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December 2007
Volume 7, Number 3

Doers & Deeds

Academic Excellence at WKU

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

Retired WKU professors **William "Biff" Kummer** and **Alton Little** were recently recognized by the City of Bowling Green, which named its new recreation facility at 333 College St. in their honor. Both professors taught in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at WKU for more than 30 years. Little is a recent recipient of the Jefferson Award for public service. Kummer serves on advisory boards for the College of Health and Human Services and the Recreation Administration program at WKU. Both men have contributed countless hours to the recreation profession and to quality of life issues in Kentucky. Congratulations!

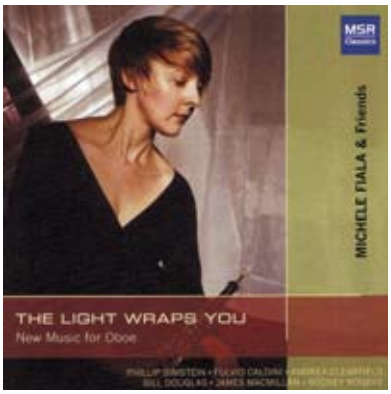
WKU's Mechanical Engineering program will continue to develop a prototype for a human-powered water purification device using an "Open Source" design technique thanks to a $30,000 grant from the American Society of Mechanical Engineering. Professors **Kevin Schmaltz** and **Robert Choate,** who teach the Junior Design class, received the ASME grant to extend the prototypes developed for the 2007 ASME-sponsored student design competition. The prototype uses a stationary bike powered by a human to purify water so that it is drinkable. The device designed by WKU students **Zachary Pearl**, **Ryan Simpson**, **Brent Stubblefield**, and **D.J. Thompson** qualified for this fall's final competition at the ASME International Mechanical Engineering Conference and Exposition in Seattle.

Little and Kummer with city officials at ribbon-cutting

Carl L. Kell (Communication) won the prestigious James A. Applegate Award as the top communication scholar in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for *Exiled: Voices of the Southern Baptist Convention Holy War* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006). Kell is the only two-time winner of the Applegate Award, having previously won in 2001 for *In the Name of the Father: The Rhetoric of the New Southern Baptist Convention* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1999), which also was named National Book of the Year by the Religious Communication Association. Kell is currently working on the third book in his multi-volume study of the rhetorical history of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher recently honored officials from WKU at the first Governor's Get Healthy Kentucky Summit. WKU received a Community Health Award, an honor bestowed by the governor to recognize efforts to improve the health and well-being of communities.

Michele Fiala (Music) has just released her first solo CD on MSR Classics. The disc features recordings of seven diverse, contemporary works for oboe. Collaborative artists on the disc include fellow WKU Music faculty members Donald Speer, Heidi Pintner, and John Cipolla.



Michele Fiala's "The Light Wraps You"

WKU, through its Center for Gerontology, has been invited to join the Student Mentoring Conference on Gerontology and Geriatrics. Begun 18 years ago at the University of Georgia, the organization conducts annual conferences featuring student research that rotate at campuses of the sponsoring institutions. In extending an invitation to **Dana Burr Bradley**, director of WKU's Center for Gerontology, Dr. Leonard Poon of the University of Georgia cited the "very positive input on the participation and excellent scholarship of WKU students at the Southern Gerontological Society meeting." He added, "This was indeed an excellent start by mentoring your students in regional and national conferences. Further, WKU is acquiring an international reputation in taking a leadership role in the editing of the new *Journal of Aging, Humanities and the Arts*." According to Bradley, "Presenting research in a student-centered environment is critical to developing world-class scholars. Membership in the consortium is a critical step in WKU's history."

