University College has been busy, as you can see from our newsletter! Please take a moment to look at what we’ve been up to. Feel free to use our clickable links. Hopefully this will give an opportunity to learn more about some of the programs that make up University College.

Congratualtions to
Justin Tucker
We would like to take this opportunity to wish Justin our best wishes for his future. Justin graduates with his Masters in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. He has been with University College for two years. He will be greatly missed!

We Have Moved!
University College Dean’s Office has moved to Tate Page Hall, Room 201. Come by for a visit and see our new home!

** Regional Mail **
University College is responsible for getting mail from the Bowling Green campus to the regional campuses. If you have an item that needs to go to the Commonwealth School, Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, Radcliff, Glasgow or Owensboro campuses, you may call our office (745-3570) by 12:00 p.m. for same day pick-up. You may also drop off your mail at Tate Page Hall, Room 201. Please CLEARLY label the mail with the person’s name, campus, building name, and room number. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Where’s Big Red?
Big Red (like the image to the left) is hidden somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to find him and you win a University College travel mug! Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and tell us where you found him!
Some staff members from the Elizabethtown Regional Campus attended the ECTC Staff Conference. From left: Lindsey Akers, Erin Adams, Gail Smallwood, and Gail Ledford. There were games and door prizes. Erin Adams won a George Foreman grill and a bag of goodies.

Provost Dr. Gordon Emslie recently visited the WKU Elizabethtown / Radcliff / Ft. Knox Regional Center. Pictured is Dr. Emslie making a presentation to Dr. Dana Sullivan’s SW 331 class about the organizational structure of WKU and how decisions are made in the university. Students had a number of suggestions for Dr. Emslie and had lots of questions for him. These students expressed their appreciation for a visit from the provost to their classroom.

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) held its April meetings at the Regional Postsecondary Education Center in Elizabethtown. During a joint CPE / Community leader session, WKU elementary education major Courtney Gibson made a presentation to the board and to mayors, Ft. Knox officials, the local legislative delegation, county judge, and others about her experience as an ECTC student who transferred to WKU E-Town and is completing her degree this semester.

She discussed how this cooperative ECTC / WKU partnership had enabled her to receive outstanding teacher training and allowed her to complete her degree while living at home. She says this is the same situation for many local students who, for a variety of reasons, cannot travel away from home to complete bachelor degree programs.
WKU Elizabethtown hosted an Informational Open House with the Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership on March 24th. This was an opportunity for students to come talk to advisors about this new degree program that prepares students who currently hold an associate degree for a career in supervisory and management positions in private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

Elizabethtown advisor Gail Smallwood helping prospective student and Cindy Ehresman interpret ECTC’s transcripts to outline classes needed for the Organizational Leadership Open House.

Blake and Liza enjoying the 2011 ECTC Spring Fling. The Spring Fling features lots of booths, food and fun.

Elizabethtown advisor Gail Smallwood helping prospective student and Cindy Ehresman interpret ECTC’s transcripts to outline classes needed for the Organizational Leadership Open House.

WKU participated in ECTC’s 8th Grade Institute on May 11th. Students from Scott Middle School (Ft. Knox) and TK Stone were given an overview on “Teaching Styles.” Pictured are Dr. Ron Stephens, WKU Director, and Ms. Kelly Graham who is with the Hardin County School System.
Lincoln Trail Elementary School staff made a cake display to recognize and thank this semester’s WKU ELED Block 1 students who were placed in their school. Vivian Robertson is the ELED faculty supervising this block of students and coordinating the placement. Lincoln Trail School has been a longstanding training partner with WKU’s ELED program.

Sociology faculty member receives award from Kentucky Court of Justice

Dr. Donielle Lovell, assistant professor of Sociology at WKU-Elizabethtown, is a recipient of the Kentucky Court of Justice’s 2011 Law Related Education Award for her work with the BRIDGES Work Restitution Initiative.

The award is presented to “individuals who have demonstrated a dedication for the establishment, in Kentucky’s youth, of both comprehension and respect for the fundamental principles that underlie our constitutional democracy.” The award will be formally presented May 2 at the Law Day Ceremony during a special session of the Supreme Court of Kentucky in the chambers of the House of Representatives.

The BRIDGES Work Restitution Initiative enables youth in Hardin County to pay partial or complete restitution to the victim of the crimes that they have committed, particularly in cases where the burden of restitution would fall on the youth’s family. In addition the program provides employment and educational opportunities to youth to assist them in developing skills to make them productive citizens.

As a part of the BRIDGES WRI, the WKU Mentors Program was created to provide another resource for these youth. WKU students, faculty and alumni in Hardin County can serve this program by training to be mentors.

