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CHHS December 2011 E-Newsletter

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WKU Recreation and Sport Administration Student Receives Award

By Tammie Stenger-Ramsey, AORE Awards Committee Chair

Each year during the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) conference, the Awards Committee recognizes those individuals and programs that have made significant contributions to the field of Outdoor Recreation and Education. For the second year in a row, a WKU Recreation and Sport Administration M.S. student has received the top student honor given by the association. On November 6, 2011, **Ben Ramaeker**, Challenge Course Graduate Assistant, received the Bill March Student Achievement Award, sponsored by Osprey. Along with the award, Ben received an Osprey Raptor backpack and visor.

Ben Ramaeker began his outdoor career as a challenge course intern with the Stout Adventures program at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He then became a ropes course and climbing wall facilitator at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Adventure Program. He further developed his outdoor skills and became an Outdoor Specialist at La Crosse. During the summers, he served as the Assistant Chief Interpreter at Northern Tier National High Adventure Base where he managed, supervised, and trained the guide staff. His diverse experiences in recreation include two additional internships in recreational facilities at UW- Eau Claire, and recreational programming at UW-Stout. He has worked for 6 different AORE Professionals in the past 4 years. One of his most unique professional experiences was being a Zamboni driver at the Onalaska Omni Center.

Ben has a strong history of proactively seeking professional development experiences. He has attended the AORE conference every year since 2008, paying his own way on multiple occasions. Not only did he attend AORE Conferences, but he found ways to get involved, network, and truly take advantage of all the opportunities the AORE provides its student members including serving on the Environmental Stewardship Committee and the Student Development Committee. He has also attended the Wilderness Education Association conference and the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association conference.

Despite attending UW-Lacrosse, Ben inquired with Tim Mertz about working on the Challenge Course at UW-Stout as an intern during the summer. Ben's professionalism, maturity, attention to detail, and charisma led him to quickly become a leader among the staff at Stout Adventures Challenge Course. At the end of the summer, Ben returned to UW-Lacrosse an excellent Challenge Course facilitator. In fact, Ryan Olson, the Challenge Course director at Lacrosse, mentioned that he was very happy with Ben's skill set and confidence on the Challenge Course shortly after Ben started working there.

Upon beginning his graduate education, Ben undertook the daunting task of being a Graduate Assistant that reports to directly to two different units and indirectly to a third at Western Kentucky University. Ben has responsibilities to the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport as well as the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department. Tammie Stenger-Ramsey mentioned that during his first month at the course he took great initiative in solving some of the facility problems going on at the

course and was able to mitigate some of the tension between the different campus units overseeing the WKU Challenge Course. He also created a plan and started promoting the challenge course to a variety of departments in the WKU community. She also said that Ben "hit the ground running and shows no signs of letting up."

During the AORE Awards Ceremony, AORE President, Tim Mertz finished his introduction of Ben by saying, "In reflecting on Ben's journey over the past few years, I look back with pride. As full time Outdoor Professionals, we have all seen students come and go. Some make an impact and others do not. I believe Ben's greatest impacts on our field are yet to come and I am excited to see what the next few years offer Ben while at WKU."

During both the 2010 and 2011 AORE Awards Ceremonies, a WKU M.S. student in Recreation and Sport Administration has received the Bill March Student Achievement Award. In 2010, Amanda Even, the Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Center Graduate Assistant in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department, received this award. Amanda completed her M.S. in May 2011 and is currently the Coordinator of Adventure Trips at the University of Maryland in College Park.

For more information please contact Tammie Stenger-Ramsey, tammie.stenger@wku.edu or 270-745-6063.

Also, WKU Relations put out a story about Ben's award. Please visit http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/11/09/aore-ramaeker/ to read that story.

Environmental Health Science Students visit Berry Plastics for Industrial Hygiene Field-Trip

On November 10, 2011 WKU's Department of Public Health's Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene Class taught by Dr. Vijay Golla, visited Berry Plastics facility in Franklin, Kentucky. The visit was designed to allow students an up-close view of health and safety in the industrial environment. This visit included an overview of Berry Plastics operations, products, health and safety programs, and industrial hygiene controls to protect their employees. Students were also given a plant tour which highlighted the engineering controls and personal protective equipment provided by Berry Plastics for its employees. This is the 6th year that Berry Plastics has invited WKUs Department of Public Health to bring their Industrial Hygiene students on-site for a real-life view of how their health and safety initiatives are at work promoting healthy behaviors and protecting employees.

WKU offering EMT paramedic program

Originally posted in the *College Heights Herald*.

By: Cameron Koch

Students and others in the Bowling Green community looking for a medical career path now have more options, thanks to the expansion of the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy at WKU.

