WKU SGA Society of Distinguished Graduates Spring 2014 Bios

**Jessica Hall**, Department of Physics, Chemistry

Jessica is a double major in Physics and Chemistry, with a minor in math, who has even squeezed in study abroad trips during the winter to Cuba, Mexico, and Ecuador. She defended her thesis this semester on environmental physical chemistry because she wanted to directly be a part of a project tied to efforts to improve the environment for future generations. The faculty member that nominated her for this award said he believes her greatest success to be in community service—participating in a ten week mission trip to the economically disadvantaged in Santa Cruz. She has been a leader in the Society for Physics Students and organized a group of students to volunteer teaching science to young children. There are many other things that could be mentioned, but to sum it up, Jessica’s contributions here and in the community will leave a lasting contribution.

**Brandon Evilla**, Department of Communications

While at WKU, Brandon has made an amazing record in sustainability, diversity, and service. He served as an RA and spearheaded the “Reduce Use” initiatives through organizing recycling in McCormick, Gilbert, and Rhodes Halls. He has been a part of the $100 solution, organized “Rally in the Valley” where he spoke for an organization against Human Sex Trafficking, and currently serves as an intern for the ALIVE Center. The faculty member that nominated Brandon described him as someone who “puts his entire self into projects that serve the human race,” which is an outstanding compliment and testament to his work here at WKU.

**Allison Feikes**, Political Science Department

Allison is an international affairs and political science double major, who wants to specialize in international politics for her graduate studies and career. She has participated in WKU’s Model United Nations Team and, according to her professor’s comments, was absolutely exceptional in the Model UN Conference. Allison’s motivation is also seen through her work with political organizations on and off campus and her work as a study abroad ambassador and WKU Spirit Master. Allison has interned with Mitch McConnell, as well as with the Peace Corps in DC and in Brussels. She will be working with the Peace Corps fall 2014 and then off to Tufts University for her graduate work. Her faculty recommender also said she has been a genuine pleasure to teach and he is excited for where her career will take her!

**Chaz Arnold**, Spanish and Biology

While at Western, Chaz has been able to tie his love of Spanish with becoming a doctor—he wanted to become fluent in Spanish to help Spanish-speakers with healthcare issues. He has worked with the local Hispanic community in Warren Country through co-organizing last year’s Hispanic Health Initiative, which helped over 120 members of the community get medical care in their own language. This year, one of the Spanish professors at WKU even developed a course to teach students how to organize the Hispanic Health Fair. Chaz has been involved in the Spanish Club, spearheaded a fundraiser for a well in Haiti, and also raised money for UNICEF. According to his faculty letter, Chaz is always trying to find ways to volunteer and better the community in which he lives. He tutors, organizes events, and has contributed greatly to the Spanish department, WKU, and the community.

**Molly Kaviar**, Cultural Anthropology, Spanish

Molly was described in her faculty letter as, one word, exceptional. She is a double major in cultural anthropology and Spanish and is also pursuing a certificate through the ICSR. She has studied abroad for a semester in Ecuador, has had three internships, and excelled in her classes here at WKU. Molly co-founded the Jewish Student Union, works with WKU Americans for Informed Democracy, planned the WKU Farm to Campus Convergence, and worked with “I Love Mountains” day to increase awareness against mountain top removal. She launched the Fair Trade Initiative here at WKU and has coordinated multiple events connected with this. One could go on and on about all Molly has done here at Western— her internships, the organizations she started, etcetera—but will close with a line from her professor’s recommendation letter: “There is no doubt that in her very bright future she will continue to promote service, sustainability, diversity, and international reach…and I recommend Molly whole heartedly for this honor.”

**Mary Boothe**, Department of English

Mary demonstrates her commitment to this campus and the community in several ways, through her research agenda working with rebranding the *Office of Sustainability* and presenting at the 2014 Student Research Conference in March. This year Mary was also recognized as the Senior of the Year by the English Department. She has worked with Imagewest and participated in the 2014 National Student Advertising Competition. She has leadership positions in three campus organizations: Vice-Chair of WKU Spirit Masters, Vice-President of Marketing for the Ecology Club, and an SGA senator. Mary taken advantage of several class projects to serve in the community, redesigning Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society’s newsletters, allowing the local humane society to bring in more money than they ever had in the past! In addition, Mary has studied abroad at Harlaxton and in Switzerland. She has been an extraordinary student here at Western and a great member of the community here.