

The Western Scholar brings you stories of “the spirit of scholarship and research at Western Kentucky University.” Stories of these diverse scholarly activities represent a broad definition of scholarship. In 1990, Ernest L. Boyer, then president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, best broadened the scope of scholarly pursuits. He suggested that scholarly pursuits include (1) the scholarship of discovery through research, (2) the scholarship of integration, (3) the scholarship of application to consequential problems, and (4) the scholarship of teaching and attracting future scholars.

You will enjoy thinking about this broader definition of scholarship as you read the stories in this issue.

Exemplifying the scholarship of discovery are the historical discoveries — from Nigerian oral history, from manuscripts in Israel, and from Kentucky library holdings. From Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies professor Dr. Johnston Njoku has traveled to Nigeria to research slave trade routes and the transatlantic slave trade. He has gathered information through oral history in songs, proverbs, memory tales, and legends. Department of Philosophy and Religion professor Dr. Joseph Trafton works with the fragments of the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls, discovering the appropriate texts for missing words and pages. He is contributing to knowledge of a time that produced Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity. Finally, Jonathan Jeffrey, from the Department of Library Special Collections, University Libraries, has documented research on local Kentucky history including the Shaker textile industry, Warren County postcards, and the histories of many Kentucky public libraries. All of these discoveries are providing historical information that would be lost without these researchers.

The work of Dr. Sam McFarland from the Department of Psychology in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences illustrates the scholarship of integration. He has used psychology methodology to define and integrate the interdisciplinary field of human rights and caring behavior. He feels that these interdisciplinary studies are

educational and could help reduce the likelihood of restricting individuals’ rights.

The scholarship of application includes attention to the community problems of school competition and environmental development decisions. Drs. Mel Borland and Roy Howsen from the Department of Economics and Marketing in the Gordon Ford College of Business apply their interest in industrial education to the public school system, and have studied how public school students benefit from market competition. Drs. Kenneth Kuehn and Michael May from the Department of Geography and Geology in Ogden College of Science and Engineering have studied the prevalence of geological hazards — storm water drainage, sinkholes or abandoned landfills, karst terrain, climate, air quality, and earthquake risk in Kentucky — and provide consultation on community planning.

Finally, the last two feature stories in this issue illustrate how the scholarship of teaching and education can attract future scholars. Matthew Dettman from the Department of Engineering in Ogden College of Science and Engineering employs student design and construction of a concrete canoe as project-based learning to build teamwork, problem-solving, initiative, and engineering and competitive skills, which

help students become successful professionals. Dr. Darlene Applegate from the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies in the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences takes her students along on local archaeological work, excavating artifacts in Hidden River Cave, researching a prehistoric burial site of Native Americans, and doing research at an abandoned graveyard. Thus, students relate classroom teaching to practical research applications, and share the excitement of the field.

All in all, this issue of *The Western Scholar* illustrates a diversity of scholarship at Western Kentucky University. You will find that reading the stories will bring you closer to the scholarly activities and passions of the scholars.



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