While WKU has offered training for emergency medical technicians (EMT) in the form of a basic EMT program for many years, those interested in the career can now pursue further training with the retooled EMT paramedic program.

The associate's degree in paramedicine at WKU previously allowed for already-certified paramedics to receive credit hours according to their certification. Paramedics could then fulfill general education requirements to receive the associate degree.

"There were a lot of traditional and non-traditional students that don't have the certification as a paramedic that wanted an avenue to become certified," said Sharon Woodward, program director of Continuing Education.

Now students who are not certified can begin their training with the one-semester basic EMT class in addition to taking general education classes as they work to complete the 22-month long paramedic training course. Students can work in the field as they pursue the paramedicine degree and also become eligible for financial aid. Individuals only interested in receiving EMT Paramedic certification can complete both EMT courses.

"It's very intense," said KEMSA Director Lee Brown about the program. "When you think about it, you have to know anything about everything that anybody would call 911 for."

Woodward said she believes the new program will open up possibilities for people in the community.

"People who are interested in an associate's degree and would like to go into the workforce now have another option," Woodward said. "Before you almost had to work already for an ambulance service to go through the training — now it's open really to anyone."

Brown stressed the importance of those interested in the career to earn the degree, as some states are beginning to require Paramedics to graduate from an accredited program. Currently, Eastern Kentucky University is the only university in the state to have an accredited paramedicine program. Brown believes WKU is on the cutting-edge of change within the field.

"We're kind of ahead of the ball game," Brown said. "There will be nowhere else to get it."

Physical therapy program continues to move forward at WKU

Originally posted in the *College Heights Herald*

By: Cameron Koch

WKU's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program continues to move forward, gaining approval by the Office of Graduate Studies during the Graduate Council meeting last Thursday.

But school officials insist there is still much to be done. The program needs to undergo approval by the University Senate in December, the Board of Regents in January and then begins a process of accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

The program must submit a detailed report of the program to the CAPTE to receive candidacy status. From there, the program is allowed to go through with the first class of students. After three years, CAPTE reviews the program once again before finally granting accreditation.

“The first part is, ‘Tell us what you are going to do,’” said Kurt Neelly, physical therapy academic coordinator. “Then they come back three years later and say, ‘OK, now prove to us you did everything you said you were going to do.’”

A bill previously passed by the Kentucky legislature which allowed Kentucky schools, with the exception of the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville to offer up to three advanced practice doctorate degree programs, allowed for the creation of WKU’s physical therapy program.

Harvey Wallmann, the director of the department of physical therapy at WKU, said there was a great need for a physical therapy program in south central Kentucky.

“There’s a lot of rural areas and underserved areas that have not been addressed with health care concerns regarding physical therapy,” Wallmann said. “Is there a need for a program? Yeah, because if you didn’t really need a program, why come out here and start another one? But there really is a need.”

The program is currently accepting applications for the fall of 2012, with a deadline of Jan. 15. It will feature a 118-credit-hour curriculum over three years, with each semester of classes already planned for students.

“They learn about all the different aspects of physical therapy in the program — it’s not just one area,” Wallmann said.

There are currently only two doctorate of physical therapy programs in the state, one being UK, and the other at Bellarmine University in Louisville. WKU’s program hopes to accept 30 students into the program next fall.

Neelly hopes that WKU’s smaller size and atmosphere will differentiate it from UK’s physical therapy program.

“What we’re striving to implement is a student-driven focus,” Neelly said. “Were not in the big city where you might be easily lost as just another number.”

Chris Bidwell, a junior majoring in biology with a specialization in pre-physical therapy, is excited about there being another physical therapy program in the state.

“It’s something people need,” Bidwell said. “Nobody is like, ‘We don’t need physical therapists.’”

That being said, Bidwell, a Glasgow native, said just because he attends WKU now doesn’t mean he would return to WKU if given other choices.

“I would definitely take WKU over Bellarmine,” Bidwell said. “I will apply everywhere and I will go wherever I get in.”

FACS Graduate Earns 4-Star Rating for Child Care Facility

Lisa Lee, owner of Lee's Family Daycare in Morgantown, KY has made her dream a reality. Lisa Lee received notice October 15 that she had met and exceeded the criteria necessary to be rated as a 4-STAR early childhood setting.

Lisa is the wife of Jeff Lee and the proud mother of Katie Lee Wilson and Ernest Lee. She also has the honor of being a grandmother to two toddlers, Ava Grace and Owen Lee. Lisa moved to Butler County when she and Jeff married in 1985 and was employed by Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems from 1988 until 2002 when they closed the plant in Morgantown. At that time, Lisa began a new journey as she went back to college and began her studies in education. While going to school, Lee became employed at a local child care center. After the BRADD financial program ended for Lee, she was able to access the KIDS NOW Scholarship to continue her education because of her employment in a licensed child care facility. After working in the child care program for a while, Lee decided that early childhood was her passion and she began working towards her dream of owning her own child care facility. Lisa began working with the local Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU and learned how she could become a Certified Family Day Care program. In 2004, she opened her doors as Lee's Family Day Care caring for a maximum of six children at a time in her home.

