

## CHHS February 2009 Newsletter

### A Letter from the Dean

Welcome to the new and up-dated CHHS e-Newsletter. This edition contains exciting news about expanding our rural health stewardship with the addition of a second mobile health unit, international students, and faculty and student activities. CHHS continues to be the fastest growing college at WKU and our staffing plan addresses growth areas.

The President and other academic leaders at WKU have clearly articulated the priorities for our future: enrollment growth, globalization, graduate studies, and honors program. The CHHS staffing and business plans address these priorities. CHHS can significantly address enrollment growth through (1) development of new programs that meet regional and statewide demands especially for physical therapy, communication disorders, and nursing, and (2) expanding at regional campuses health sciences, nursing, social work, and environmental health programs. Lastly, we plan to add new cohorts through DELO and increase distance learning initiatives.



[Dr. John Bonaguro](#), Dean CHHS

The vision of the CHHS:

- **To be recognized nationally as a college that offers exemplary programs in Health and Human Services.**

Our mission:

- **The College provides diverse educational opportunities leading to excellence in Health and Human Services for a global community.**

Our staffing plan reflects our desire to gain national recognition in health and human services while excelling in educational opportunities that prepare our students for a global community. The CHHS enrollment target by 2010 is 3,500 students; currently enrollment is 2,941, students making CHHS the third largest college at WKU. We propose to accomplish this goal in the following ways:

- Implement a new program in Physical Therapy that will increase total enrollment at WKU by 400 students pursuing the pre-therapy program and accepting 30 students per year in the physical therapy program.
- Add faculty members in Communication Disorders which will permit us to increase our full-time graduate enrollment by 30 students over the next three years and our part-time graduate enrollment by 90 students. On the undergraduate level, enrollment will increase by 15 full-time and 15 part-time students over the next three years.

- Add a new faculty line in CFS for hospitality management and dietetics, an area of great growth potential.
- Add a new faculty member to support the continued growth in sport management which in one year now has 71 majors and 25 new first year students.
- Focus vacant lines in Public Health to increase on-line enrollments in health care administration and to address the high number of part-time faculty in PH.
- Offer BS in Health Sciences to Elizabethtown and Owensboro campuses which will result in 100 new students.
- Increase CHHS retention efforts by focusing on the pre-nursing students.

The enrollment in the College of Health and Human Services is healthy and continues to grow. Between 2003 and 2007 total enrollment in the College increased by 29.6%. Undergraduate enrollment increased by 28.6% from 1,907 students to 2,453 while graduate enrollment increased by 35.9% from 359 students to 488. The percent increase in the number of degrees awarded was 65%, from 386 degrees awarded in 2003 compared to 637 in 2007. CHHS has the highest percentage increase in degrees of any college at WKU and ranks third in total degrees awarded by colleges in 2007.

### **CHHS Class of 2008 December Graduates**

*By Eva Whittle*

Out of the 1,009 students graduating on Dec. 13, 2008, 142 were from the College of Health and Human Services. And one of those students received the top academic award presented at WKU, the Ogden Foundation Scholar. The Ogden Foundation award is based on a demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and outstanding university and civic engagement. Kristina Schmucker, daughter of Ester and Dan Schmucker from Franklin KY, completed her degree in health care administration. Needless to say, she was also named scholar of the College of Health and Human Services with her 4.0 grade-point average.

A total of 140 Bachelor's degrees were conferred to CHHS graduates. Forty of these students earned the distinction of either Cum, Magna Cum, or Summa Cum Laude. Three Associate of Arts degrees were earned by students in the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education program, and one Associate of Science (with High Distinction) earned in the area of Dental Hygiene. There were also nine Master's degrees conferred on students from the Department of Public Health.

The College of Health and Human Services is extremely proud of all its graduates and wishes every one of them the very best for a productive and rewarding future. CHHS will be watching for the great things that will be accomplished by our fine students of the 2008 graduating class.

## **Gift From Anthem Foundation Funds WKU Mobile Health Unit**

BOWLING GREEN, KY. - A \$300,000 gift from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to Western Kentucky University has been used to purchase a medical mobile health unit.

