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DOERS & DEEDS

Academic Excellence at WKU



"Back of the deed was the doer, back of the doer, the dream." – H.H. Cherry, Founding President

Albert Meier, Associate Professor; **Ouida Meier**, Project Specialist; and **Scott Grubbs**, Associate Professor, all of Biology and co-directors of the 670-acre Upper Green River Biological Preserve have been a part of a team that has been selected by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board to receive its first annual Stewardship Award for their outstanding work at the preserve in Hart County near Mammoth Cave National Park. The award was presented at the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board meeting on January 12.

Jun Yan, Assistant Professor of Geography & Geology, recently completed research on traffic accidents in Bowling Green. Using sophisticated Geographic Information Systems modeling with Kernel Density Estimation techniques, Yan's research aimed to produce a smooth density surface of spatial point events over a 2-D geographic space.

The Southern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP) has awarded the 2009 TRiO Achiever Award to **James McCaslin**, Assistant Director of WKU's Glasgow Campus. TRiO is a nationwide, federally funded organization committed to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance.



Students in the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science traveled to Portugal and Spain in Winter 2009.

Kolson Schlosser, Visiting Assistant Professor, Geography & Geology was awarded the International Council for Canadian Studies Faculty Research Grant by The Canadian Embassy. Schlosser's research proposal titled "Examining the Cultural Politics of Canadian Gemstone Diamonds" received funding for field research in Yellowknife, in Canada's Northwest Territories, which is often called the diamond capital of North America. The purpose of the research is to provide a commodity chain analysis of the Canadian diamond industry.

Molly McCaffrey, English, has been nominated for a 2008 Pushcart Prize for her short story, "Look Away," which was published in *Vestal Review* in the fall of 2008. The story was nominated by both the magazines' editors and Pulitzer Prize nominee James Reiss.

Ted Hovet, Professor of English, was invited this fall by the Speed Art Museum in Louisville to conduct docent training and provide a gallery talk for the exhibition "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: American Art from the Yale University Art Gallery." Hovet's presentations were on the 19th century photographs in the collection.

Students in **Josh Durkee's** Weather Analysis and Forecasting course participated in a multi-university weather-forecast contest designed to

test their analytical skills. Student teams from WKU, the University of Georgia, and Northern Illinois University were assigned various cities across the country in order to forecast high/low temperatures and total precipitation. In temperature **Alan Lafferty**, Shelbyville, KY ranked 9th and **Danny Gant**, Bowling Green ranked 10th. In precipitation **Sam Roberts** of Corryton, TN ranked 1st, **Astrid Gonzales** of Bowling Green ranked 4th, and **Wes Moster** of Hebron, KY ranked 7th.

A program created by WKU's BRUCE BATTLES, Assistant Professor in Special Instructional Programs, is helping people on their way to Wii-hab. Mark Effinger a client of Wii-hab finds that the Nintendo Wii is more than a gaming system. The Wii is a rehabilitation tool that is helping him regain mobility and memory skills he lost in a traffic accident nearly three decades ago. Effinger and six other clients have begun the Wii-hab study.

WKU forensic team traveled to Denver on the weekend of January 16-18 to compete in the Regis University/Texas Tech parliamentary Debate Swing. In one of the largest debate tournaments of the year, WKU tied for first place in overall sweepstakes with Western Washington University. The team also traveled to Nashville, TN to participate in the Tennessee Porch Swing in November. Competing against Belmont, WKU won with only five students.

Dalton Hubble, a senior at the Gatton Academy and John Hardin High School, has been selected as a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2009, a program of the Society for Science & the Public. Hubble, along with two other Kentucky high school seniors, is among 300 students named semifinalists in the national competition. Hubble's research paper is titled "Fabrication of Ploy (2-Hydroxyethyl Methacrylate) by Hot Filament Chemical Vapor Deposition."

Carl Kell, Professor of Communication, has been named "2008 Scholar of the Year" by the States Advisory Council of the National Communication Association. The States Advisory Council is comprised of 25 member states and is participating organization within NCA, the communication discipline's national scholarly organization.

The German Exchange Service has awarded funding for a "Group Study Visit" to Germany to be led by **Laura McGee** and **Phil Lienesch** during the May term 2009. While in Germany, sixteen Honors and Academy students from WKU will study German language and participate in site visits based on the theme "Exploration of Research Opportunities in Germany."



Students enrolled in the J.L. Marshall Living Learning Community had an opportunity to participate in a business plan competition offered through Marshall Capital Management Group (MCMG). The plans will be used in the MiniMoguls: Lessons on Money Management series offered through MCMG. **Clayton Hudgins**, Lexington, KY (Finance); **Megan Martini**, Cincinnati, OH (Marketing and Sales); and **Ashley Rice**, Vine Grove, KY (Marketing and Sales) won the competition.

Kimberly Reynolds, a graduate student in English, won the Ray and Pat Browne Award for the best paper in popular culture studies at the PCAS/ACAS conference held in Louisville in 2008. She will present her paper at the national PCA/ACA conference in New Orleans in April 2009.