For information on the Work Restitution Initiative, contact C. Shaun Williams at (270) 234-0580 or shaun.wri@hcky.org.

http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/04/26/lovell-award/
Gamma Beta Phi Fundraiser
April 23 and 24, 2011 Gamma Beta Phi hosted a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble in Elizabethtown, KY. The fundraiser was two-fold. First, they raised funds for the organization to continue their community service work. Second, students organized a book drive to benefit Spring Haven Domestic Violence Shelter. Students organized activities for children including face painting, arts and crafts, caricatures, Easter egg hunts, dulcimer music by local musician Debbie Fields, and multiple appearances by Big Red. The weekend was a lot of fun for the students and community members alike.

Gamma Beta Phi President, Sharon Farris and Big Red greeting Barnes & Noble customers

WKU Students Participate in ECTC Drags Out 2011
By: Jasmine Routon, Western Kentucky University student

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College’s Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance (GLSA) worked together to put on their 2nd Annual Amateur Drag Show titled ECTC Drags Out 2011. The Drag Show was meant to bring students, faculty, staff, friends and family together for an evening to spread acceptance and knowledge of the GLBT community within our region. Such events as these are critical to the GLBT movement and community because they represent the presence of GLBT not only within our campus, but within our region. The Drag Show not only helped in building a name and place within the community, but also was very important in bridging alliances with The Fairness Campaign out of Louisville, Kentucky. The importance of Drag to the GLBT community is represented in spreading acceptance and knowledge in a manner that is built around entertainment. Drag is very structurally important to the GLBT community dating back to the Stonewall Riots, where Drag Queens essentially started the Gay Rights Movement itself. Within the local ECTC Drags Out 2011 Show, drag performers were able to put a face on the GLBT community here in Elizabethtown and was able to gather donations for The Fairness Campaign. By the end of the show, about 360 dollars was raised to go towards The Fairness Campaign and the work the campaign is doing towards the Statewide Fairness Laws within Kentucky which will protect all Kentuckians from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations. WKU students may participate in the ECTC GSA. For more information contact, Donielle Lovell at Donielle.lovell@wku.edu.
Western Kentucky University Hosts Partnership Forum

Western Kentucky University hosted its first community/university partnership and community based research forum on April 20 and 21. Dr. John Green, director of the Institute for Community Based Research at Delta State University, conducted a two day program sponsored by WKU-Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Fort Knox, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, WKU Department of Sociology and the WKU ALIVE Center. Day one of the event focused on student involvement in community research. Dr. Green spoke to students about building a “Community Development Toolbox.” He noted the importance of thinking about how the skills and knowledge gained in college can be used to benefit community organizations. Psychology student Lacey Raley noted, “Sociology has actually gotten me very excited about qualitative research, although I am a numbers freak. I think it is very interesting to see the importance of community relationship building. At this time, research on the effectiveness of strong community partnerships really interests me.”

Day two centered on the opportunities and responsibilities of when communities and universities partner. Presenting from his extensive experience of conducting research with community organizations in the Mississippi Delta, Green spoke to Hardin County organizations, WKU and ECTC faculty members about the roles each must take to make a successful collaborative. Organizations such as Advocacy and Support, North Hardin HOPE, BRIDGES Work Restitution Initiative, and Helping Hands participated. It is the hope that such meetings will facilitate student internships and research collaboratives.

Dr. Daniel Scheller, Political Science instructor, is leaving our Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Fort Knox campus and to continue his career at New Mexico State University. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck.

Pictured is Dr. Scheller at the farewell held in his honor at the Radcliff Regional Center.

Good luck Dr. Scheller!
New Director/Associate Dean for WKU-Glasgow

WKU Glasgow welcomed Dr. Sally Ray as the new campus director. Dr. Ray joined WKU in 1991 as a faculty member in the Department of Communications. She served as Department Head of Communication from 2000 until 2008, when she was named Assistant Dean of Potter College of Arts and Letters.

Dr. James McCaslin, Janey Cline, Sandi Rice, Lisa Gawjarone & Judy Parker

WKU Praxis Workshop

The Praxis workshop provided by Denise Hardesty, Teacher Services Coordinator, and conducted by Tabitha Daniel, School of Teacher Education Professor was held at WKU-Glasgow Campus via IVS with 21 students in attendance.

Administrative Professional’s Day

Dr. James McCaslin took the Administrative Assistant Office Personnel out to Gondolier’s to celebrate Administrative Professional’s Day. The food was great and so was the company.

Psychology News

The 41st Annual WKU Student Research Conference was attended by Tiffany Miller, Cecily Carson, and Shannon Minor. Glasgow Research Students attended the annual research conference for the first time with An Investigation on the DSM-IV-TR’s Role in Diagnosis Performance among Licensed Clinical Psychologists under the direction of their advisor, Dr. Krisstal D. Clayton. Dr. Clayton is a psychology instructor and graduate faculty member at WKU-Glasgow. Set up began at 1:00pm with the event beginning at 1:45pm. Poster presentations were judged beginning at 1:45pm and ending at 4:00pm.