The unit, operated by WKU's Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (IRHDR), will travel the area and provide free immunizations and health screenings to thousands of residents in the region. The gift also provides partial funding for the salary of a nurse practitioner and medical supplies.

"This unit will allow us to expand the amount of services we are able to provide, while continuing to address many of the health issues facing our state. Institute Director Dr. Lisa Durham said. "Our existing health unit will now be dedicated to providing dental services to residents within the area. Additionally, both units support our ongoing focus of identifying opportunities for greater student engagement within the communities we serve."



WKU President, Gary Ransdell, and Institute of Rural Health director, Dr. Lisa Durham, participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony with Anthem officials in front of the new Mobile Health Unit

The WKU/Anthem Foundation Medical Mobile Health and Wellness Unit will concentrate on influenza and pneumonia immunizations for senior adults and programs in the management of diabetes and obesity, heart disease prevention and smoking cessation. According to Deb Moessner, president and general manager of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the services the unit will provide address many of the health issues and diseases Anthem is seeking to improve through the State Health Index initiative, which was introduced last year.

"Through our index we are focusing our efforts on many of the diseases and chronic illnesses that has led to Kentucky being consistently identified as one of the unhealthiest state in our country," Moessner said. "Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is committed to reversing this trend and the expertise, resources and proven track record WKU has in addressing these health issues made this initiative key to our long term success."

WKU President Gary Ransdell said the partnership with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield also reflects the university's continued focus on working with businesses to solve many of the challenges facing WKU's service region.

"Part of WKU's mission is to improve the quality of life for our region and Commonwealth," Dr. Ransdell said. "Partnerships like these play an extremely important role in fulfilling that part of our mission as well as educating our students through realworld experiences."

WKU's first unit was placed into service in 2001 when the IRHDR was created through an initial \$670,000 federal grant secured by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R Ky) for WKU's rural health

initiative. The initiative received an additional \$500,000 in 2001 as part of an \$8.6 million Congressional appropriation for WKU.

### **CHHS Auction for Belize 2009**

The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) auction supporting student travel for a service learning project in the communities of Gales Point and Red Bank in Belize was held on November 20, 2008. The online Ebay auction started November 13 and closed on November 19. The live auction was held in the Academic Complex, but emailed bids were also accepted.



The funds from the CHHS auction were used to off-set the cost of student travel to Belize in January. Working with a team of health professionals, students in nursing, dental hygiene, public health, and anthropology spent 10 days in Belize to provide health and human services to residents in remote rural areas who do not have access to these services.

In total, the auction raised \$12,600 and all of the funds were used to assist student travel.

Thanks to all who helped by donating items, bidding on items, and donating funds to support the CHHS service-learning project in Belize.

### **Live Auctioned Items**

- Gourmet Dinner for 10 Prepared by Ellen & John Bonaguro-John Kelly, Suzanne Vitale, Tom Pennington with a bid of \$2,000.
- Float Trip on the Barren River with Ritchie Taylor - Awarded to Bernie Strenecky with a bid of \$125.
- Float Trip on the Barren River with Randy Deere - Awarded to Bernie Strenecky with a bid of \$600.
- Weekend stay at Nashville Courtyard by Marriott at Opryland donated by Glenn Higdon- Awarded to Tom Pennington with a bid of \$300
- One Week Vacation to Barbados donated by Barbados Government - Awarded to Paul O'Flynn with a bid of \$3,500.
- Road Trip to Lexington donated by Dan & Vickie Renshaw - Won by Becky Tabor with a bid of \$275
- Live it Up in Louisville Weekend donated by Claire Arnold - To Mike Cobb with a bid of \$300
- One Week in a Florida Condo donated by Virginia & Jim Woodward - Also to Paul O'Flynn with a bid of \$750

### **E-Bay Auctioned Items**

- Golf Package for 4 at Olde Stone Golf Course donated by Tom Pennington – Won by Chris Brown with a bid of \$325

