

The mission of Western Kentucky University is to prepare students to be productive citizens of a global society and to provide service and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents. This mission can only be achieved through the efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni with a gleam in their eyes for excellence in teaching, research, and service. The articles in this issue of *The Western Scholar* reflect the commitment and dedication of WKU faculty, students, and alumni to achieve excellence.

Dr. Mustafa Atici, Associate Professor of Computer Science, teaches his students graph theory for solving simple to complex problems. Graph theory is used in math and computer science, but also many other fields such as community planning, operations research, and engineering, particularly circuitry and networks. Dr. Atici's work is on the cutting edge in his profession and is truly a beautiful application to science.

The faculty in mathematics and computer science have a long-standing tradition of excellence. Dr. Shirley Gray, a 1957 alumna of WKU, describes the wonderful faculty-student relations in learning mathematics. Her career took her overseas and then to California where she is a professor of mathematics at UCLA. She has continued the WKU tradition of excellence as demonstrated by her leadership to develop the National Curve Bank Project that bridges the gap between traditional mathematics instruction and computer media technology.

In the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, faculty members Dr. Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Dr. Pitt Derryberry, Dr. Kelly Madole, and Dr. Vernon Sheeley have been applying educational and psychological theories to advance teaching, research, and service. Dr. Kuhlenschmidt, Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching, combines principles of psychology and learning in



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advancing the field of assessment in higher education. She is an invaluable resource to assisting our faculty in striving to reach excellence in their teaching. Through her teaching and research, Dr. Kelly Madole, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, provides opportunities for her students to understand the cognitive developments of infants and children. Dr. Derryberry's studies on honesty and altruistic behavior led to the application of what motivates volunteers to serve their

communities. His insightful approach helps us understand the relationship between altruistic values of college students and volunteer activities. Lastly, Dr. Vernon Sheeley, Professor, Counseling and Student Affairs, has devoted his life to excellence in teaching, research, and service. A prolific writer and educator, Dr. Sheeley has over thirty years of service at WKU and has influenced the academic careers of many undergraduate and graduate students.

The theme of excellence in teaching, research, and service is continued in the two articles about faculty in the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences — Dr. Tom Hunley and Ms. Yvonne Petkus. Dr. Hunley's poetry is entertaining and provocative. An established teacher and scholar, Dr. Hunley provides inspiration for his students and his colleagues alike. Finally, Ms. Petkus, Assistant Professor of Art, shares with us how her experiences shaped her career, perceptions, and artwork. Her studies of Baroque painters, who built and expanded on the naturalistic tradition during the Renaissance, greatly influenced the direction of her art.

You will find, as I have, this issue of *The Western Scholar* to be filled with exceptional articles about our faculty. I encourage you to read and browse through the stories and take with you a renewed perception about Western's excellence in teaching, research, and service.

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