Chancellor discusses graduation and retention rates, budget, strategic plan at assembly

The chancellor declared the upcoming academic year 2013-14 a “year of opportunity and possibility,” one in which the university will plunge headlong into the task of tackling the ambitious initiatives outlined in the “2020 Vision” strategic plan approved last year. ... (CONTINUE READING | READ FULL REMARKS | LISTEN TO ADDRESS)

Campus asked to respond to master plan proposals

Should WCU focus its efforts on developing the new West Campus, reconfiguring the historic “hill area” of the older side of campus, improving the area along N.C. Highway 107, or a combination of some of all three approaches? ... (CONTINUE READING)

From the Breakroom with Arledge Armenaki

An associate professor of cinematography, WCU’s Arledge Armenaki served as an international tutor at the 2013 Summer Media Studio for European Film Students held in Lithuania. The focus of the workshop was “Dance in Film.” ... (CONTINUE READING)

Record rainfall may dampen fall color show

Abundant rainfall during one of the wettest summers in Western North Carolina history may portend a dampening of the intensity of the fall color show this year unless autumn brings vastly drier conditions, predicts Kathy Mathews, WCU’s fearless fall foliage forecaster. ... (CONTINUE READING)

WCU sees uptick in grant awards

The nearly $1.4 million in grant money that faculty and staff projects brought in during the first month of WCU’s fiscal year, which is one of the peak months for release of grant funds, was nearly $380,000 more than the same time last year. Meanwhile, the Office of Research Administration is preparing to relaunch a monthly seminar series and mentorship program to support faculty interested in applying for grant funding. ... (CONTINUE READING)
Photo studio to open Aug. 20 for employee photographs
Dining Services hosts "$5 Fridays" for faculty and staff
WCU-sponsored conference for student support services personnel set for Sept. 27

ACHIEVEMENTS | thereporter.wcu.edu/category/achievements
Read about the latest achievements of faculty and staff, including David Dorondo, Roger Hartley, Jennifer Schiff and Rob Young.

EVENTS | calendar.wcu.edu
Aug. 16-24 | WOW 2013 (Week of Welcome)
Aug. 16 | Freshman Convocation and Class Photo
Aug. 17 | Valley BallyHoo
Aug. 22 | Graduate School new student orientation
Aug. 22 | Are You Seeing Red? Information Fair
Aug. 22 | Third Thursday: Credo Reception
Aug. 22 | Relient K in Concert
Aug. 22 | Woodwind Faculty Recital
Aug. 27 | DJ and Side Swipe/ Martial Arts
Aug. 27 | School of Music Faculty Showcase Concert
Sept. 3 | Belchers and Friends Concert

HEADLINES FROM WCU NEWS SERVICES | news.wcu.edu
Board of Trustees to hold quarterly meeting
Area students participate in Project Discovery-Talent Search activities
WCU football team readies for new season

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSWATCH | news-prod.wcu.edu/higher-education-newswatch
WCU students return to new nightlife landscape this year | Smoky Mountain News (comments from Steve Morse)
Griphon Gals: WCU program teaches women football tactics | Smoky Mountain News
New law to allow concealed weapons in cars on campus | Smoky Mountain News
The tricky terrain of Native American labels | Smoky Mountain News (comments from Tom Belt)
Willie Freeman hired at Western Carolina | Salem (OR) Statesman Journal
Watch North Carolina Now Online | UNC-TV (video includes interview with Chancellor David O. Belcher)
Universities get good news in new budget | Asheville Citizen-Times (mentions engineering program at Biltmore Park)
Remaking the Science Fair | PRX / NPR (comments from Kefyn Catley)
N.J. Town’s Answer to Rising Sea Levels: Lift Itself Up | Weather Underground (comments from Rob Young)
Beach vs. Road in Outer Banks | The Weather Channel (comments from Rob Young)
Protection Against a Rising Tide | The Weather Channel (comments from Rob Young)
N.J. town considers elevating itself 11 feet | USA Today (comments from Rob Young)

ATHLETICS | catamountsports.com
Football holds second scrimmage on Wednesday
Women's tennis racks up academic honors from the ITA
Football Fall Report #7: Tuesday, August 13
Men’s Golf: WCU's J.T. Poston misses cut at United States Amateur Championship
Baseball Diamond Notes: Summer Update August 13