

THE TASK OF THE UNIVERSITY, Alfred North Whitehead asserted, “is the creation of the future.” Across Western’s campus, faculty members are doing just that. From art to zoology, creative and dynamic artists and scholars are enriching their classes—and building the Commonwealth’s future—through their work in our libraries, studios, and laboratories. This issue of the *Western Scholar* provides an intriguing glimpse of the University’s intellectual vitality.

In Potter College, John Warren Oakes of the Art Department focuses our attention on the often-neglected work of Kentucky’s women artists. With Elizabeth Oakes of the English Department, he has curated a Kentucky Museum exhibit, “Kentucky Women Artists, 1850-1970.” John and Elizabeth explored the work of 750 women artists who were active in that period. Their exhibit and the findings of their related research enrich our understanding of the Commonwealth’s artistic traditions. In another arts field, dancer-choreographers Lees Hummel and Stephen Stone recently received a \$10,000 grant from Dance/USA to bring two artists-in-residence to campus in 2002. Besides their work on campus, the visiting artists will present lectures and demonstrations in area schools and present a Master class for community dancers. From the English Department, Deborah Logan, a prolific junior scholar, discusses her work on Harriet Martineau, a mid-19th century writer and social critic. Through her writing and editing, Deborah is broadening our understanding both of Martineau herself and the complex Victorian society in which she lived.

From Ogden College, Geography and Geology Department Head David Keeling discusses his work on transportation and economic development in Latin America. Fascinated by the impact of globalization on



developing countries, David stresses geography as a crucial ingredient to understanding social structure. H. Youn Kim of the Gordon Ford College of Business also stresses an international perspective in his research in economics. An expert on consumption and production theory, his complex work is largely presented in the international language of mathematics. From University Libraries, Gay Perkins draws on her social science background to apply that methodology to library management issues. In the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, psychologist Joe Bilotta and his research team are “building the future” with zebrafish. Research on a host of vision issues involving this species are pointing us toward cures for certain forms of blindness and spinal cord injuries.

Finally, the *Scholar* includes a special article on Western alumnus Harry Gray. A 1957 graduate, Professor Gray has been a faculty member at California Institute of Technology for 25 years. A prominent chemist internationally known for his work on electron tunneling in proteins, he is a major figure in research related to Alzheimer’s Disease. His comments on his student years at Western illustrate the important impact faculty research agendas can have on students.

This issue of the *Scholar* is another reminder of the Western’s intellectual vigor. Across our campus, the intellectual work of faculty members is creating the future and educating the students who will build the dreams of the 21st century. Even in this era of sweeping change in higher education, this partnership of faculty and student in pursuit of new learning remains the core of a truly dynamic university.

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