The **WKU Forensic Team** is enjoying another very successful season. In September, the team won the sweepstakes at the William Jewell Invitational in Liberty, MO, and swept the combined sweepstakes at the Hill Country Swing in Austin, TX. WKU team members also co-hosted the WKU Forensics Fiesta with Ohio University on WKU's campus the weekend of Sept. 28-30, in which WKU swept the Ohio U portion of the tournament. WKU's team captured the sweepstakes championships at both halves of the Seventy-Four Swing held on the campus of Illinois State University the weekend of Oct. 6-7, and WKU followed with a sweep at the Nebraska Double-Up Swing in Omaha two weeks later. Great job, team!

Music majors **Heather Heim** and **Bronson Murphy**, both voice students of Music faculty member **Wayne Pope**, won honors in the 2007 Kentucky National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions. Heim placed 2nd in the Senior Women division, while Murphy placed 1st in the Senior Men division and 2nd in the Upperclassmen Musical Theatre division. Pope, an active performer and a NATS member since 1986, was recently appointed to the Kentucky chapter's Executive Committee and serves on the Governor's Advisory Committee for the Mid-South chapter.

Jason Smith, a student researcher from WKU's Applied Physics Institute, recently traveled to Boston for the Third Annual International COMSOL MultiPhysics Software conference. Smith, a senior who is working on a defense-related project, presented a benchmark test to analyze how accurately sound propagates through walls in the COMSOL acoustic module. "I was able to do a lot of networking while I was there, and received valuable feedback about our project from everyone who attended," Smith said.

Judy Davison (Curriculum & Instruction) was selected for a Fulbright Senior Specialists project conducted at the National College of Ireland (NCI) in October 2007. She presented professional development modules for NCI faculty on teaching strategies for diverse learners, and collaborated on institutional research projects concerning community needs and the mission of NCI.

The Governor's Office of Energy Policy recently awarded a grant of almost $150,000 for environmental sustainability research at WKU's Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology (ICSET). The project led by **Chin-Min Cheng** and **Wei-Ping Pan** will evaluate whether the reuse of coal combustion byproducts could be beneficial to agricultural application.

Sonya Baker, Heather Heim, Bronson Murphy, Wayne Pope

Terry Wilson (Curriculum & Instruction) has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Coalition of Organizations for the Professional Preparation of Educators (COPPE).

Two members of the WKU Lady Toppers soccer team, **Meredith Goodson** and **Rachel Friedman**, were named to the 2007 ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District second team for District IV. To be eligible for this honor, student-athletes must be at least a sophomore starter or key reserve, and have at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA. Meredith and Rachel were among only five Sun Belt women's soccer student-athletes named to the teams. Congratulations!

At the recent annual National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference in Denver, *Areté*, the newsletter of WKU's Honors College, was recognized as the top student-produced Honors newsletter in the country. *Areté* staff members were especially pleased to be recognized because of the relative newness of the publication: the issues entered in the competition were from its first full year of publication (2006-07). The newsletter depends on its dedicated student writers, photographers, and designers, many of whom have worked on its staff since its first issue. Especially deserving of recognition, however, are the newsletter's editors: **Ria Wallace** and **Kat Wilson** co-edited the publication in 2006-07, and **Sam Micallef** and Kat Wilson are its current co-editors. Congratulations to the entire staff and to faculty advisor **Angela Jones** (English)!

WKU's Elizabeth McWhorter-Harden Forensic Alumni Association named Kentucky House Speaker Jody Richards, a WKU alumnus, "Kentucky Speaker of the Year" on Oct. 11. This new award recognizes an exemplary communicator. "We are delighted that Jody Richards is our first Kentucky Speaker of the Year," said **Judy Woodring**, director of WKU's award-winning forensic program. "Jody is an excellent example of someone who has used his public speaking skills for the betterment of the people of Kentucky."

For the third year in a row, the Kentucky Geographic Alliance (KGA) has been awarded a $50,000 grant from the National Geographic Society to promote geographic literacy in schools and other venues across the state of Kentucky. The KGA is coordinated by WKU professors **S. Kay Gandy** (Curriculum & Instruction) and **Scott Dobler** (Geography & Geology). The KGA will use this year's grant to support a GIS person to develop a series of Kentucky maps for classroom teachers and document all CATS testing data with GIS. The grant also will support a teacher institute next June at Natural Bridge State Park and several National Geographic programs, including the state Geographic Bee and the My Wonderful World campaign.

