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Recommended Citation
WKU Provost, "UA35/1 Doers & Deeds Vol. X, No. X" (2007). *WKU Archives Records.* Paper 1574.
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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

May 2007
Volume X, Number X

Doers & Deeds

Academic Excellence at WKU

'Back of the deed was the doer, back of the doer, the dream.' – Dr. H.H. Cherry, Founding President

WKU's Theatre program has just been accredited by NAST – the National Association of Schools of Theatre. This makes WKU the only university in the state with its arts, music, and theatre programs all accredited. Congratulations to Scott Stroot and crew!

Two WKU students have been named as recipients of prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, and another has received honorable mention. Mark Sandefur and Joseph Chavarria-Smith were selected as scholars. Mark is a junior biology/chemistry double major, while Joseph is a sophomore recombinant gene technology/chemistry double major. They were two of 317 students chosen nationally. Only five Kentucky residents received awards this year; only three of those are attending Kentucky schools. R. Reagan Gilley was selected for an honorable mention award. He is a sophomore biology/chemistry double major; and will be eligible to re-apply for the award next year. This is truly an outstanding showing for WKU!

Sheila Smalling, John Cipolla, and Lisa Hussung

The Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) honored WKU **Music** faculty and alumni at the annual KMEA In-Service Professional Development Conference in Louisville in February. The honorees were: **Sheila Smalling**, WKU '85 & '89 alum, Middle School Teacher of the Year. **Smalling** is currently the Band Director at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green. **John Cipolla**, Music Faculty member since 2002, College/University Teacher of the Year. **Cipolla** has recently issued a jazz CD, in collaboration with David Livingston, entitled – Misbehavin'. **Lisa Hussung**, part-time Music faculty member since 2002, Elementary School Teacher of the Year. **Hussung** currently is the Music Specialist at Rich Pond Elementary School.

WKU also made a great showing in this year's Fulbright grant competition. Paul Love, a History and Religious Studies double major, was awarded a Fulbright Grant to study in Egypt for the 2007-2008 academic year. He previously earned the U.S. State Department Critical Language scholarship to study Arabic in Tunisia last summer. Katherine Hale also is a finalist and is still in contention for a grant to study in Chile. Congratulations!

WKU's **Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE)** team is regional champion for the third year in a row. They made a very good

WKU SIFE Team

impression on Cincinnati during the regional meet in March, and blew away the competition! They also won three of the six special topic competitions. In addition, **J. Krist Schell**, instructor in Management and director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, has been selected by the United States SIFE organization for the Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Co-Fellowship award to lead the WKU SIFE students in their efforts for the 2007-2008 year. Congratulations to **Schell** and the students for these great achievements!

Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson's re-election campaign will be managed by recent WKU graduate **Nate Hodson**. Grayson called **Hodson** "one of the brightest political minds in the Commonwealth" who will help deliver a victory on November 6th. **Hodson** is a native of Knott County who holds a political science degree from WKU. Way to go, Nate!

Seniors **Walker Hale** and **Dara Hardin** represented WKU and the Marketing Department's Sales program at the 2007 National Collegiate Sales Competition held at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta in March. In the tournament-style competition, WKU was one of only 16 (out of 44) competing universities that had both students make it to the quarterfinal round. Team coach **Lukas Forbes** (Marketing) is thrilled with the team's performance, as this is only the second year WKU has fielded a team. **Hale** also finished second overall in the individual competition. Congratulations, team!

Congratulations to **Ron Milliman** (Marketing), whose paper "Teaching Marketing Courses Using Podcasts" won both the Most Outstanding Paper and the Most Innovative Paper awards at the Applied Business Research Conference in January.

Walker Hale

Michael Smith (Biology) has been awarded a SOMAS grant from the National Science Foundation to mentor undergraduate neuroscience research at WKU in the summer of 2007. The program seeks to engage undergraduate students in conducting original neuroscience research and to provide support and training to faculty mentors. **Smith** was chosen as one of 6 awardees from over fifty applicants to the program. Junior **Reagan Gilley** will be working with **Smith** in the program, in which they will study the auditory system of fishes.

Jonathan Winburn (Political Science) is the recipient of the 2006 David Hughes Memorial Award for outstanding paper presented recently at the 2007 Kentucky Political Science Association Annual Conference held at Morehead State University. The award was established to honor the memory of the former Centre College professor and 1972 KPSA President by recognizing the outstanding paper presented at the previous year's conference by a faculty member from a Kentucky college or university.

Phil Womble (Physics & Astronomy) was invited by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate to provide a display of his DHS/NIHS project "Rail Tank Car Leakage Detection System" on March 16, 2007, in Washington, DC at a showcase event for members of Congress.

