

News from the Colleges

College of Arts and Humanities

Criteria's to Play in Swope to a Caymans Audience

The Criteria's Jazz Ensemble will be performing a joint holiday concert in tandem with the University College of the Cayman Islands on Dec. 10. But nobody needs to hop on a plane to experience this event.

The Criteria's' performance will be live-streamed to the 500-plus concertgoers gathered at the Crescent Camana Bay venue in the Cayman Islands. Likewise, the University College of the Caymans Island band will have their performance live-streamed to Swope Music Building for WCU concert-goers to enjoy.

This is the first time that the School of Music has participated in a simultaneous live-stream event originating from two venues. However, live-streaming from a single venue is a frequent occurrence; last academic year, the School of Music live-streamed 49 events. These live-streams received 8,348 views, with a result of 109,000-plus minutes watched in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Irish Media Focus of Summer Study Abroad



In July, 15 Communication Studies students journeyed to Ireland with Dr. Michael Boyle, associate professor of communication studies, for a “Media in Ireland” study abroad course. The 16-day trip took the students from Limerick and Galway on Ireland’s west coast to Dublin and the Wicklow Mountains in the east. Along the way, the students visited the set of an Irish-language soap opera, a newspaper, a radio station, a recording studio, had lunch with an author and blogger, and learned about traditional Irish storytelling.

For many students, a highlight was the day trip to Northern Ireland where they saw filming locations for the HBO series “Game of Thrones.” The trip also included visits to historical and natural attractions, including the site of the 1916 Easter Rising, Glendalough and the Cliffs of Moher.

College of Health Sciences

November Happenings at the Center for Contemplative Studies



On Sept. 26, the Center for Contemplative Studies held the first classes in its new dedicated space in the Ehinger Gym Annex on South Church Street. This space and other new center initiatives have been made possible thanks to a significant gift from WCU alumnus Pat Croce and his wife, Diane, as well as gifts from other donors.

Yoga/movement, meditation and other classes are offered Monday-Thursday throughout the semester in the new center, in the Ehinger Gym Annex. For a schedule of classes, go to:

<http://www.wcupa.edu/HealthSciences/ContemplativeStudies/schedule.aspx>.

The center also is hosting several special events. On Nov. 19, a Saturday Seminar, from 9 a.m. to noon, will work to build community with discussions and events centered around mindfulness. A community meditation will be included. And on Dec. 8, students are encouraged to head to a Pre-Finals Retreat at the center. This day-long event will help students de-stress with fun and mindful activities before hitting the books.

For more information about the Center for Contemplative Studies, go to

<http://www.wcupa.edu/HealthSciences/ContemplativeStudies/default.aspx> or call 610-436-2200.

College of Business and Public Management

WCU Student a Finalist for NASCAR Humanitarian Award



Junior marketing and management major Logan Houptley was a finalist for the NASCAR Foundation's 2016 Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award for his advocacy of Mikayla's Voice, a nonprofit he helped co-found in honor of his friend, Mikayla Resh, who suffered brain damage at birth that left her with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, seizure disorder, and severe learning disabilities. Houptley was awarded \$25,000 for Mikayla's Voice, which promotes inclusion of people facing physical and mental challenges.

School Kids Have the World at Their Feet



Hillsdale Elementary students can now jump rope in the Pacific or throw a ball over Canada, thanks to a colorful new world map painted on the blacktop of their kindergarten playground. The map was created by students in GEO101: World Geography and the Geography Club, under the direction of Dr. Joy Fritschle, professor of geography and planning.

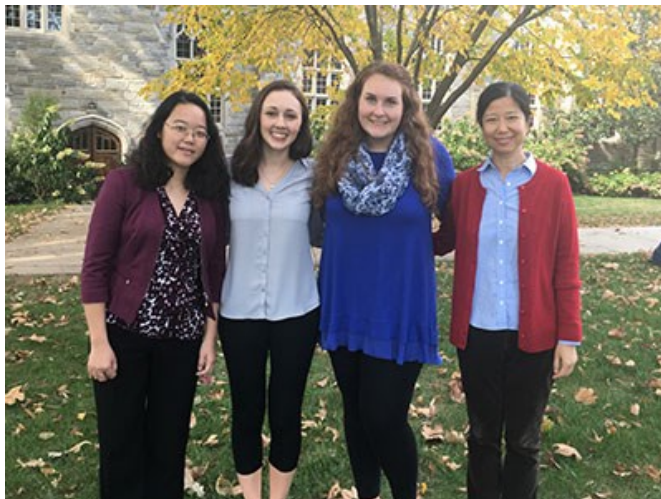
“Our hope is that this map inspires students’ curiosity about the wider world outside of West Chester, and

motivates them to learn more about geography,” says Fritschle. “Perhaps we will even have geography and planning majors coming to WCU in the future as a result of this map.”

