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WKU Provost

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# DOERS & DEEDS

*Academic Excellence at WKU*



“Back of the deed was the doer, back of the doer, the dream.” – H.H. Cherry, Founding President

Four WKU American Humanics students were recently selected to receive non-profit internship stipends from the Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Program (NextGen), an American Humanics initiative funded through the Kellogg Foundation. This national honor provides a \$4,500 stipend for support during participation in the internship required for the AH national certification and the WKU American Humanics (Nonprofit Administration) minor. **Jenna Doughman, Annie Farris, Evelyn Oregon, and Sara Miller** were selected from a national group of students applying for this program.

**William Pfohl** (Psychology) was recently elected president of the International School Psychology Association. Pfohl had previously served two terms as president of the National Association of School Psychologists. He will serve as ISPA president-elect from 2007-09 and as president from 2009-11. ISPA represents school psychology associations worldwide and has members in 40 countries on six continents.

This spring, the WKU Forensic Team was once again crowned National Champion at the American Forensics Association national tournament. WKU took the top prize by 84 points--the largest ever margin of victory. WKU also won the coveted Individual Sweepstakes championship. Senior **Lydia Nelson** defeated the entire field of competitors to defeat junior (and last year's Individual Sweepstakes champion) **Natalie Sintek** – the first time any team has ever won the top two spots. Congratulations!

**Barbara Burch, WKU's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, has received the William M. Plater Award for Leadership in Civic Engagement, presented by the Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). This is the first national award established specifically to honor and recognize chief academic officers for their critical role in advancing the civic mission of the campus. Congratulations!**



Barbara Burch

Three WKU Honors students have received prestigious national scholarships for the fall 2007 semester. **Ashley Belcher** and **Angie Piper** have received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships, while **Derek R. Gaboriault** has received a Freeman-ASIA Award. Belcher, a Spanish major, will spend the fall semester in Spain. Piper, a psychology major, will study in China. Gaboriault, a theatre major, will travel to Vietnam this fall and has spent most of this summer at the

University of Wisconsin-Madison studying Vietnamese at the Southeast Asian Summer Study Institute.

WKU's student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) was recognized as one of the 2006-2007 Top Ten Student Chapters at the SHRM Annual Student Conference in June in Las Vegas – the highest award that a chapter can receive. Congratulations to chapter president **Brentni Henderson** and team!

Two WKU Geographic Information Science (GIS) students received scholarships to participate in the 27th Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference in San Diego in June. **Ronnie Leeper**, a graduate geoscience student, and **Brandon Fowler**, an undergraduate computer information systems major and GIS minor, were selected from a pool of international applicants for the competitive scholarships. Each year, ESRI hosts a conference for GIS users to share ideas and gain knowledge about GIS technology, and this is the sixth year in a row that a WKU student has been

selected for a scholarship. Geography and Geology faculty **Kevin Cary** and **Yanmei Li** accompanied the students.

**Sally Kuhlenschmidt**, director of WKU's Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching, was recognized in May by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for her leadership and invaluable contributions to the development of Kentucky's postsecondary faculty through her tireless support of the Kentucky Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

WKU senior **Jonathan D. Woods** finished third in the Hearst Journalism Awards Programs' National Photojournalism Championships. Woods, one of two WKU photojournalists who competed in June in San Francisco, received a \$3,000 award.

December graduate **Edward Linsmier** was a runner-up in the national finals and received a \$1,500 award. Senior **McKenzie York** was a runner-up in television news finals in the National Broadcast News Championships and received a \$1,500 award. Photojournalism students **Carl Kiilsgaard** and **Christian Hansen** received \$1,000 awards as national semifinalists. **WKU's School of Journalism and Broadcasting** placed fourth overall this year, the school's ninth consecutive top four finish in the national competition, and has won 16 times in the past 18 years.

**Carol Wilkerson (Modern Languages) was appointed by the Board of Directors of the Southern Conference On Language Teaching to serve as co-editor of the 2007-2008 edition of its journal, Dimension. She will assume full responsibilities as editor beginning in 2008.**

**Elizabeth Winkler** (English) recently published a textbook, *Understanding Language: A Basic Course in Linguistics*.

WKU students spent 12 days in Costa Rica as part of a May term course on service learning, ecotourism and outdoor recreation. The course provided opportunities to traverse rainforests, work with local community organizations, and participate in conservation and environmental studies. The students also participated in a volunteer project to work on a trail at Tenorio National Park. **Tyler Spencer, Beth Weimer, Ryan Nethery, Michelle Riggs, and Ed Rogers** participated in this class, accompanied by **Ron Ramsing** (Recreation Administration) and **Luke Bartlett**, coordinator of WKU's Outdoor Recreation Adventure Center.

Matching its best finish ever, WKU's "Rocked Out" finished in fourth-place overall in the 20th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition. The competition, held in June in Seattle, featured students from 22 of the nation's top engineering schools. WKU posted its seventh top-10 finish in the past eight years, and advanced to the national competition by winning its 12th consecutive Ohio Valley regional title. The team's advisor was **Shane Palmquist** (Engineering), and student team members were **Brandon Bagby, Sarah Barker, Brian Ferguson, Joshua Melson, Devon Moore, Stuart Payton, Bryan Phillips, Parker Sloan, Seth Warren, Jon Whitaker, David Coomes, Sean O'Bryan, Catie Gay, Kelly Stolt, Kal Vencill, Sarah Bertke, Erica Rigney, Chris Simpson, and LeAndra Chandler**. Congratulations!

