

This issue of *The Western Scholar* provides further illustration of the broad avenues of scholarship prevalent within the Western Kentucky University teaching and research community. As Dr. Gay Perkins, co-editor, remarked in the previous issue — citing the perspective of Ernest Boyer, past president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching — scholarship endeavors may be categorized as falling into: the scholarship of discovery through research, the scholarship of integration, the scholarship of application to consequential problems, and the scholarship of teaching and attracting future scholars to the discipline.

These categories provide us with a truly meaningful scheme for looking at the wide range of scholarly interests and activities at Western Kentucky University represented in this issue as well as the past issues of *The Western Scholar*.

In this issue you will find reports of research by faculty from the Physical Education and Recreation, Psychology, and Economics departments exemplifying the scholarship of discovery. There is a report of the devotion by Dr. Matt Green over his entire professional career to researching a phenomenon called “Ratings of Perceived Exertion” (RPE), which he describes as “a subjective way of monitoring exercise intensity.” Dr. Steven Haggbloom describes a research project that used multi-based criteria for judging the value of research contributions to the discipline of psychology that led to a list of the top 100 psychologists of the twentieth century and was published in a prestigious journal in the field. Dr. Stephen Lile, over a thirty-year career, has pursued a variety of research topics in economics — from taxation to the tobacco wars and religious organizations.

The scholarship of integration is represented in this issue by a report of research being conducted by Dr. Andrew Wulff, Department of Geography and

Geology, on volcanoes. Dr. Wulff’s studies have focused on a wide range of geologic issues, including the mineralogical content of kidney stones and the geochemistry of Native American artifacts.

Reflecting the scholarship of application to consequential problems is research being done by Dr. Kinchel Doerner, Department of Biology, and Dr. Cathleen Webb, Department of Chemistry, each addressing significant problems affecting the

environment, particularly the purity of our water. Dr. Doerner’s research on chicken litter looks at the problem posed by poultry being fed diets high in calcium phosphate. Dr. Webb’s investigations focus on lowering the arsenic levels of drinking water through a limestone filtering process.

Lastly, the scholarship of teaching and attracting future scholars is especially on display in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and in Sylvia Kersenbaum’s long piano teaching

career. Astronomy faculty, including Drs. Michael Carini, David Barnaby, Sergey Marchenko, Richard Gelderman, Richard Hackney, Karen Hackney, Roger Scott, and Charles McGruder regularly engage their students in a variety of research projects, including a NASA-funded program called “Students Training for Achievement in Research Based on Analytical Space-science Experiences” (STARBASE). Sylvia Kersenbaum, an internationally acclaimed pianist who records for the EMI-Angel label, has transferred her abundant musical knowledge and skills to countless students over a twenty-seven-year career at Western.

I encourage you to read each of the articles in this issue and discover for yourself just how wide ranging and interesting research and scholarship is at Western Kentucky University.

Dr. Michael B. Binder, Dean  
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