As a regulated provider, Lisa was able to continue accessing the KIDS NOW Early Childhood Scholarship, which allowed her to continue her coursework at WKU on a part-time basis while she managed and worked in the child care facility 11 hours a day/5 days a week. Lisa began to set many goals for herself along the way, sometimes wondering if she would ever reach them. All along this journey, Lisa has had the support of her family and the families of the children she cared for.

In 2005 she earned a Kentucky Director's Credential, a state certificate that is earned though college coursework that shows individuals have business management and educational knowledge. In 2009 she was awarded her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. As she continued her professional growth, Lisa began to focus on additional goals for her business. After being open for approximately a year, Lisa became involved in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. This is a voluntary system designed to show that a child care program is seeking higher standards of quality than the minimum requirements for licensing or certification. The STARS Quality Rating System assigns programs a STAR level of 1-4 STARS based on indicators of quality such as: the training and education of the provider, the quality of the interactions between children and adults, the involvement of families within the program, and of course, the quality of the learning activities and materials available for the children. When Lisa entered the STARS program in October 2005, she was quickly rated as a 3-STAR program. After earning the 3-star, Lisa began to examine the requirements of the 4-STAR and what it would take to earn the highest rating. Most of the requirements she either met (education level of provider) or with a little work could meet quickly (renovating the outside play area and addition of materials in the environment), however, there was one criteria that had high cost associated with it and took time to complete – the accreditation by a national organization. Lisa set out with a new goal– earning that accreditation and applying for a 4-STAR rating.

That journey began as Lisa continued working with the CCR&R at WKU, and the local Professional Development Counselor and Stars Quality Coordinator with the Quality Enhancement Initiative. She received the information from the National Association of Family Child Care and after conducting a self-study of her program where she made some changes to the services she was providing in an effort to enhance the quality of her program, she applied for her accreditation visit. In July 2011, she received notice that she had met all of the requirements of the accreditation system and earned that accreditation.

The journey did not stop there. As soon as she received that notice, she was making phone calls to determine what the next steps were to apply for that 4-STAR rating. This process involved the submission of paperwork, training records and a special site visit by the STAR-Rating personnel to be rated on the environmental rating scales for Family Day Care. That site visit was made in mid-September and Lisa Lee received notice on October 15, 2011 that she met all requirements and rating scores required for a 4-STAR program.

Throughout her journey, Lisa continued to access programs and projects funded from the KIDS NOW initiative. Not only did she have the opportunity for the scholarship and the STARS program, she also participated in projects funded through the Butler-Edmonson Community Early Childhood Council. Those funds helped her obtain the necessary materials and equipment for her learning environment as well as funds that were used for continued professional development. The KIDS NOW initiative also has financial assistance available to help providers with accreditation fees, which Lisa also accessed during that process. The KIDS NOW initiative was implemented exactly for these purposes – enhancing the quality of child care in Kentucky in order to better service children and families. Lisa's determination and her partnerships with these programs have enabled her to reach both her professional and personal goals in better serving the children of Butler County with a nationally accredited 4 STAR program.

Over the past eight years, Lisa has continued her education, maintained certified regulatory requirements as well as STAR standards, all the while providing care to children 5 days a week and being at every school and family event! Congratulations to Lisa AND her family on earning this award. Thank you all for the hard work, time, and dedication to the families you serve.

According to data provided by the CCR&R at WKU, as of August 15, 2011, there were 608 certified homes in KY. Of these only six (6) are 4-STAR rated. Lisa's program is also the first in the ten-county Barren River Area to hold a 4-STAR rating.

WKU/ AHEC HOSA Bring Paramedic as Guest Speaker

The WKU Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapter welcomed Jim Williams to speak with them about his career as a Paramedic. Mr. Williams is an RN EMS Field Operations Manager at Commonwealth Health Corporation (CHC). His presentation to the students gave an in depth look at what Mr. Williams does and he encouraged the students to find a career that

they were passionate about. In a thank you note written to Mr. Williams, Matthew Garvey, a HOSA student stated "You not only inspired me to pursue an EMT certification and possibly a Paramedic, but also allowed me to search within myself and find the career that I am 'destined' to fulfill."

To get more information on the WKU HOSA chapter, please visit http://www.wku.edu/scahec/hosa_main_page.php or contact Amy Wininger, South Central AHEC/HOSA advisor, at amy.wininger@wku.edu.