

Spring 3-1-2011

Arête March 2011

Honors College

Western Kentucky University, Arete@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_news



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

College, Honors, "Arête March 2011" (2011). *Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter*. Paper 34.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_news/34

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

ARETTE

THE SPIRIT OF ENGAGED EXCELLENCE – A PUBLICATION OF THE WKU HONORS COLLEGE

MAR. 2011
VOL.6 ISSUE 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 CATAGRAPHI: HAND-MADE TOPPER SHOES, FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. STEVE HUSKEY

3 CATAGRAPHI: "WHITEWASH" SHORT STORY EXCERPT, ACADEMIC COMPETITION CLUB

WKU Honors students travel to Belize to help improve a small village's quality of life.

Story Page 6



Dr. Steve Huskey loves the natural world, including fishing on the Amazon River. Story Page 2

4 VENI VIDI VICI: KATIE KNECHT EXAMINES THE EFFECT OF HARLAXTON COLLEGE

5 NUNTI COMMUNALIS: FEELGOOD EXPANSION, HONORS SUPER BOWL PARTY

6 NUNTI COMMUNALIS: HONORS STUDENTS IMPACT BELIZE

Toppers on the move

SHANNA DOWNEY

Areté staff writer

Honors junior Clay Simpson and Honors senior Beau Handy probably have more left shoes than any other students on campus. No, it has nothing to do with their inability to dance. They own incomplete sets of shoes due to a remarkable venture to set themselves apart from the brand-obsessed masses—Simpson and Handy make their own shoes.

Simpson, a Financial Planning major from Louisville, Ky., approached Handy with the idea during Simpson's freshman year at WKU, but nothing came to fruition until three years later.

"When Clay came to me with a full cow hide and a smile on his face, I knew

exactly what he had in mind," says Handy, who is studying Financial Management.

The friends began practicing their leather-working skills with bracelets and belts before progressing to shoes.

Called "Toppers," the shoes are made completely by hand and are, according to Handy, very time consuming. Their next undertaking is to create "Topper Flops," a sandal similar to the popular Rainbow Sandals line.

As of yet, they have only successfully completed left shoe prototypes, but they say their cobbling skills improve with every attempt. The shoes they have created thus far are wearable and comfortable, though perhaps only suitable to be worn by a one-legged Hilltopper.

"When Clay came to me with a full cow hide and a smile on his face, I knew exactly what he had in mind," said [Beau] Handy.

Honors faculty spotlight: Dr. Steve Huskey

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

"I've always had a passion for the natural world," Dr. Steve Huskey said, "and I'm always trying to gain a better understanding of what's happening in it."

Dr. Huskey, an associate professor in the Biology Department and member of the Honors Development Board, specializes in functional morphology and animal behavior. Last semester, he was selected by National Geographic to

conduct research in the Amazon River after the discovery of a piranha relative's fossil in Venezuela. He has been featured previously with National Geographic and was chosen again due to his expertise in fish feeding systems.

Dr. Huskey and other biologists spent 18 days on the Amazon River discovering what type of piranha fossil had been discovered and gathering as much information as they could about it. The National Geographic television show featuring Dr. Huskey and his team's findings will be aired later this year.

On a biographical note, Dr. Huskey completed his undergraduate studies at Western Michigan University and attended Florida Tech University for his doctorate. He has been teaching at WKU since receiving his Ph.D. He teaches both lower-level and upper-level Honors biology courses, and he also assists students with their research.

"Dr. Huskey is a very down-to-earth professor who cares for students on both an academic and personal level,"

Honors junior Whitney Montgomery said. "I wish there were more professors like him."

Dr. Huskey said that he absolutely loves the outdoors. His favorite hobbies include turkey hunting, fishing, camping, scuba-diving, and playing baseball or basketball with his six-year-old daughter, Emma.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. STEVE HUSKEY



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. STEVE HUSKEY

Dr. Huskey poses with the barracuda he caught on the Amazon River.

“Whitewash” An excerpt from Honors sophomore Brie Logsdon’s short story

The air hung heavy and the heat created ripples along the dirt path. Even the cicadas stopped their ruckus. Jocelyn, my brown mare, shone with sweat. We approached The Manor, the house on my 20-acre plantation, to find my wife sitting on the veranda. Two slaves whitewashed the columns and another fanned her. The negro woman holding the fan was also trying to ward a fly from her mistress’s face. In her attempts, she accidentally hit the mother of my son with the fan. I had been watching the scene as we trotted up the path. The stubble on my chin prickled against my calloused fingers as I ran my hand down the side of my face. I approached the porch as my wife exploded in anger.

“How dahre you!” she yelled. She attempted to throw the full iced tea pitcher at the poor woman. It fell halfway between them, shattering and staining the bottom of both women’s white dresses.

