to capturing the spirit of broadcasts from the Cotton Club with their “golden age of radio” re-creations has announced its selection for 2015. … (CONTINUE READING)

Students develop mock trial inspired by novel ‘Serena’
Business administration and law students said the mock trial they developed based on the Ron Rash novel “Serena” – the university’s “One Book” selection for 2014–15 – helped them connect more deeply with their field of study and with each other. ... (CONTINUE READING)

Faculty assist with award-winning Cherokee language documentary

“People are generally not aware that there are still Cherokee language speakers and that it could be a thriving contemporary language if we open up enough space for it,” said Hartwell Francis. ... (CONTINUE READING)

Carter describes love of poetry after recent publication

Catherine Carter, whose most recent book of poetry is titled “Marks of the Witch,” said among the experiences that fueled her love of the literary craft was meeting a man called the “Pit Bull.” ... (CONTINUE READING)

WCU to present ‘An Appalachian Songbook’ on Jan. 20

A critically acclaimed soprano with musical roots at WCU and an accomplished pianist whose repertoire spans from the 16th to the 21st centuries will team up with a former North Carolina poet laureate to present “An Appalachian Songbook: North Carolina in Word, Music and Song” on Tuesday, Jan. 20. ... (CONTINUE READING)

BRIEFS | thereporter.wcu.edu/category/briefs
WCU Leadership Academy class to participate in polar plunge
Human resources graduate students help nonprofit organizations and small businesses
SBTDC earns re-accreditation
State department retiree joins Hunter Library’s reference department

ACHIEVEMENTS | thereporter.wcu.edu/category/achievements
Read about the latest achievements of faculty and staff, including Vittal Anantatmula, Todd Creasy, Laura Cruz, Heather Mae Erickson, Steve Ha, Mark A. Kossick, Johnny Penley, Trina Royar and Jim Veteto.

HEADLINES FROM WCU NEWS SERVICES | news-prod.wcu.edu
‘World’s best young Elvis’ to perform Jan. 31 at WCU
Hunter Library, Technology Commons expand hours
Tickets for family friendly ‘FROGZ’ on sale Jan. 20
WCU earns national recognition for engagement efforts in local communities
Low Brass Assembly to be held Friday-Saturday
Celebration of Catamount Baseball fundraising event is Jan. 24
Community art classes to start 2015

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSWATCH | news-prod.wcu.edu/higher-education-newswatch
Nonprofits meet amid worries they’ll lose sales tax refund | Asheville Citizen-Times (about meeting to discuss nonprofit organizations and sales tax issues, includes comment from Chris Cooper)

Western Carolina University M.P.A. Director Roger Hartley Named Dean of University of Baltimore’s College of Public Affairs | University of Baltimore
Feds threaten to reclaim its share of regional loan money | The Sylva Herald (about federal inquiry into loans from the Southwestern Commission, with reference to WCU’s SBTDC as among ways to learn about the possibility of loans)

Meet the Family Behind the Legal Weed Industry’s First Credit Union | Rolling Stone Magazine (about marijuana industry’s first credit union includes comment from WCU criminal justice student)

Economists: Recession (really) over in WNC, state | Asheville Citizen-Times (about WNC economic conditions includes comment from Bob Mulligan)

‘Emotional support animals’ stink up service dog reputation | Chicago Tribune (commentary about emotional support animals; includes comment from Hal Herzog)

ATHLETICS | catamountsports.com
Men’s Basketball: Catamounts and Buccaneers Battle Inside the Ramsey Center Thursday Night
Softball begins spring practice in advance to 2015 season
Mark Speir, Western Carolina unveil 2015 Catamount football schedule
Football: Ace Clark to play in NFLPA Collegiate Bowl Jan. 17
Men’s Basketball: Mike Brown named SoCon Player of the Week