Twenty-six geography students volunteered their time for the project on a Friday and Saturday in mid-October. The students are now preparing a packet of educational activities and games that can be played on the map, which Fritschle and her students will present to the school during National Geography Awareness Week, November 13-19.

College of Science and Mathematics

WCU Club & Google Partner on Computer Science Mentoring Program



In 2014, U.S. women earned just 18 percent of all undergraduate degrees in computer science. This represents a decline from earlier years; in 1985, women received 37 percent of these degrees.

Yet the computer science industry is projected to grow much faster than other industries over the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Opportunities exist for both men and women in such positions as

information security analyst, computer systems analyst, software developer, web developer, and computer and research information scientist.

WCU's Women in Computer Science Club is doing its part on campus to spread the word about career options in computer science. And now, thanks to a grant from Google, it will be able to connect with high school students, too. The club, supervised by computer science professors Drs. Bin Lu and Liu Cui, and presided by Carla Tamburro, a senior computer science major, applied for a grant from Google's igniteCS, an initiative that helps college students make a difference in their local communities through computer science mentorship.

In October, igniteCS awarded the club a \$1,120 grant, which will be used to launch a mentoring program at Henderson High School this January.

"The objective of the mentoring program is to encourage high school students to take an interest in computer science by teaching them in a relaxed, informal environment," says Lu. "We hope to motivate future coders to enter the industry and show them the fun and creative side of coding."

The program welcomes all students but Tamburro notes that it hopes to specifically inspire female high school students to bridge the gender gap and enter the computer science field.

"It is a shame that so few women have been choosing careers in computer science," says Tamburro. "Having involved mentors like Dr. Lu and Dr. Cui has been crucial to finding and taking advantage of opportunities like igniteCS. I hope that, through this program, we will have a similar positive impact on students at Henderson."

College of Education and Social Work

Recently, WCU's Frederick Douglass Institute partnered with Coatesville Areas School District on a major new literacy initiative that focuses on reading, mentorship and scholarships.

Underwritten in part by Wells Fargo, the initiative includes a reading program that begins in 5th grade, a College Prep Academy that pairs district juniors and seniors with WCU student mentors, and two full scholarships to the University's Academic Development Program, a summer bridge preparatory session.

The College of Education and Social Work will be supporting this new partnership in a number of ways, including tutoring and service learning by WCU students, says Dr. Ken Witmer, dean of the college. And, he reports, teachers in the district will now be able to participate in WCU's M.Ed./Reading Specialist Program right in their own schools.

"A primary goal of our M.Ed./Reading Specialist Program is to prepare outstanding literacy educators who, among other things, can effectively teach students who struggle with literacy skills to read, write, and think," says Dr. Kevin Flanagan, a graduate coordinator in the Literacy Department. "We are delivering our program on-site in Coatesville because we believe strongly in university/school partnerships. When we can align our M.Ed. program to teachers' work with *their own* students in *their own* classrooms, we are positioned to have the most significant impact on the K-12 students' learning."

The master's program includes two reading practicums that will be delivered in Coatesville schools either after school or in the summer. Holding these required practicums on site is a win-

win for all; they will support students taking part in the reading program as well as increasing the knowledge and skills of district teachers.

School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies

Four new graduate programs launched this fall – master's programs in Community Nutrition and Human Resource Management as well as doctorates in Clinical Psychology and Education.

Another area of growth is the addition of the accelerated bachelor's to master's programs, which permit undergraduates with at least junior standing to take graduate coursework and get an early start on their graduate degree. Accelerated programs also can decrease the overall combined credits necessary to complete the undergraduate and graduate degrees since graduate credits may be used to satisfy undergraduate degree requirements.

Seven of these accelerated programs began this semester: BS degrees in criminal justice, health science with a sports medicine concentration, mathematics, mathematics with a concentration in computational mathematics, mathematics with a concentration in industrial mathematics, and nutrition and dietetics. An accelerated BA in mathematics also is now available