Kristen Pruitt and Sarah Wellman work on an interior restoration project

Aaron Wallace, a junior in Civil Engineering, is this year's winner of the $2,000 Nick Winters Scholarship awarded by the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Only one Nick Winters Scholarship is awarded nationally in a given year. This year, Aaron passed the very difficult national certification exam for floodplain managers and is now permitted to write CFM (Certified Floodplain Manager) after his name. Aaron is one of 14 Western students who passed the CFM exam last year. Congratulations to Aaron for winning this prestigious national award!

A current student in WKU's Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Master of Arts in Education program and a graduate of that program each received prestigious awards in October at an international conference. Student **Sarah E. McMaine** of Owensboro is this year's recipient of the Kathleen W. McCartan Award from the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children. McMaine, who received her bachelor's in exceptional education from WKU in 2006, is a full-time student in the IECE master's program and serves as assistant to the director of WKU's Kelly Autism Program. **Candace (Candy) E. Stolt** of Franklin is the recipient of the group's Rose C. Engel Award. Stolt, who completed her master's in IECE in 1993, is the early childhood teacher consultant for the Simpson County Schools and also is a member of the WKU part-time teaching faculty.

WKU has partnered with Bowling Green's Historic Preservation Board in a project to document historic properties along Normal Street and Regents Avenue. Sheila Flener's (Consumer and Family Sciences) "Restoration of Historic Interiors" class is creating measured drawings and interior documentation of three of the structures as a class project.

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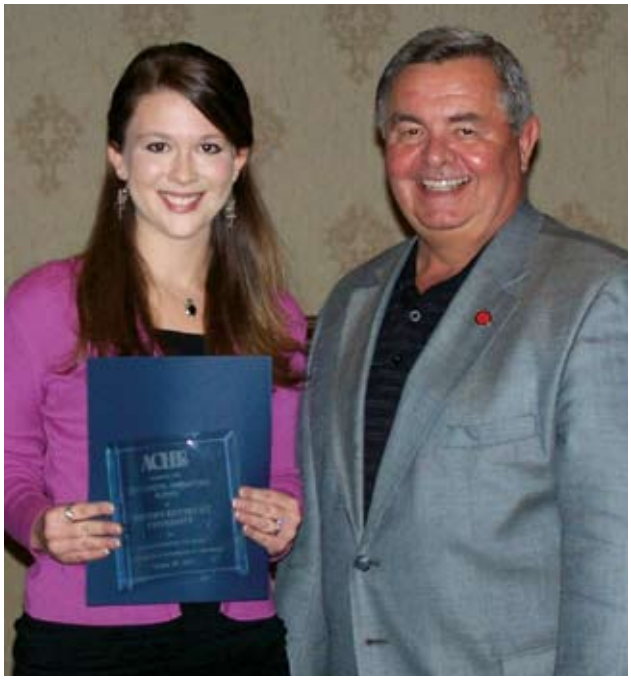
Jenni Perry, Marketing Specialist for WKU's DELO and a 2003 WKU graduate, received national recognition by winning the Crystal Marketing Award from the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE). The Crystal Award recognizes the ACHE institution that achieves significant results from a marketing communications campaign. This year's award recognizes the 2006 WKU Summer Sessions Campaign themed "Think Summer, Think Western!" The ACHE president wrote, "Your work reflects the high excellence to which all ACHE members aspire." The award was presented at the ACHE Annual Meeting on Oct. 29 in Roanoke, VA. Congratulations!

Randy Deere (Physical Education & Recreation Administration) has received the Walter H. Mustaine Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Kentucky Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The award is presented to individuals who have contributed to KAHPERD for many years and have been recognized for earlier accomplishments. Congratulations!



Jenni Perry, DELO Dean Don Swoboda