



In this issue of **The Western Scholar** you will find examples of the scholarly activities of Western's faculty and students. Your thinking and vision will be magnified by sharing the personalities of the scholars and their enthusiasm about their chosen disciplines. Essence of the scholar's work often results from the coalescence of the personal and professional curiosity.

Graduate student Alan Glennon is willing to rappel down a 60-foot deep, 24-inch diameter well-like opening to obtain water quality samples. His research results will be invaluable to people who live in karst regions from Kentucky to China.

Dr. Blaine Ferrell coordinates science research projects that involve 12 different centers, most departments in Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health, other universities, and state agencies. In these studies, several professors and numerous students collaborate on basic science and environmental impact studies. Ogden College Chemistry Professor Dr. Wei-Ping Pan is a major contributor to science research. He secures sponsored pro-

gram funding for support of undergraduate and graduate students to work in his Coal Combustion, Thermal Analysis, and other laboratories. He emphasizes the group approach and student participation.

Our community college faculty have secured grants to improve instruction and help the larger community. Dr. Karen Powell's hefty Department of Education grant to increase student interest in science and to improve science instruction in elementary schools will serve as a national model for science education. Ms. Jennie Brown's research on women, who have overcome tragedy to become successful with their lives, identified educational opportunities as the common denominator in their success.

Quality of life issues are of major concern today. The Library's Dr. Charles Smith has devoted his scholarly activities to such diverse areas as natural and social sciences and music — but all areas focus on making life more productive and enjoyable. Folklorist Dr. Michael Ann Williams makes life more interesting by relating art and humanities to our everyday life experiences. Finally, the article on Dr. Brian Goff, Professor of Economics, addresses the effects of growing affluence on Americans.

This second edition of **The Western Scholar** will better inform our readers of the diversity of scholarly activities being pursued by faculty and students at Western Kentucky University.

Elmer Gray, Dean  
*Graduate Studies, Research  
and Extended Programs*