- Photograph of Big Brown's Derby win signed by the Jockey, Kent Desamoreaux, donated by Keith Knapp – Kate Wright with a bid of \$199
- Kenny Perry Flag tip from the John Deere Classic - Won by Dr. Richard Kirtchmeyer with a bid of \$149
- Joe Downing Lithograph donated by Jerry Baker - To Ken Casey and Jane Olmstead with bid of \$849
- Ryder Cup Commemorative Basket donated by Anthem - To Connie Smith with a bid of \$250

### **CHHS Student Honored**

Charlie Harris, a student in WKU's Non-profit Administration (American Humanics) minor program, has been selected to receive a national "Next Generation" nonprofit internship award of \$4,500. Harris, of Morganfield, is an intern for the ONE Campaign working as the Campus Outreach Ambassador for the Campus Challenge. The ONE Campaign seeks to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight such problems in developing countries. A panel of national non-profit leaders selected Harris from among students at American Humanics affiliated colleges and universities nationwide.

### **CHHS-Living Learning Community Unveils Mural**

Bowling Green, KY. – The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) unveiled a mural commissioned by Greenview Regional Hospital for the Living and Learning Community on the WKU campus today. The CHHS-LLC is unique in that its community partner, Greenview Regional Hospital, provides connections to professionals in the Health and Human Services arena. This mural is one example of the support this partnership has provided to the LLC in CHHS.



The mural, painted by artist David Jones, covers all four walls of the community room on the 20th floor of Pearce Ford Tower and showcases professions in CHHS. The Dental Hygiene program is represented with a 5-foot tooth brush, while Big Red is wearing a nursing hat and a stethoscope for the School of Nursing. Probably the most creative piece is the use of sign language for the Communication Disorders Department as the hands in the mural spell out the LLC motto: Live to learn and learn to live. Also in the mural is Guthrie Tower, Cherry Hall, and, of course, Greenview Regional Hospital.

President Ransdell; Dr. John Bonaguro, Dean of CHHS; Mark Marsh, CEO of Greenview; Kate Wright, graduate student for the LLC; and LaTasha Moran, an LLC student spoke during this event. Moran highlighted her experiences in the LLC and the positive impact the linked classes



and activities have had on her as a student. "It is just wonderful to go next door and be able to ask a question about class," said Moran. She also recognized Kate Wright for her efforts in "always being there" for the students when questions arise and for the leadership she provides for the community. In closing LaTasha stated, "I would not trade this experience for anything and will cherish it for the rest of my life." The CHHS-LLC pre-sented a plaque of recognition to Mark Marsh and David Jones for the mural as well as a plaque that will hang out-side the room to recognize Greenview and the artist for future LLC students.

The CHHS-LLC is in its fourth year and has been shown to increase retention rates, lower absenteeism, and produce higher GPAs for its student participants. The CHHS- LLC model is designed to have participants live together on one floor in a residential hall, learn together through linked classes, and engage in civic, leadership, service, and fun activities outside the classroom to enhance their academic experiences while connecting to the profession through our partner Greenview Regional Hospital.

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## **Center For Gerontology Releases New DVD**

People over 50 are one of the fastest growing segments of the population. Many are considering a new career or thinking about interesting new options to supplement their retirement income. However, sometimes their age can be perceived as a challenge by prospective employers. While many gerontologists are familiar with research which shows that older workers are more productive, more enthusiastic and have fewer issues with absenteeism than younger people, employers are often reluctant to make the hire. This is a multigenerational issue which results in a real loss of social and economic capital to our region and negatively affects individuals, their families and area businesses.

WKU stepped up to meet this community need by partnering with AARP Kentucky and ed2go (a nationally known educational company) to



develop an orientation video for a new on-line course called Making Age an Asset in Your Job Search. The orientation video serves as an important tool to prepare older learners for learning as well as the on-line environment.

Making Age an Asset in Your Job Search is a guide for people over 50 who want to make a career change, find employment opportunities, or learn the strategies that will give them the best chance of getting hired. Based on research and programs developed by AARP, this course will be offered initially through Kentucky community colleges will “go national” in March. Data will be collected on the impact of the orientation video and the on-line course to better understand ways that higher education can support older adults.