“You ruin’d mah dress! You lazy slut! You. . .you. . .” Sarah Beth erupted into

tears and threw herself on the wooden floorboards, narrowly avoiding the glass shards. Thomas took Jocelyn’s reins as I dismounted. I walked up the porch steps and shot the frightened slave a pitying glance. I knew my wife’s hysterics well. I hitched my pants and crouched next to her.

“Now, dahrlin’, don’ pay it any mind. There was ah bee in your hair and she was jus’ tryin’ to kill it,” I whispered soothingly, running my hand down her reddened cheeks.

“But, mah dress. . .” she whined softly, looking up to me with tear-filled eyes.

“Now see heah, we’ll get you ah new one. Put it out of yah pretty head.”

I helped my whimpering wife up and handed her over to the slave. They shuffled inside where Jack, my three year old, waddled over and grabbed a handful of his mother’s skirt. She slapped him away and attempted to kick him. My wife’s hysterics was one of the reasons I kept a mistress in Atlanta.



PICTURED: BRIE LOGSDON, LOUISVILLE SOPHOMORE

WKU Academic Competition Club visits the Crimson Tide

SHAWNA FELKINS

Areté staff writer

The WKU Academic Competition Club traveled to the University of Alabama on Feb. 5 to compete in the National Academic Quiz Tournament sectional competition. Honors sophomores Nick Conder and Shawna Felkins and Honors freshman Cole Phelps represented the Honors College as quizbowl members. Conder, president of the club, hoped to see a positive outcome in the midst of Division II teams.

“I think we have shown improvements over the course of the year, and I was hoping we had improved enough that we could be near the top of the field,” said Conder. “We did learn we have some more work to do to get there, but we’ll get to the top eventually.”

The day started out slow with a record of 0-6, but the team fared better in the

second half of the tournament with an overall record of 5-8. Sophomore Brian Riddle spouted confidence that the tournament provided necessary practice.

“We always need an opportunity to improve,” said Riddle. “Playing teams that are better than us can only help us in the long run. Also, the more questions we hear, the more answers we’re likely to know.”

Although the team did not place as hoped, it was a successful day according to Conder.

“While we may not have done as well as we wanted to, I do believe the trip was successful,” said Conder. “Most trips are going to be a success in my opinion, as long as we learn something, get more experience, and have fun.”

Cole Phelps has participated in quizbowl for much of his academic career and joined the team after speaking with

Conder, a former teammate from high school. Phelps was excited when he heard that a college team had been started.

“I’ve been on the academic team since 5th grade, so it’s kind of become a major part of my life,” said Phelps. “Basically, I’m not ready to give it up just yet.”

The Academic Competition Club will compete in at least two more tournaments before the end of the semester. Conder hopes that the club will continue to thrive even after all of the original members have graduated.

“I loved being on the academic team in high school and was still helping to coach the team at the high school I attended,” said Conder. “When I realized there were a number of other good players at WKU, I decided we should try to start a team here.”

More than a memory: A reflection on an Harlaxton College experience

KATIE KNECHT

Areté guest writer

You've seen the pictures in front of the Eiffel Tower, and you've read the Facebook statuses about weekends spent in Spain. What you don't know is all the relationships you will inevitably gain at Harlaxton College.

When I first heard of the program as a freshman at H4, I immediately knew there would be no other option; I was going to Harlaxton. I finally went in the spring of 2010. It's impossible to explain how incredible the four months I spent traveling abroad were. I remember standing in the same spot where Anne Boleyn was beheaded by Henry VIII's decree, navigating through Munich, and visiting Dachau, the first Nazi camp in Germany. I traveled to seven different countries and all around the United Kingdom, seeing and experiencing things I had only ever seen in pictures. I will not forget those things, but there are other things I will remember more.

I will remember Doug, the Scottish shuttle bus driver, who took me to Grantham, so I could buy shampoo and Ritz crackers. I will remember how he shared his most personal, tragic experiences as a soldier in World War II with me.

I will remember my meet-a-family, who couldn't believe there was such a

thing as Cheez Whiz in America, who helped me perfect my British accent, and who taught me the difference between chips and fries.

I will remember Dr. Bujak, my British Studies seminar leader, who was possibly the funniest man I have ever known. He



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATIE KNECHT

Honors junior Katie Knecht is an alumni of Harlaxton College. She spent the spring of 2010 studying in the manor.

refused to give me anything higher than a B on any assignment I turned in, but he made me a better, smarter student for it.

I will remember Mariela, the Spanish native I stayed with in Barcelona. She made us authentic quesadillas at midnight and let us play with her gato, Romeo.

