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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's **Habitat for Humanity** chapter dedicated its Centennial Build house on March 1. Construction began in fall 2006 as part of WKU's Centennial celebration, and the chapter raised more than \$50,000 to fund the project. More than 100 students and other volunteers assisted in the construction, and numerous businesses, community groups and others made donations and supported the project.

Randy Wilson, director of WKU's Veteran's Upward Bound, has received the Eagle Award from the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Program Personnel. The Eagle Award, presented

PHILLIP MYERS (Sponsored Programs) is the author of a new book. *Caution and Cooperation: The American Civil War in British-American Relations* was published by Kent State University Press.

at the association's annual conference, is the organization's highest honor. Wilson has directed WKU's program since 1999 and spent many years prior to that working in higher education. He was cited for his leadership on campus and in the national association, as well as for his work on the association's website, online forms, scholarship documents and newsletter.

Allied Health students **Rebecca Connor**, **Abi Hensley**, and **Lauren Stephen** and Nursing students **Julia MacFarland** and **Ashley Wolf** participated in the CHHS International Health and Human Service Learning Program in Belize in January 2008, providing health and dental care to Mayan and Creole communities. Faculty facilitators were **Ron Ramsing** (P.E. & Recreation Administration), **Mary Kovar** (Nursing), **Daniel Carter** (Allied Health), and **Becky Tabor** (Allied Health).

Several WKU students and faculty members made presentations in March at the 2008 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations in San Francisco. Students **Mattea Carver** and **Sara Herndon** and WKU graduate **Emily Gibson** participated in a panel titled "Unconventional Approaches to the American Dream." Three English students—**Mason Broadwell**, **Robert Deignan**, and **Brooke Shafar**—participated in a panel on "Visual and Aural Rhetoric in Shakespeare Adaptations," which was the first all-undergraduate panel ever featured at this conference. WKU student **Lydia Nelson** participated in a panel on "Popular Culture in the Age of Theodore Roosevelt."



WKU's Habitat for Humanity chapter dedicates the Centennial Build house



WKU participants and scholars and artists from other American institutions visit Turkey

Two students at the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky have been selected for prestigious summer internships. **Aaron Edwards** will intern at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, and was chosen to receive a fellowship with the American Cancer Society. **Dalton Hubble** was accepted for the summer as one of 50 interns at MIT.

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission recently honored two WKU staff members with 2008 "Women of Achievement" awards. **Nancy Givens** (FaCET), co-chair of BGGreen, was honored in the Community Service category, and **Ellen Bonaguro** (Academic Advising & Retention Center) was honored in the College Education category. Congratulations to Nancy and Ellen!

For the fifth time in six years, the **WKU Forensic Team** has won the American Forensics Association National Championship. Approximately 93 schools competed at this year's tournament held at the University of Texas, Austin. **Natalie Sintek**, a senior on the team, was chosen to be part of the AFA 2008

All American Team, acknowledging her forensics talent, academic achievement, and community involvement. Natalie also broke a number of AFA records this year by attaining the most AFA final rounds in a career, and by advancing to final rounds at AFA in the most events in a single year. The WKU team also broke a record for Duo Interpretation, advancing all seven entries to the semi-final round. For the second consecutive year **Saeed Jones**, a senior team member, won the national championship in impromptu speaking. Saeed is headed to Rutgers-Newark in the fall, having been awarded an assistantship in their MFA/Creative Writing program. The Forensic Team won its ninth world championship in 10 years in March at the International Forensic Association tournament in London, England, and was crowned world champions in team sweepstakes with a team half the size of second-place George Mason University. The team followed this with the championship of the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament, the largest intercollegiate debate tournament in the nation.

WKU faculty members **Sandra Ardrey**, **Johnston Njoku**, **Clifton Brown**, **Nancy Dawson**, and **Soleiman Kiasatpour** and sophomore Music major **Jessica Lunsford** traveled to Turkey at the invitation of the American Studies Association of Turkey and the U.S. Embassy to organize and sponsor several events in Turkey to give voice and recognition to Turks in the African diaspora. The first event, a conference on the experiences of African Americans, was held February 26-28 at Bilkent University and Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. The WKU participants joined with scholars and artists from several other American institutions to focus on core areas of the African American experience.

The WKU **Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team** won the Regional Championship at the SIFE Competition in Cincinnati on March 28, 2008—the fourth straight year the WKU team has won! The team was one of two selected from a six-team league that will continue to the national finals in Chicago in May. The team presented its new 2008 projects, including the Hilltoppers for Hire

temp agency and International Chamber of Commerce initiative. WKU was praised for the many projects that were ongoing and received several favorable comments from the judges.

On March 1st, 125 middle school girls participated in the seventh annual **Girls-in-Science Day** on the WKU campus.

Ten classes were offered by faculty and staff from the Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Agriculture, Biology, and Geography & Geology departments. All sessions were instructed by women, providing positive role models as well as a wonderful experience for the students!