The questioning ranged from the very basic, “Tell me about your research”, to the very detailed, “What has prior literature detailed regarding your topic?” It is important to note the judges were not the only individuals who were interested in our research. Lisa Boswell, an instructor from WKU- Glasgow, as well as, Dr. Sam Evans, Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, were present and requested a synopsis of the research.

The students of WKU-Glasgow were honored to take part in the Annual WKU Student Research Conference and have aspirations to attend in the upcoming years.
On Thursday, February 17, 2011, WKU-Glasgow helped the WKU Writing Project host a one-day conference entitled “Literacy and Technology in the 21st Century Classroom.” Laura Houchens, WKU Writing Project Outreach Coordinator and Adjunct English Instructor, was in charge of the event. Almost 50 educators—teachers, administrators, librarians, technology coordinators, and others—from across the region came to acquire new ideas and strategies on how to best teach their students.

The day began with an opening session featuring Dr. James McCaslin, interim director of WKU-Glasgow, who gave a short presentation about the Glasgow campus and the importance of literacy and technology in postsecondary education. Next, the participants enjoyed Leigh Anne Littlefield, curriculum coordinator at South Warren Middle School, as she shared the knowledge that she has gained about SB1 and the new Common Core Standards. The topic might have been a tough one, but Leigh Anne’s presentation made it interesting. As the day continued, conference attendees had several sessions from which to choose: Content Area Literacy with Mary Ellen Lohr and Anne Padilla from Bowling Green High School; On Demand Writing led by Lisa Bartley from Glasgow High School; Using Twitter and other Social Networking Tools presented by Byron Darnall from Glasgow High School; Using LinkedIn, Social Bookmarking, and SlideShare as an Educator led by Chris Houchens, adjunct WKU Journalism instructor; Make Reading Essential presented by Dr. Cassie Zippay and Dr. Daniel Super, both WKU professors; Using iPods and FlipCams in the Classroom led by Terry Elliott, WKU English instructor; and Keeping Current in the Ever-Changing Digital World presented by Sara Jennings from Morgantown Elementary and Lisa Cary from Drakes Creek Middle School.

Attendees were impressed by the sessions they attended, making comments such as, “thoroughly enjoyed this,” and “provided tools I can take back to my district.” Both of these, of course, were the goals of the WKU Writing Project as they planned the one-day conference. Attendees were also complimentary of the facilities at WKU-Glasgow—one participant remarked, “I had never been to this campus. It is so nice and had everything we needed!” The day the WKU Writing Project spent at WKU-Glasgow presenting “Literacy and Technology in the 21st Century” can definitely be deemed a success.
Glasgow Campus cont.

Gamma Beta Phi Memorial Tree

The WKU-Glasgow Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society chose to plant a tree on campus to memorialize the dedication and leadership of Dr. Juanita Bayless. The students of Gamma Beta wanted to honor Dr. Juanita Bayless's memory in a tangible manner so they made arrangements to plant a redbud tree (her favorite) on her campus. The tree is fitting because it represents strength and stability, which are two characteristics that she brought to our campus. It is a permanent symbol of someone who will always be remembered.

Career Fair

WKU-Glasgow was one of the sponsors of the first annual Glasgow-Barren County Business Expo held at the Cave City Convention Center. Over 80 businesses and colleges were represented. It was free to the public. Door prizes were awarded to visitors.

Suzanne Britt Retirement

We were truly saddened to wish Ms. Britt a Happy Retirement. She has taught at WKU-Glasgow as an adjunct since Western began offering classes through our early center located in Happy Valley and then in 2001 as full-time. Family, friends, classmates, fellow teachers, staff and students attended her reception. Ms. Britt has always been an inspiration to everyone around her and will be sincerely missed.
Annual Library Meeting/Celebration
National Library Week celebration was once again celebrated at WKU-Glasgow. The library staff served refreshments and offered door prizes to students. About 60 people attended, including faculty members from the Department of Library Services.

Super Saturday
On February 12, 2011 Educational Opportunity Centers Glasgow Counselor Kathy Fraim, WKU financial aid outreach counselor Whitney Hall, along with BRASS had a workshop at the Glasgow Regional Center. The workshop was to assist students with the filing of their 2010 federal and state taxes. After the completion of their taxes, Kathy and Whitney then assisted the students with their 2011-2012 FAFSA for the fall semester. This was a one-stop event where students came in with their W-2’s and left with completed taxes and their FAFSA filed for the 2011-2012 School year.

