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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



WKU group in Yucatán

Thirty students and five faculty members participated in an 18-day Winter Term Study Abroad program to the Yucatán region of Mexico. The program focused on the Mayan communities of the Yucatán and Chiapas regions and addressed issues of poverty, inequality, infrastructure, unemployment, discrimination, land reform, and economic activity. **Holli Drummond** (Sociology) and **Debbie Kreitzer** (Geography & Geology) led the program, and were accompanied by **David Keeling** (Geography & Geology Department Head), and part-time faculty members **John Dizgun** and **DJ Urquhart**. The program was designed to educate students about the Mayan world from the pre-Classic period to the present day. Students visited some of

the most spectacular Mayan city ruins, experienced a variety of physical and cultural landscapes, and came away from the program with a much broader understanding of the region's society and geography and a deeper knowledge of the social, economic, and political challenges facing indigenous peoples in Mexico.

SHURA POLLATSEK (Theatre & Dance) was the costume designer for "Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil and the Presidency," a 2-hour documentary film aired on National PBS Television in January 2008. The show was co-produced by KGET/Los Angeles and Red Hill Productions.

WKU's **Imagewest**, the only student-run advertising and public relations agency in the nation, took home five Markie Awards at the Professional Marketing Association (PMA) ceremony held in Bowling Green in November 2007. Competing against professional marketers in 11 different categories, Imagewest won awards in color brochure, business card, direct mail piece, marketing campaign, and specialty item categories. Congratulations!

Four WKU students will be spending the summer of 2008 with the U.S. Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Overseas Intern Program. Recreation Administration majors **Lora Curl**, **Tyler Graham**, **Kristen Drapp**, and **Meredith Freeland** will receive roundtrip transportation, lodging and a weekly meal allowance during their overseas experience. **Drapp** will be in Sasebo, Japan working with recreational sports; **Graham** will be in Sicily (Italy) providing outdoor recreation programming; **Curl** will be in Hawaii providing family and youth programming; and **Freeland** will complete her internship in outdoor recreation at the naval base in

Yokosuka, Japan. "The Navy Overseas Internships are extremely competitive," said Recreation Administration professor **Tammie Stenger-Ramsey**. "They only take students who excel academically and who have significant paraprofessional experiences. It is exciting for our program to have four students selected to this internship program because it means we are turning out some top quality students who will be leaders in a global community."

Ted Hovet (English) received a 2008 Library Research Grant from the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, CA. This grant will allow him to travel to the institute and work with materials held in the Getty's collection of optical devices and prints.

During the Spring semester of 2008, Honors Gerontology 100 students taught by **Dana Burr Bradley** (Public Health/Gerontology) are co-learning with residents of Village Manor, with a majority of the classes taught on the Village Manor campus. They have planned several field trips, and both the students and the residents are working together on a research project titled "Envisioning Living with Age in 2050." In April, the students will travel to Atlanta to present their findings at the annual meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society.

Chris Westover, a graduating senior music major at WKU, had an article entitled "Holst's *Chaconne* from the Suite No. 1 in E-flat: A Contemporary Analysis" published in the *NBA Journal*, the official publication of the National Band Association.

Three WKU students received awards in the first round of photojournalism and writing competitions in the 48th annual Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Senior AARON BORTON placed fourth in the category of portrait/personality and feature photos, and will progress to the semifinal round of judging next June. Junior CHRISTIAN HANSEN placed 15th in the same category, while junior COREY PAUL tied for 16th in the feature writing category.



Raymond Poff wins Rennie Award

Wei-Ping Pan and **Chris Groves** traveled to Beijing, China in December to report on progress of their joint research work at the 2007 Regional Forum of the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network. **Pan**, who directs WKU's Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, and **Groves**, who directs the Hoffman Environmental Research Institute, have been collaborating for just over a year on the China Environmental Health Project (CEHP), with major support from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the ENVIRON Foundation.

WKU's **Division of Institutional Advancement** received 23 awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in Kentucky at its December meeting. They included seven grand awards, five awards of excellence and 11 awards of merit. Congratulations to **Tom Hiles** and the IA staff!

The Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) recognized **Raymond Poff** (P. E. & Recreation Administration) at its annual conference in November in Asheville, N.C., presenting him with the 2007 Jim Rennie Leadership Award, the highest honor given to a professional member of the organization. The Rennie award recognizes contributions to AORE which are far beyond the ordinary and which have had a significant and lasting impact on the association and its mission, and recognizes professional work or leadership of significance in the field. **Poff** has served AORE in many capacities, including President, and has helped to create a joint journal between the AORE and the Wilderness Education Association, which will be supported by the WKU TopScholar database.