The Kentucky Associated Press has recognized the news department of the **Public Radio Service of WKU** for outstanding reporting efforts. WKYU-FM received a total of 12 awards, including five first-place plaques. Morning Edition host **Joe Corcoran** earned a first place award for a special report on the Prestonsburg-based Creation Museum. **Kevin Willis** earned a first-place plaque for Best Hard News Feature for his report on "HIV Testing in Jail." **Lisa Autry** won top honors for Best Public Affairs for her report on All Terrain Vehicle deaths. News Director **Dan Modlin** earned top honors for his report on the community cost of methamphetamine abuse. Modlin also earned a first place plaque for Best Public Affairs with a special report on the continuing difficulty of hiring and retaining law enforcement officers in Kentucky. Congratulations to all!

Michael Stokes (Biology) has received the 2008 Special Research Award from the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS). KAS has awarded WKU a \$9,891 grant in support of the research of Dr. Stokes and his students into the poorly-described ecology of small animals in East Africa. The KAS Special Research Award is awarded to faculty at Kentucky higher education institutions, public or private, involved in undergraduate education.

The WKU Department of Engineering hosted Boy Scouts working on the Engineering Merit Badge for the fifteenth annual WKU Merit Badge University in

RAYMOND POFF (P.E. & Recreation Administration) recently published the fourth edition of the Outdoor Recreation Program Directory & Data/Resource Guide. The updated volume includes survey data that helps communicate the size and scope of this sector of the outdoor recreation industry.

February. Faculty member **Robert Choate** served as coordinator, with Engineering faculty members **Chris Byrne**, **Ron Gallagher** and **Kevin Schmaltz** offering project based sessions for the participants. Staff members **Chris Moore** and **Tricia Harper** assisted with the sessions.



Boy Scouts work toward an Engineering Merit Badge

The Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association (KIPA) has named WKU senior advertising major **Savannah Bowles** the Staffer of the Year. Bowles, who is creative director for the WKU student newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*, accumulated the most points in the annual KIPA newspaper contest by winning the advertising design and advertising campaign categories, and placing second in advertising copy and house ads and third in advertising campaigns. Herald staffers **Alaina Matthews**, **Savannah Thomas**, and **Jenni Dickens** also were winners in the advertising categories. In on-site competition, senior **Samantha Hupman** won the deadline editing contest and junior **Nina Bosken** placed second in the deadline writing competition. Hupman is the Herald's copy desk chief and Bosken is features editor.

WKU's mechanical engineering juniors and seniors participated in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) District C Student Design Competition at the University of Missouri in Columbia on March 29. Ten students competed in various professional events at the

conference. **Josh DeArmond** took first place at the ASME Old Guard Oral Competition for his senior team project to design and build a biogenerated greenhouse heating system. In the ASME Post Competition, **Justin Morris** presented his senior team project to design and build a biodiesel facility on campus.

Matthew Kirk, a student in the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, finished third in a statewide health occupations competition. Kirk, vice president of the WKU chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), placed third in Medical Math at the Kentucky HOSA Conference in Louisville and is now qualified to participate in the National HOSA Conference in Dallas in June.

Two WKU photojournalism faculty members and three alumni were honored for their multimedia projects in the annual Pictures of the Year International contest. WKU graduate **David Stephenson** of the *Lexington Herald-Leader* took first place in the Best Multimedia Category for "A New Dawn," a project that followed a mother through drug court. Second place in the category went to "Marlboro Marine," a project by the *Los Angeles Times* and *MediaStorm* that was produced in part by **Chad Stevens**, a WKU graduate and former photojournalism instructor. WKU faculty members **Tim Broekema** and **James Kenney** received an award of excellence in Best Multimedia for "The Women of Evangel,"



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a project about women in Nigeria. WKU graduate **Kari Collins** of the *Concord (N.H.) Monitor* received an award of excellence for her work on "Remember Me," a project about a family facing the death of a loved one. And WKU's Mountain Workshops website received third place in the Best Use of Multimedia Category.

Donna Renaud (Communication) was elected Co-Director of the International Listening Awareness (ILA) South Central Region, appointed Chair of the 2009 ILA Awards Committee, and selected to spearhead the development of a professional certification program for ILA. The annual convention is a celebration of International Listening Awareness Month, which marks the global celebration that was started in the late 1990s by the ILA as an effort to bring greater attention to the critical role listening plays in all human activity.



Robyn Swanson and Joe Stites

At the Fiftieth Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) Professional Development Conference in February, senior music majors **Jim Stites** and **Troy Puckett** were selected to play in the inter-collegiate ensembles, along with other excellent musicians from all of the colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. Stites and Puckett were the only WKU players selected for the prestigious KMEA Ceremonial Brass ensemble, which performed the world premiere of

An Equestrian Fanfare by Skip Gray, written in honor of the World Equestrian Games 2010. Two WKU music faculty members also were honored at the KMEA Conference.

Robyn Swanson received the College/University Teacher of the Year Award, and **Joe Stites** received the Citation for Service Award and the 2008 Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity Outstanding Contribution to Bands Award. WKU Music alumni **Jeanie Orr** and **Doug Van Fleet** also received KMEA honors.