Student Leader
Shelly York was also recognized at the Student Leadership Banquet as the WKU-Glasgow Student Leader. Shelly is a BSN major and has served as student worker for WKU-G Chemistry and as Mail Courier in addition to her other campus activities. We congratulate her for this well-deserved recognition.
FaCET Seminar
WKU-Glasgow partnered with FaCET to offer a professional activity on campus. Amy Nemon and Patricia Wither, both full-time faculty at WKU-G, were the presenters. Their presentation was Increasing Continuity across the Campus: Developing, Integrating, & Enforcing Course Policies.

Presented by: Amy Nemon & Patricia Wither

Earth Day
The WKU-Glasgow Sociology Club celebrated Earth Day by working on the landscaping at the campus. Lisa Boswell, Acting Assistant Director/Sociology Instructor, led the group activities.

April Thompson, Nick Thompson, Sarah

Surprise Breakfast
The faculty and staff of WKU-Glasgow surprised Dr. James McCaslin with a potluck breakfast held to say “thank you” for his leadership and hard work during the past year. He was very touched by and appreciative of the support.
Student Recognition

The following WKU-Glasgow students were recognized for academic achievement:
- Alicia Napier – Distinguished scholar for Elementary Education
- Shannon Natcher – Wanda Mayfield Page Scholarship recipient
- Adrienne Turner – Outstanding undergraduate Elementary Education student from Glasgow

Donation to Community Soup Kitchen

Julie Edwards Holmes, WKU-G Sociology Club member presented a check to Alma Glover for the Community Soup Kitchen. This is one of the community sponsored services that the club chose to help fund.

A.D.N. Student Honored

Pictured below are Kacy Harris, Program Director and Associate Professor of the A.D.N. program and Jacqueline Felts, a WKU-Glasgow student who was honored for the A.D.N. program at the Student Leadership

Office Administration Class Field Trip

Cindy Westmoreland, Adjunct Office Systems Technology instructor, and 20 WKU-Glasgow Office Administration students took a tour of South Central Rural Telephone Company (SCRTC). The management department heads from SCRTC met with the students and explained the operations of each of their respective departments. Ms. Becky Williams, Marketing Director, facilitated the tour. It was a wonderful and very informative tour.

Miss Westmoreland had previously spent 2 weeks teaching Business and Etiquette. To better understand the session, a dining etiquette video was shown, after which she took the class to Colton’s Restaurant to practice the techniques they learned.
Faculty & Staff Appreciation Dinner

The ninth annual WKU-Glasgow Faculty & Staff Appreciation Dinner was held at the Glasgow Golf and Country Club. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and great fellowship and several door prizes were awarded. Gina Lyon, Adjunct Communications Instructor, was named Adjunct Faculty of the Year. The award was presented by Dr. Dennis George, University College Dean. Gina has taught for WKU-Glasgow since the spring 2007.
This semester WKU-O students are actively participating in fundraising for Relay for Life. A bake sale, bunco night, community yard sale, and two restaurant donation nights were among a few of the fundraising activities that raised $1,741.66. The Relay for Life event night and walk is scheduled for May 20.

Students involved with Rotaract participated in a community shoe drive responsible for collecting over 3,000 pairs of donated shoes! The group worked with Edge Outreach and Shoeman Water Projects in Louisville to collect these used shoes to send to Kenya, Haiti, and South America. They can then be sold by villagers to create jobs. Proceeds can buy necessary supplies to bring clean water to underdeveloped areas.

OCTC New Horizon Awards this year were presented to current WKU-O students Shawn Stephen Payne, Mary Kinney, and Nicole Nacey. This award honors KCTCS employees who exemplify ideals of their college and this year the focus was on Transformation.

Congratulations to WKU-O students Jennifer Bratcher and Scott Thompson! They were recipients of the Outstanding Owensboro Education awards for the 2010-2011 school year. Jennifer is currently majoring in Elementary Education and Scott in Middle Grades Education.
WKU-O held its first career fair on campus this semester. Both graduate and undergraduate students attended and had the opportunity to speak with many local businesses.

Friday, May 13 marked WKU-O’s first graduation ceremony and is also the first for any regional campus. The ceremony will recognize 93 graduates representing 10 different majors and each college from WKU. The average G.P.A. for this class is a 3.087! Comprised of both traditional and non-traditional students, the average age of this graduating class is 30.7.

Candice Cross has traveled around the world to complete her student teaching before graduating this May. She is currently studying in Berlin, Germany. Candice is WKU-O’s first study abroad student.
ALIVE Center Grant Deadline Approaching!

Faculty and staff, don’t forget to get your Community Partnership Incentive Award proposals in by July 1, 2011. For more information about applying for funding, visit our website at www.wkualivecenter.com and contact Nadia DeLeon at nadia.deleon@wku.edu.