Ron Mitchell, a faculty member in the Business & Computer Studies division of WKU's Bowling Green Community College, has earned certification as a Professional In Human Resources from the Society for Human Resource Management. To become certified, an applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience; the pass rate nationally is around 60%. Congratulations, Ron!

Two WKU **American Humanics** (Nonprofit Administration) students have been selected from a national pool of student applicants for a national internship award. **Jessica Tinnell**, a Broadcasting major, and **Sara Smith**, a Communication Studies major, have received the Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Program Award. This initiative is funded through a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and provides each recipient with a \$4,500 stipend to help support them as they are participating in a 300-hour nonprofit internship required for the American Humanics national certification and the WKU American Humanics minor. **Tinnell** will intern with Habitat for Humanity of Bowling Green and **Smith** will intern with the United Way of Southern Kentucky. WKU has been honored this year to have six students selected for this national award.

Kentucky Senator Brett Guthrie and Representative Jody Richards presented a check to Executive Director Joan Wulff and Board President Tom Stephens of the **Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra** for its 2008 General Operating Support Grant. The BGWSO was awarded \$6,804 by the Kentucky Arts Council, funded through federal and state resources. The concerts provide employment to local musicians and educational performance experience to WKU students, while offering a quality listening experience to the south central Kentucky community.

School of Nursing professor **Crista L. Briggs** has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing. Congratulations!

WKU's **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** won the traveling trophy for the SBDC in Kentucky for outstanding performance for the previous fiscal year. The WKU SBDC exceeded their goals by 300% for the period of Oct. 1, 2006 thru Sept 30, 2007. Congratulations to the SBDC staff and director **Rick Horn!**

Congratulations to TIM EVANS (Folk Studies & Anthropology), who has been elected to the executive board of the American Folklore Society.

Two Louisville attorneys known for their work with the media and defense of the First Amendment have created a scholars program for the School of Journalism and Broadcasting at WKU. Jon Fleischaker and Kim Greene of Louisville have given \$250,000 to create the Fleischaker-Greene Fund for Excellence in First Amendment Issues, which will support the Fleischaker-Greene Scholars Program. The program will give the top students in the School of Journalism the opportunity to take an advanced special topics class once a year and bring nationally-recognized speakers in journalism and First Amendment issues to WKU. The class will be modeled after a class taught in the fall of 2007 by **Sara Shipley Hiles**, part-time professor of journalism. Students will hone their reporting, writing and multimedia skills by producing real-life stories, with the opportunity to have their work published on a website. The class will emphasize

using First Amendment tools, such as open records laws.

The WKU Marketing Department's new **Center for Professional Selling** is off to a great start! They have achieved associate member status in the certified University Sales Center Alliance, making them one of only 15 programs in the United States with associate or full certification and the only one in Kentucky and several surrounding states. They have also sought partnerships with corporations. Director **Lukas Forbes** (Marketing) reported that five corporations have pledged over \$55,000 in support so far, and have agreed to come to classrooms in the spring semester to provide real-world examples to students and to conduct recruiting efforts on campus.

The Kentucky Mesonet has launched a new website that will make weather and climate data easier to access. The new www.kymesonet.org displays the



Kentucky Speaker of the House Jody Richards presents a check to the BGWSO



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most current data available from across the commonwealth. Visitors to the website will access data directly on the homepage. A map will feature data (temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction) from Mesonet reporting stations and a daily weather summary from the stations.

Stuart Foster, director of the Mesonet and the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU, stated that the goal is to help users find the weather and climate information they need, and that they will be making further enhancements to the site throughout the year.

The Association for Psychological Science publication the *Observer* recently featured "rising stars" in the field of psychology. One of the psychologists featured is WKU alum **Keith Payne**, who received his undergraduate degree in psychology in 1998. Keith went on

to get a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Washington University and is now an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Keith was in the Honors Program here and did an honors thesis that was directed by **Sally Kuhlenschmidt**.



Students and Rep. Jim DeCesare at "Posters-at-the-Capitol"

On January 31, 2008, eight mechanical engineering seniors presented their work in Frankfort at the annual "Posters-at-the-Capitol" event to inform state legislators about undergraduate student applied research and project activities. Five current student projects were presented to our state legislators and visitors at the event. Engineering faculty member **Robert Choate** coordinated the activity and

mentored one student team, while Engineering faculty members **Chris Byrne**, **Joel Lenoir**, and **Kevin Schmalz** mentored the other four student teams.