Center Director, Dr. Dana Burr Bradley, is especially excited about WKU’s involvement in this project. “This builds upon 3 years of experience we have working with the local community is facilitating and evaluating workforce re-entry programs for those over 50.” Using a script written by Dr. Bradley, some of WKU’s undergraduates shot the film and the final product was edited by WKU Honors student Lacey Steele. Over 30 community members, including local AARP volunteers, WKU alumni and friends of The Center for Gerontology, appear in the film.

This is the second video about aging issues shot primarily on the Western Kentucky University's campus. In 2008, the Center for Gerontology supported and premiered the documentary Say Goodbye to Granddad’s Retirement.

To view the video Making Age an Asset see [Center for Gerontology](#) or contact Dr. Bradley at 270-745-2356 or [dana.bradley@wku.edu](mailto:dana.bradley@wku.edu)

### **Congratulations to Dr. Gary Villereal and his Honors Social Work 101 Students!**

The Honors Social Work 101-Foundations of Human Services class just had an article accepted in *The New Social Worker Journal*. Their article was written as a class project.

#### *LESSONS LEARNED FROM CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE*

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## **WKU Students Participate In National Nonprofit Conference**

Bowling Green, KY – Several Western Kentucky University students and faculty participated in the 2009 American Humanics Management Institute (AHMI), a national nonprofit management educational symposium, Jan. 4-7 in Indianapolis, In. Participation in this institute is part of the WKU Nonprofit Administration (American Humanics) minor and a national nonprofit administration certification process, see <http://www.wku.edu/nonprofit>.



The WKU Nonprofit Administration (American Humanics) program was represented by Dr. Raymond Poff, executive director and associate professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, and the following 13 students: Dana Adams of Franklin (who served as the WKU AMHI student representative); Courtney Aldrich of Franklin, Tenn.; Elizabeth Berger of Lexington; Kayla Clausen of Healdsburg, Calif.; Jana Graham of Bardstown; Megan Hensley of Lexington; Devin Joseph of London; Cornelius Lee of Williamson, Texas; Whitney Mattingly of Holy Cross; Valerie Smith of Arcata, CA; JD VanSlyke of Wiley, Texas; Laura Walker of Owensboro; and Trisha Weber of Coxs Creek.

Students, faculty, and nonprofit and corporate leaders, took part in this unique opportunity to network, participate in simulated case studies and a national collegiate dialogue, and attend workshops led by local and national experts in nonprofit management. The purpose of the annual Management Institute is to expose students to experiences they will encounter as nonprofit professionals. This educational symposium is considered the capstone professional development experience for students enrolled in American Humanics (Nonprofit Administration) programs. It is held annually during the first full week in January and rotates to a different city each year; next year's institute will be held in Phoenix, AZ.

The WKU Nonprofit Administration (American Humanics) program <http://www.wku.edu/nonprofit> provides opportunities for students to gain valuable education, experience, and networking in the nonprofit sector while working toward a national certification. The program is housed in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation within the College of Health and Human Services. American Humanics is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations that prepares and certifies college students for professional careers in youth and human service agencies. American Humanics is affiliated with WKU and other colleges and universities nationwide, and partners with national nonprofit organizations such as the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts of America, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts of the USA, Humane Society, Junior Achievement, March of Dimes, National 4-H Council, YMCA, and the United Way.



## **Congratulations to the 2008 HOSA on the Hill Event Winners**

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and WKU's chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) in the College of Health and Human Services held the 5th annual "HOSA on the Hill" competition on December 5, 2008.

This event provides high school HOSA students the opportunity to compete in 11 competitions and receive feedback from the judges to improve their performance in March at the KY HOSA Conference in Louisville.

[Click here for results](#)

Also, the South Central AHEC welcomes Amy Wininger! Amy is the new part time HOSA Coordinator for AHEC. She will serve as the Advisor for our WKU HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America).

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