Summer Workshop Series

A core function of the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships is to connect students, faculty, staff, and community members. The ALIVE CCP offers a summer workshop series, open to campus and community members, to help make connections, as well as provide helpful information on a variety of topics, such as working with diverse communities, fundraising, grant research, and volunteer recruitment and retention. Many of the workshops will feature a panel of campus and community leaders sharing their experiences to add to the presented topic. Workshops are free, lunch is provided, and registration is available at www.wkualivecenter.com a month prior to each workshop. There is 40 participant capacity for each workshop, so don’t wait to get registered! We look forward to seeing you.

Working with Diverse Communities

Date: May 18
Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Topic: Working with Diverse Communities
Presenter: Nadia De Leon
Panel: Father Steve Hohman, Juan Gutierrez, Monica Woods, and Molly Wilson

Part 2: Working with Hispanic Communities

Date: May 18
Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Topic: Working with Diverse Communities
Presenter: Nadia De Leon and Luis Ore
Major Gifts and Capital Fundraising
Date: June 15
Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm
Location: WKU ALIVE Center
Speakers: John Paul Blair, Suzanne Vitale, and Laura Holderfield

Grant Research
Date: July 20
Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
Speaker: Carrie Barnette

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
Date: August 17
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Topic: Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
Facilitator: Aurelia Spaulding
Panel: Laura Simpson, Mike Hall, Mindy Johnson, and Eileen Cackowski

Free Registration!
Certificate in Citizenship & Social Responsibility

The central mission of the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility (ICSR) is to develop WKU students’ abilities to think critically, serve generously, and act responsibly. In order to achieve this mission, the ICSR offers WKU students a chance to complete courses for a Certificate in Citizenship & Social Responsibility. This interdisciplinary program fuses academic studies with civic engagement.

This fall, the ICSR is offering two of its required courses, Public Problem-Solving and Being a Citizen Professional. Both of these courses are being taught by Professor Courte Voorhees and will prepare students to be effective citizens.

Three special topic courses are being offered this fall as well. Lloren Foster will teach Hip Hop and Democracy. This course will seek to critically analyze hip hop as a democratic platform while also acknowledging the problematic portions of this specific art form for civil dialogue. Nadia De Leon will instruct a course titled Diversity and Social (In)Justice. This course will explore interrelated systemic issues pertaining to diversity and social justice – specifically social privilege and oppression due to gender, race/ethnicity, class, religion, and sexual orientation – as well as the role diversity plays within our democratic society. Christian Ryan-Downing will offer Growing Sustainably which will be located in the WKU student garden. This course will focus on aspects of sustainable and organic gardening such as plant science, soil health, and pest, water and time management.

Each of these courses will ask students to analyze and critique the society in which we live, acknowledging the good while also imagining a better future. For more information about the Certificate in Citizenship & Social Responsibility or fall course offerings, visit our website at www.wku.edu/icsr.
Press Release
April 29, 2011:

New Master's Program in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities at WKU

The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University has granted approval for a new Master of Arts degree in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities (M.A. in SRSC). This interdisciplinary program of study will provide graduate students from diverse backgrounds with the tools to lead communities toward social justice and sustainability. This will be a primarily online degree program and will begin in Fall 2011.

The new degree program builds on Western Kentucky University’s growing commitment to sustainability and education for sustainability. As WKU President Dr. Gary Ransdell stated: “WKU seeks to be known as a leader in sustainability while ensuring a safe and comfortable present and future for our students.” In January 2010 the Board of Regents approved a Resolution for Education for Sustainability at WKU as part of its strategic planning guide.

The M.A. in SRSC is designed especially for students inclined toward the humanities, social sciences, and related fields. The program will cultivate local and global perspectives to educate students with diverse backgrounds and ideas to be active citizen leaders of change.

Students will enter the program as part of a cohort and take six core courses and additional electives, with or without a thesis option, for a total of 33 hours. The core courses will provide an interdisciplinary foundation in social justice and sustainability, economic and policy issues, leadership issues, community-building, and community-based research. The elective courses may focus on environmental sustainability, women’s and gender studies, inter-generational studies, social justice, or other issues—depending on interests, availability of courses, and in consultation with the adviser.

Housed in the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility of the University College, the new master’s is coordinated by Dr. Jane Olmsted, who is also Director of the Gender and Women’s Studies Program.

Nancy Givens, Sustainability Programs Development Coordinator with the Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability and Co Chair for the WKU Education for Sustainability Steering Committee, says “This program will provide students with the necessary expertise in social justice, economic development, and environmental studies to support sustainable community development and social justice goals and practices from the individual to the global level.”