Management and Entrepreneurship Assistant Professor **Matt Marvel** has been appointed Vice President for Services for United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE). Marvel specializes in technology entrepreneurship including opportunity development and innovation.

The Kelly Autism Program has received a \$7,500 grant from the Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation to support its School-to-Work Transition Program. This is the second year for the award. More than 13 businesses and organizations in the Bowling Green region have provided job opportunities for the participants last year, and the hope is to increase this number as the number of participants at the Kelly Autism Program grows.

Steve Tolopka, formerly of Glasgow, KY and a tenor sax and clarinet player with WKU Big Red Marching Band in his student days, is Get a Life (GAL) Marching Band's Music Director. GAL marched down Pennsylvania Avenue during the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. Tolopka says he still can't quite believe the group's good fortune.

More than 50 WKU students, faculty and community members participated in the "Get on the Bus" program to ride to the inauguration of President Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. **Sandra Ardrey**, Department Head of Political Science said, "I'm looking forward to the inauguration because it is so historic. I never thought I'd see an African American become

president so for me and my family this is a must-see event.” The “Get on the Bus” program was a 2008-2009 Political Engagement Project.

Ashton Biggers, a WKU student from Glasgow, won the WKU REAL (Reaching Each Adult Learner) design contest for his graphic of a figure reaching for the future. Biggers, a senior advertising major, received a \$300 award for his entry.

2,247 students participated in Winter Term 2009. Student count is up 0.2% from 2008 and up 42% from 2006. There were 223 sections of 180 courses offered at Bowling Green campus, Community College, Elizabethtown, Glasgow, and Owensboro campuses, as well as online, study abroad, and US travel courses. All colleges participated in Winter Term 2009, including 185 faculty from 42 departments and two interdisciplinary programs. Online course enrollment represented 53% of the overall Winter Term enrollment in 2009.

Through the Hoffman Environmental Research Institute, WKU has purchased Cave Spring Caverns in northern Warren County with a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. WKU plans to establish the Cave Springs Caverns Educational Preserve on two acres north of Bowling Green, near the town of Smiths Grove.

The Preston Family Foundation Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program is helping WKU students have success in college. Last year Luke Pearson, Bowling Green, decided to give his education another chance. With a full-time job at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Pearson realized evening and online courses would be his best option. With the effects of a head injury still affecting his studies, Pearson has turned to the Preston Family Foundation for assistance. He receives assistance planning out his week with daily objectives allowing him to have structure to his life.

Charlie Harris, a student in WKU’s Non-profit Administration minor program, has been selected to receive a national “Next Generation” nonprofit internship award of \$4,500. A panel of national

nonprofit leaders selected Harris from among students at American Humanities affiliated colleges and universities nationwide.

WKU’s Hoffman Environmental Research Institute is continuing an ongoing cave research project stated in 2007 in Port-a-Piment on the southern peninsula of Haiti. The project involves assessing and documenting one of Haiti’s most significant cave and karst areas, and providing management recommendations for resource protection, scientific research and touristic development.

Five outstanding educators have been selected for the second class of the Gov. Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame. This year’s class of inductees possesses a total of 217.5 years teaching children and adolescents in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and spans the years from the Depression to the current year. Inductees included **Teresa Cowherd**, Bowling Green (WKU – ‘72, ‘74, ‘76); **Dale Faughn**, Fredonia; **Jessie Pearl Comer Jackson**, Gamaliel (WKU – ‘56); **Hilda Jenkins**, Bowling Green (WKU); and **Rosemary Weddington**, Frankfort.

WKU’s new doctoral program in Educational Leadership has selected its second cohort of students. The program is WKU’s first independent doctoral degree program and was approved in

There were 79 WKU students who studied abroad in Winter Term. Students went on trips to Australia, England, France, Belize, Kenya, and the Bahamas.



Group in Kenya



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February 2008 by the Council on Postsecondary Education and admitted its first cohort of students in July 2008. WKU's interdisciplinary program develops "practitioner scholars" equipped to assume leadership roles in the multiple venues where education takes place and to work with educational partners to improve academic performance and increased learning at all levels.

Keith Kinder, a junior Music Education major from Franklin, KY, was selected to perform as Second Trombone with the Inter-Collegiate Orchestra at the Kentucky Music Educators Association In-Service Conference during February of 2009. Musicians for this ensemble are selected through a competitive taped audition.



Group in Belize

The Office of Leadership and Volunteerism held the first annual WKU Make a Difference Week October 20-25 2008. This week, held in conjunction with the national Make a Difference Day was an opportunity for students across campus to give back to the community through donations and service. The week included the Southern Kentucky Book Festival, Shantytown, and the annual Bowling Green 10K run.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has named The Talisman a Collegiate Crown finalist. The Talisman is one of nine finalists. The award, either a Gold Crown or Silver Crown, will be presented March 15 in New York City.