**Jagdish Khubchandani**, a May graduate of WKU's Department of Public Health, has been selected as the first recipient of the "Tony Mobley International Student Award" from the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. A native of India, Jagdish pursued his master's in public health at WKU. The award is named for IU dean emeritus and Kentucky native Tony Mobley, who had a distinguished international career in parks and recreation, and will be awarded each year to an outstanding international graduate student.



**Several WKU students, faculty, and staff spent May term touring important literary sites in New England and writing about their experiences. Walker Rutledge (English), graduate assistant Derick Strode, and DELO staff member Alicia Pirtle accompanied students Ashley Belcher, Shawn Bivin, Cameron Carr-Calvert, Robert Deignan, Belita Goad, Laura Hess, Jessie Magee, Isaac Russell, Rebekah Russell, Brooke Shafar, and Dawn Winters.**



Concrete Canoe Team 2007

WKU students participated in the 3rd annual United States Olympic Committee Sport Management Seminar at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center in May. The students worked collaboratively with students from the University of Alabama on practical projects throughout week under USOC staff supervision.

**Fred Gibson** and **Randy Deere** (both P.E. & Recreation) accompanied students **Rick French**, **Gina Brown**, **Jeff Lloyd**, **Kristine Himes**, **Craig Morehead**, **Brett Riley**, **Sonya Bain**, **Adam Whitt**, **Irele Oderinde**, **Austin Taylor**, and **Jami Deberry**.

WKU's Center for Gerontology is home to the Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts, a new publication from The Gerontological Society of America. "Our vision is that this international journal will create a forum for scholars and act as an incubator of fresh approaches and constructive dialogue about the meanings, experiences and challenges of growing old," said **Dana Burr Bradley**, Cliff Todd Distinguished Professor of Gerontology at WKU. The journal's inaugural double issue was released in late June. WKU faculty and students also will participate in the journal's publication by writing and reviewing manuscripts.

WKU sophomore **Kevin Smiley** was selected via a competitive process for a six-week summer internship with U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning in Washington, D.C., which is offered each year to college students who display academic strength and community involvement. Smiley is an active member of the WKU Honors Program and was elected by his classmates as the freshman representative to the Honors Development Board. He

also was selected as an HonorsTopper, a student ambassadorial group, for the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Kirk Atkinson** (Computer Information Systems) was selected through a peer review process for the Presentation Excellence Award for "Potential Solutions to Rural Broadband Internet Deployment," presented at the Academic Business World International Conference in Nashville, TN in May.



Dana Burr Bradley

**Carl Kell** (Communication) was elected President (2007-2008) of the Fellowship of Baptist Historians, an auxiliary of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, during its annual meeting in June at Campbellsville University. The group includes faculty in religion, history, political science and related disciplines in American public universities, private colleges and universities, as well as in theological seminaries. Kell has written three books on the rhetorical history/takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Junior **Meredith Moore**, a broadcasting major, was selected as this year's recipient of the David J. Clarke Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. She received the scholarship June 23 at the 43rd annual Midwestern Regional Emmy Awards in Columbus, Ohio. WKU-PBS' senior producer **David Brinkley** also was honored with two Emmys for his exceptional work in the Photographer and Lighting categories, and a Student Production Emmy Award went to broadcasting students **Will Foster**, **Andrea Hummel**, **Alan Miller**, and **Mindy Yarberry** for their work on a segment for the WKU-PBS magazine program *MainStreet*.

**Jane Olmsted** (English and Women's Studies) won the Arthur Edelstein Prize For Short Fiction, 3rd prize for "Extremophiles," accessible at [www.writingsite.com](http://www.writingsite.com).

**Jameson Mattingly**, an Honors Program student studying biology and chemistry at WKU, was given the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge biomedical research and to work with world-renowned geneticists this summer through the historic Summer Student Program at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME. Mattingly was selected from among nearly 400 applicants to take part in the program for qualified undergraduates and high school students, and will join two Nobel laureates as an alumnus of the program. He planned to study the molecular genetics of metabolic diseases.



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About 50 WKU students participated this summer in a weeklong leadership development course, **LeaderShape**. This is the first year WKU has participated in this premier collegiate leadership program, which will help students develop their own vision of how to improve their communities and learn to lead with integrity.

**Harold Little** (Accounting) was awarded one of only forty CIBER (Center for International Business Education and Research) scholarships to attend the 19th Annual Faculty Development in International Business Program hosted by the University of South Carolina this summer. The weeklong program is designed for faculty teaching International Business courses.



Students take part in LeaderShape

Three WKU students are among ten Kentucky students to receive scholarships from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association. **Meredith Moore**, **Christopher Morris** and **Helen Thompson** each received \$1,000 scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year. The annual KBA

Harry Barfield Scholarship Program awards are based on academic achievement combined with extracurricular activities and a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in broadcasting/telecommunications.

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has selected WKU's Department of Geography & Geology as one of 10 associate members taking part in the Earth System Science Education Alliance (ESSEA), a

professional development program for middle and high school teachers. Faculty members **Fred Siewers** and **Margaret Crowder** will represent the department in the Alliance and participate in a conference and workshop in August in Omaha.