Those interested should contact Jane Olmsted, 270.745-5787, or visit the website: http://www.wku.edu/cohort/srsc/
**McCaslin Presents at Information Fluency Conference**

Sara McCaslin, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies Instructor and University Experience Library Skills Coordinator, presented at the first annual Information Fluency Conference held on the campus of University of Central Florida March 9-11, 2011. This conference was created in conjunction with the University of Central Florida’s Quality Enhancement Plan and featured library professionals from across the United States and abroad. McCaslin’s presentation titled “Information Fluency and Critical Thinking: Applying Elements to Academic Research Practices” focused on the implementation of the critical thinking model within the University Experience course and how this model can be applied to academic research conducted by first year students. The presentation also outlined the University Experience curriculum and the library skills/information literacy component of the course. Approximately 30 conference participants attended McCaslin’s concurrent session and many commented on the unique approach related to Library Skills Instruction within the UE course.

**WKU students receive first annual library research awards**

Western Kentucky University students Andrew Alvey from Warren County and Megan Stohner from Whitley County were awarded the first WKU Libraries and University Experience Undergraduate Research Awards this past Tuesday at WKU’s Cravens Library. Alvey was recognized for the best career essay and Stohner received an award for the best annotated bibliography. Both students received a $100 cash award along with a plaque honoring their achievement.

Alvey, freshman from Bowling Green, was surprised to be selected as the top choice. “I was just concentrating on getting the assignment completed,” said Alvey, “I was very excited when I won.”

According to Tammera Race, WKU Librarian and selection committee member, the purpose of the research awards is to recognize the important role of good library research in college academic success. “Students from University Experience classes are a great fit as they have a project tied to their research instruction.”

Sara McCaslin, Library Skills Coordinator for University Experience, echoes Race’s comments. “The award is a way for students to recognize the benefit of good research and to foster it throughout their entire career,” said McCaslin.
Those who know Cort Basham associate the interdisciplinary studies instructor with many different roles. Most often, acquaintances see him play the roles of teacher, father and husband. But to the members of the Bowling Green Road Runners Club, Basham is the nutrition expert and marathoner who just completed his second Boston Marathon.

Basham finished 2,685th out of the 24,338 starters with a time of 3:08.33 during the 115th Boston Marathon on April 18. “I’ve heard it described as a 26-mile victory lap,” Basham said. “Getting there is the accomplishment — not necessarily running the race itself.” That’s because the Boston Marathon requires participants to qualify by meeting a designated time standard that corresponds with their age group and gender. Because the 34-year-old ran under three hours and 10 minutes at a marathon in the past year, he was allowed to register.

“Not everyone can play in the Super Bowl,” Basham said. “Not everyone can play in the World Series, not everyone can play for the Lakers or the Celtics, and not everyone can run in the Boston Marathon, but 27,000 people can.” Basham said qualifying times are increasingly becoming faster, and registration for the field capacity filled in just eight hours for Boston. He ran his first Boston Marathon in 2008 and has run seven other marathons. This was his first time repeating the 26.2 miles on the same course. But the WKU instructor wasn’t always the runner he is now. Graduating as a Hilltopper in 2001, he said he “just didn’t feel good, didn’t feel fit.” Basham began running two days a week, which turned into completing a few 5ks, or 3.1 mile races. He then found himself running the distances of a half-marathon, which is 13.1 miles.

“I wasn’t sure about the whole marathon, long-distance running thing,” Basham said. “But the more I did it, you adapt, and it gets easier on you. I just really enjoyed the challenge. Distance running is more about energy management than it is about speed. “If you aren’t trained and don’t strategize, 26 miles will break you. It is much more of a chess match with yourself.”

Basham met up with a group of men and women in the Bowling Green Road Runners Club, and the idea of running a marathon started to grow. The club has created a social aspect of running that a lot of runners miss out on, said Brian Packard, president of the club. Packard ran Boston as well.

“For the most part, running is not about competing with other people,” he said. “The only part that is a race is the last tenth of a mile. The whole rest of the time, you’re by yourself. It is like golf in a sense. You are really playing against yourself more than you are anybody else.”

Jeff Stein, former president and now treasurer of the club, completed his 14th Boston Marathon and 10th in a row this year. “There’s Cort, Brian and me, and four or five others that run together pretty regularly,” Stein said. “I don’t know if we talk each other into it or not. We run together, and it contributes to all of us still running these marathons.” Since Basham completed his first marathon in the fall of 2005, he said he has found a support system from the group of other runners. “In any subculture, you need people that are as crazy as you are,” Basham said. “Whether you’re in a band, or you are in a knitting club, you all understand the language. You understand what drives you to do this thing that normal people wouldn’t want to do.”

Basham said he doesn’t have an ultimate goal in marathoning, but he would like to be able to run the Boston Marathon every few years. “I’ve always said that I don’t really run marathons to achieve anything great,” he said. “I run marathons to discover my limits.”

This article originally appeared in the College Heights Herald, by Emily Patton. http://wkuherald.com/sports/article_dcebe554-6f8f-11e0-99b0-001a4bcf6878.html
This is the first in a series of three regarding The Peer Mentoring Program of University Experience.