Steve Spencer (Recreation Administration) was selected as the Frank Lupton Service Award recipient at the Wilderness Education Association award ceremony during the National Conference on Outdoor Leadership held in Estes Park, CO in February. The Lupton Award is given to a member who has contributed significantly to the success of WEA and does an outstanding job representing the organization. **Spencer** currently represents WKU at WEA, and has been very active in the association since 1990. Congratulations to Steve for receiving this recognition!

WKU hosted the Spring 2007 Kentucky Honors Roundtable (KHRT) Conference March 2 & 3, 2007. Coordinated by Honors graduate assistant **Stephanie Self**, under the supervision of **Craig Cobane** (Honors Program Director), this conference brought together Honors students from all across Kentucky and included presentations of student academic papers and creative activities, student forums on contemporary issues, and student caucuses to discuss common concerns. WKU students comprised 22 of the 50 panels, which also included presentations by students from several other Kentucky universities. The conference was a great success due to the efforts of many WKU student volunteers.

Ten members of the **WKU Forensic Team** won WKU's 7th consecutive IFA Inter-

national Championship in Argentina in March. WKU students took 8 first place finishes, 5 second place finishes, 7 third place finishes, 3 fourth place finishes, 5 fifth place finishes, and one sixth place finish. **Natalie Sintek** and **Jessica Furgerson** closed out the final round in Lincoln Douglas Debate while the team of **Barry Fields** and **Saeed Jones** placed second in Parliamentary Debate, and **Barry Fields** placed second in Historical Argentina Informative. **WKU debaters** also won the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament in March. In just its second year at the tournament, WKU won the sweepstakes championship. WKU sent eight debate teams to this event and made history by having the largest number of teams from any one school to advance to break rounds. Congratulations!

Johnny Chan (Finance) was recently notified that three of his published papers were among the "Top 25 Hottest Articles" in Elsevier Science's ScienceDirect website, which uses the total number of downloads within a specific journal to determine the ranking and updates every quarter. **Chan's** articles were ranked 10th, 20th, and 23rd. Congratulations!

Bowling Green, Ky. – WWHR-FM, Western Kentucky University's student radio station, has placed second for Best Radio Newscast in the Broadcast Education Association's annual competition. Congratulations!

The **Computer Science Department's** Annual High School Programming Contest was a great success, with a total of 22 teams (about 66 students) participating from a variety of high schools in our service area. The teachers thanked WKU for their involvement in this important activity that lifted the spirits and creativity of students and faculty in their high schools. The contest was ably supported by several Computer Science faculty members who spent considerable time in creating and managing the contest, led by the efforts of **Guangming Xing**. Great job!

The sixth annual **Girls in Science Day** was held on March 3, 2007.120 middle school girls participated in three of ten different classes offered in the morning session, and in the afternoon attended a chemistry show. Registrations and preparations for the event were sponsored by the Women Studies Program and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE@wku). **Sara Herndon**, **Michelle Glorioso**, **Annie Croft**, **Tingying Zeng**, and many WKU student volunteers worked hard to make this event a success, and a wonderful time was had by all.

At the National American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Convention in March in Miami, **Mitzi Groom**, Music department head and National ACDA

Sheryl Hagan-Booth

Girls in Science Day

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11008
239 Wetherby Administration Building
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1008

Vice-President, was presented a plaque for her distinguished service as National ACDA President from 2003-2005.

Allan Hall (Marketing) was one of six professors recognized and profiled in Kentucky Monthly magazine's February 2007 issue in an article titled "Cool 101 – These professors earn extra credit from their students."

In February, eight mechanical engineering seniors, accompanied by faculty member **Chris Byrne**, presented their work in Frankfort at the annual "Posters at the Capitol" event to inform state legislators about undergraduate student activities. **Aaron Dobbins**, **Ryan Farris**, **Brian Hellinger**, **Ethan Holloway**, **Kyle Ketterman**, **Ray Sandusky**, **Liz Schmale**, and **Matt Seibert** presented 10 different projects that mechanical engineering seniors are involved in. The work includes projects supporting regional industries, various WKU departments, and applied research efforts. **Ryan Farris** represented all participants from WKU by giving an oral presentation of his research project.

Students present "Posters at the Capitol"

WKU Engineering department faculty **Robert Choate**, **Chris Byrne**, **Joel Lenoir** and **Kevin Schmaltz** and staff members **Tricia Harper** and **Chris Moore** hosted a group of Boy Scouts working on their Engineering merit badges in February. The group coordinated a series of activities for the Scouts in the Engineering and Biological Sciences building.

BGCC part-time faculty member **Becky Painter** also teaches at the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and reports that WKU's **Greenhouse Poetry** group has been doing volunteer work there, teaching public speaking through poetry. She said that the students are "truly awesome" and encouraged them to keep up the good work!