And most of all, I will remember the friends I made at Harlaxton. I started with a few acquaintances from WKU and came back with true friends from all across America. We made ourselves go to British Studies lectures at 8:30 in the morning and spent several nights studying and panicking over our exams. We hung out in the bistro and threw several ridiculously themed parties. We learned to like coffee together when it was served for free in the afternoons. We traveled together and found our way around foreign countries where there was no one who spoke English. We went to the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland, English football games, and plays in London. Those friends became my family for four months, and I miss them constantly.

Not a day passes when I do not think of my semester abroad. I will never forget the relationships I forged at Harlaxton College—the people who have helped define me today and are still a part of my family.

And most of all, I will remember the friends I made at Harlaxton. I went with a few acquaintances from WKU and came back with more true friends from all across America than I ever dreamed I would make.

Honors students further their Feelgood reach

RAMONA SUDBECK

Areté staff writer

It's a typical day on campus: students rushing up and down the hill. But now it's lunch time and a break is in order. On your way to DUC, just past Centennial Mall, a girl in a sandwich costume asks, "Would you like to buy a sandwich?"

This occurrence, although it sounds strange, has become ordinary to many WKU students who have grown accustomed to this sandwich stand.

Who is behind the grilled cheese magic? An organization called "Feelgood" led on WKU's campus by

Honors sophomore Alex Kimura. She aims to collect money to contribute to various charities aimed at ending world hunger. The organization has provoked much interest, and due to its growing success, the question now is, "What's next?"

Currently, there is a plan to start a Feelgood deli. The project is receiving help from the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (ICSR) in Garrett Conference Center, which is the proposed location for the deli. Also on board with the project is WKU's Fairtrade organization, which brings

the possibility to utilize the campus's community garden.

WKU is indeed excited! Honors sophomore Alex Isbill was very enthusiastic.

"I'm impressed with this! It's a big step for them, and I would definitely go [to the deli]," said Isbill. "They seem to be doing a pretty good job with the stand."

So the next time you see a sandwich-clad person, he or she might be directing you to the ICSR in Garrett, where you just might meet another, more edible sandwich.

Honors Super Bowl party ruled a touchdown

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

"The event was great," Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Executive Director of the Honors College said. "We had a really good turnout and a really competitive atmosphere."

On Sunday, Feb. 6, the WKU Honors College teamed up with Housing and Residence Life to host a Super Bowl party in the auditorium of Mass Media and Technology Hall. Pizza and snacks were provided for nearly 100 students.

"I was a little disappointed in the outcome of the game," Atlanta sophomore Michelle Gilstrap said after the Green Bay Packers defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, "but it was close and the event was really fun."

Dr. Cobane added that he really appreciated HRL helping with the event. "It was well organized, and we hope to continue the event in years to come."



Students anxiously watch the game in the Mass Media and Technology Hall auditorium.



Green Bay fans were pleased with a 31-25 win over the Steelers.

PHOTOS BY BETHANY RIGGS

Honors students Impact Belize

CAMERON FRANNEY

Areté staff writer

From Jan. 6 to Jan. 14, 2011, 29 WKU students and faculty members travelled to Belize to help a local village by hosting a four-day medical clinic.

Since early 2005, Impact Belize has been taking WKU students to the small village of Gales Point to help its residents with medical, dental, and local needs. Gales Point consists of about 500 villagers in central Belize and is home to mostly fishermen and farmers.

“We helped them by fixing the village’s water pump and testing their water for impurities,” Honors student Ellen Barringer said. “We did a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun.”

The students also enjoyed many local traditions during the week they stayed in Gales Point.

“We learned sambai, a traditional dance, and how to fish using hand lines, the traditional method used by

the villagers,” Barringer, a sophomore Environmental Science major, said. “The food was fantastic, too.”

Mostly WKU nursing and dental students travel to Belize to run a clinic that meets the needs of the 65 households in the village, but other majors such as Women’s Studies, Folklore, and Environmental Health have been represented as well.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ELLEN BARRINGER

Honors sophomore Ellen Barringer poses with resident children of the Gales Point village where the team worked and stayed.

PHOTO TAKEN BY ELLEN BARRINGER
The team got the chance to see other local villages besides Gales Point. Hattieville is a village in the Belize District of Belize.



Are you creative? Do you write?
Do you write creatively?
Areté needs you!



If you’re interested in being published in the award-winning **Areté** Honors College Newsletter, contact Audrey Gearhart at arete.layout@gmail.com.



Published monthly by students in the Honors College.

Newsletter Staff:

*Shanna Downey
Shawna Felkins
Cameron Franey
Audrey Gearhart*
Bethany Riggs
Ramona Sudbeck*

Advisor:

Dr. Angela Jones

Honors Executive Director:

Dr. Craig T. Cobane

*editor

**Questions?
Comments?
Story idea?**

Email us at arete@wku.edu

*Get published!
Areté is not just for students, it’s also by students – including you! Send us letters, commentaries, cartoons, whatever. If you want to share your work with the Honors community, we’re here for you.*