#1 Peer Mentors who successfully completed UC 375 Seminar in Peer Mentoring this spring and have been assigned to University Experience 175 faculty for the fall semester

#2 Interesting facts - University Experience Peer Mentoring

#3 The impact of the Peer Mentoring Program on first-year students

Front Row: Calli Miller, Sara Calvert, Andrea Petkovic
Second Row: Jennifer Michael, Beth Lyles, Emilee Buttrum, Jessi Fisher, Emily Sanford, Sequoia Sims, Anh Le
Third Row: Sara McCaslin - Jim Fulkerson
Fourth Row: Ken Kuehn, Ryan Black, Mitchell Reed, Jonathan Thomas, Nick Sheeley, Jonathan Cadreau, Justin Wilson
Absent: Cedric Jackson

Jim Fulkerson was honored at the Greek Week Faculty Appreciation Dinner (April 13, 2011) as one of 22 selected for making a difference in the lives of the Greek organizations through advising and academics.

Several Academic Advisors from University College (UC) attended the Kentucky Academic Advising Association (KACADA) Conference on April 5 and 6 at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. The theme was “Promoting a Culture of Student Success” and individuals from the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the College Board presented on topics such as: Statewide Transfer Guidelines, College Readiness and CLEP Examinations. Those in attendance from UC were: Jill Brown and Clint Haynes from the Commonwealth School; Bea Cobb, Gail Ledford, Gail Smallwood and Blake Butkovich from Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Ft. Knox; Amy Chester from the Honors College; Crystal Nuckols, Phyllis Reed and Richard Fitzpatrick from Glasgow; Sara McCaslin, Jim Fulkerson and Chonda White from the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. In addition, WKU Advisors were the proud recipients of the Spirit Award for this year’s conference.

Jill Brown, Gail Smallwood, Bea Cobb, Blake Butkovich, Gail Ledford, Chonda White and Amy Chester.
Leadership Studies Has Moved

Following the third flooding of their office suite on the ground floor of Cravens Library, Leadership Studies joined the University College in Tate Page Hall. Although a planned move to this location was anticipated sometime in the summer, the circumstances necessitated a display of crisis leadership. As the water rapidly rose and extraction equipment was unable to keep up, campus facilities staff began a hasty move of all the Center’s contents. The Center for Leadership Excellence and the staff of Leadership Studies can now be found happily ensconced in their new (dry!) home. Stop by and visit them in rooms 217-236.

Congratulations to our own Leadership Studies faculty member, John Baker, on the successful defense of his doctoral dissertation on March 30, 2011. He was one of the five first graduates of the WKU Educational Leadership doctoral program. Beginning in July of 2008 as a member of the first cohort selected, Dr. Baker completed all the requirements and graduated in May.

The 8th Annual Leadership Banquet

The 8th Annual Leadership Banquet was held on March 14, 2011, at the Carroll Knicely Center. Among the 109 guests in attendance were President Gary Ransdell and guest speaker Dave Tatman, the plant manager of the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant.

Mr. Tatman strongly believes in becoming active in leadership roles throughout the community. He delivered a motivating speech where he discussed a 360 degree model of leadership. The banquet’s Guests of Honor for the night were the students. Sixty-seven students were nominated by faculty members throughout the departments of the university and were acknowledged for their individual excellence in leadership.
Leadership Studies cont.

Record Number of Leadership Graduates

An increasing interest in leadership coupled with the support of campus advisors and faculty in recruitment efforts resulted in record numbers of students enrolled in our programs. Enrollment during the spring 2011 semester included **131 students pursuing a certificate** in Leadership Studies, (65 undergraduates and 66 graduate students). In addition to the growth and success of the Leadership Excellence program, there are now **34 students who are pursuing a Master of Art in Leadership Dynamics**. The new BS Organizational Leadership, a +2 program for students who have been awarded an associate’s degree, continues to gain traction with the help of regional campus advisors and the WKU Cohort Program staff. An unprecedented number of students completed undergraduate and graduate Leadership Certificates during this academic year: 60 students enrolled in and successfully completed the capstone practicum course during 2010-2011.

WKU Rotaract Club

The WKU Rotaract Club is sponsored by Leadership Studies and a local Rotary International club, a service organization composed of business and professional men and women. The Rotaract Club is still fairly new, with preliminary meetings beginning in December of 2008 and approximately 15 members participated in the chartering ceremony on April 22, 2009. Since the first meeting in 2008, membership numbers have grown, now with 25 active members.

During the past year the Rotaract members:
- joined with the Rotary Noon Club to adopt a class and participated in the class of 2020's first field trip to WKU's campus for the *Beauty and the Beast* show
- teamed up with the Rotary Noon Club and Rotary clubs of other areas to donate money to and help maintain the camp at Courageous Center for Kids
- helped build two homes with Habitat for Humanity in the spring of 2010
- held a rummage sale to raise money for the library which they help support in Kenya
- participated in the Community Action of Southern Kentucky Poverty Simulation
- partnered with the Rotary Noon Club to ring the bell all day at Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army
- held three fundraisers to raise money for Eat So They Can

Rotaract members are currently working to raise money to participate in and purchase a Rotary International Shelter Box, which is where they collect and donate items to the United States Army troops stationed overseas. They plan to start fundraising now and continue into next semester with this International Service Project.

Interested in joining Rotaract?
Meetings the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m.
Center For Leadership Excellence, 2nd Floor of Tate Page Hall
Tim is our new Adult Learner Counselor. He comes to us from Owensboro where he spent 19 years as a firefighter with many of those years also as an adult learner. He has also taught Paramedic Technology at the Owensboro Community and Technical College for the past 5 years. Tim is completing his Masters in Education in Adult Education here at WKU and we are very happy to have him assisting our adult students.
Whistles, cheers and two standing ovations filled the Garrett Conference Center ballroom following the annual performance of "The Vagina Monologues" Wednesday night.

The performance was a series of monologues inspired from interviews with over 200 women from a variety of races, ages, sexual orientation and social classes. Each monologue addressed a different situation or experience women had with their vagina, from exploring sexuality to reclaiming the word cunt.

Opal Sea, a graduate student from Lawrenceburg, has attended four performances of "The Vagina Monologues" and likes how it catches people off guard. "It's something different," Sea said. "It's something cultural that is going on right now. I can't even explain it, it's just a good experience."

Male audience members also enjoyed the show, such as Ben Gjerstad of Bardstown, who was impressed with the show. "As a guy there is a lot of perspective you never see," Gjerstad said. "It's stuff you never think about and I think I learned a lot."

Of all the monologues, "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy" seemed to make the biggest impression with the crowd, receiving its own standing ovation. The monologue tells the story of a lawyer-turned-sex worker who loves the sound of women moaning and included demonstrations of different types of moans by the performer, Lydia Dowell. Dowell, a senior from Lafayette, Tenn., said she enjoyed both her role and the performance as a whole because of how fun and wild it was. "I think the audience really responded well, from what I heard, and the girls did a really good job," she said. Dowell said she hopes people will come to next year’s show because of how empowering it is. "It takes words like vagina and cunt that are taboo and makes a safe zone for their use," Dowell said. "It's a good place to discuss things and just to learn."

In addition to the performance, there were baked goods shaped like breasts and vaginas for sale before and after the show. Proceeds from tickets and baked goods are going toward Hope Harbor, a sexual trauma recovery center in Bowling Green, and a national program to help women in Haiti.

-Taken from the College Heights Herald, by Kevin Allen.
The Women’s Studies Program concluded its year-long 20-year anniversary celebration with an awards ceremony and dance party, feature Kentucky Thunder. “It was an awesome time,” said Meghan Kennedy, and her two friends said, “I’ve never been to an awards ceremony where we got to dance.”

Women’s Studies is pleased to announce the winners of this year’s scholarships and awards.

Undergraduates: Ward Scholarship (Amy Bishop); Scott Scholarship (Meghan Kennedy), each for $1,000 for outstanding academic and service performance. Amy and Meghan are both Honors students earning the Gender & Women’s Studies minor.

Graduate: Esther Scholarship (Leslie Nichols and Erin Carlyle), $1,000 each, to support their work on the Graduate Certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies.

Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award, for a student: Margaret Jacko, nominated by Dawn Hall, plaque and $500 for overcoming struggles to pursue her education.

Catherine Ward Feminist Action Award, for an employee: Julie Shadoan, nominated by Molly Kerby, plaque and $500 for her work to empower women through legal representation.

Additional News: Summer Grant Recipients

(l to r) Jane Olmsted, Leslie Nichols, Molly Kerby, and Kristi Branham have received summer grants.

Dr. Olmsted’s National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute grant is for participation in “Rethinking the Land Ethic: Sustainability & the Humanities” (June 20-July 15, Flagstaff, AZ). Ms. Nichols has been admitted for a one-month artist residency at Vermont Studio Center, with a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. She also received a highly competitive Career Development grant from the AAUW, to begin work on WKU’s new Master’s in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities in the Fall. Dr. Kerby received a WKU Faculty Grant to visit farmers’ markets around the country and in Belize for a proposed book project. Dr. Branham received a WKU New Faculty Grant to spend 10 days in New England researching the periodicals archive of the Sophia Smith Collection, located at Smith College.

Faculty Fellow Dawn Hall presented her paper, “Opening a Space for the Female Filmmaker: Risk-Taking in Deepa Mehta’s Fire and Sally Potter’s Yes” at the International Doing Women’s Film History Conference, in England in April.