

11-2008

UA35/1 Doers & Deeds Vol. 7, No. 8

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Recommended Citation

WKU Provost, "UA35/1 Doers & Deeds Vol. 7, No. 8" (2008). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 1582.
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November 2008
Volume 7, Number 8

DOERS & DEEDS

Academic Excellence at WKU



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

Julia Roberts, Director of The Center for Gifted Studies, has been awarded a \$2 million grant by the US Department of Education for Project GEMS (Gifted Education in Math and Science). To address the need for a steady supply of science, technology, engineering and math students in Kentucky and the US, Roberts was awarded a five-year grant under the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act. Project GEMS will focus on creating opportunities to generate interest and develop talent in disciplines related to science and math.

On October 17th and 18th, 29 WKU voice majors attended the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student auditions. Eighteen students proceeded to the semi-final round, with two of the students advancing in two categories. Finalists were: **Ellen Murrey** (Glasgow, KY), second place in Underclass Musical Theatre; **Jameson Price** (Glasgow, KY), second place Sophomore Men; **Raeanne McKendree** (Benton, KY), third place Junior Women; **Nic Metcalf** (Bowling Green, KY), first place Upper Class Musical Theatre; and **Rebecca Fields** (Bowling Green, KY), first place Advanced Category.

More than 450 Kentucky high school journalism students from 20 schools came to WKU for the Journalism Scholars Day. Student media advisers from



Julia Roberts

across Kentucky brought their staffs to attend sessions taught by WKU faculty and students as well as other journalism professionals. Bryce Combs gave the keynote address, entitled “Career Planning for the New Communication Frontier.”

WKU’s chapter of Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) joined with millions of people worldwide for STAND UP against poverty on October 17th to break a Guinness World Record for the largest mobilization of people ever. WKU hosted Kentucky’s premiere STAND UP event, a global mobilization to pressure world leaders to end extreme global poverty.

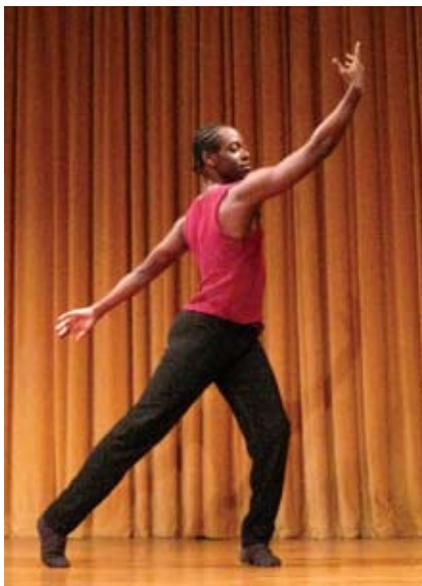
WKU’s GreenToppers have won top prize of \$40,000 in “Chase Go Green” Facebook competition on sustainability issues. Chase, a commercial banking brand of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. presented the award on October 28th. **Seth Cude** (Bowling Green, KY), a senior Geography and Geology major, said the group plans to use the money to support student-led sustainability projects on campus.

Governor Steve Beshear presented WKU with funding for research into a product that could be used to protect horses and livestock from serious disease. A ceremonial check was presented to WKU Research Foundation in the amount of \$26,257 in Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds. The funds will support research conducted on the effects of using a surplus dairy product called Re-borne, to protect horses and other livestock from diseases that negatively impact mortality rates.

Dalton Hubble, a senior at the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky and John Hardin High School, in Elizabethtown, KY, has been selected as a semifinalist in the 2008 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. Hubble was one of only three Kentucky students to be honored in the 2008 competition and the first student at the Gatton Academy to receive recognition.

Brandon Knifley, 22, an interior design major, co-owns Adella's Pet Salon on State Street. The shop opened about two months ago and, despite his age and college-student status, Knifley says he tackles the same frustrations that haunt any business owner. He and his business partner, James Jackson, developed their idea for the pet salon about two years ago. Entrepreneurship at its best!!

Rose Davis, Coordinator for Bibliographic Access and Training for the Department of Library Technical Services at WKU, received The Outstanding Academic Librarian Award from the Kentucky Library Association (KLA) at the annual KLA conference. Davis has held several leadership positions regionally as well as statewide including chair positions for KLA-Academic Section, Ohio Valley Users Group of Technical Services Librarians, Kentucky Southeastern Library Network Users Group, and Kentucky Virtual Library and Voyager Users Groups.



Clifton Brown

WKU's Forensic Team members traveled to Muncie, Indiana, to attend the Ball State "Age of Aquarius" Tournament the weekend of October 18-19. WKU advanced all members to a final round and received the sweepstakes championship, ahead of Illinois State University and Eastern Michigan University.

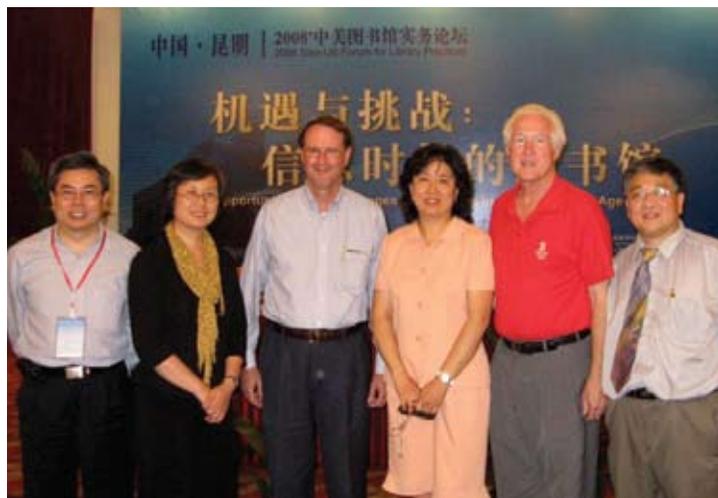
Shane Palmquist, Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering, received an award as the "Outstanding Engineer in Education" for 2008 in Kentucky during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Section of the American Society of

CLIFTON BROWN, Assistant Professor in the Theatre and Dance Department, was invited by the American Studies Association of Turkey (ASAT), to present as one of their keynote speakers for the 33rd Annual International American Studies Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. Brown was asked to choreograph and perform an evening night performance for this conference.

Civil Engineers (ASCE). This event was held at the Frazier International History Museum in Louisville, KY with approximately 70 civil engineers from all over Kentucky.

WKU's Independent Learning is now offering more than 70 self-paced courses via e-mail, online, CD-ROM and print formats. As self-paced learning becomes more attractive to students, enrollments at WKU's Independent Learning have been on the rise. Enrollments increased by 42% in the 2007-08 academic year and are up 25% so far this year.

HAIWANG YUAN, Professor in Library Public Services, led a Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) delegation to China as a member of the association's Board of Directors. The event was part of CALA's 21st Century Librarian Seminar Series which started in 2006. About 200 librarians from over 50 institutions in China attended the forum including Beijing University.



Haiwang Yuan (left) and other members of the CALA delegation

The Talisman has continued its tradition of winning a national Pacemaker award. The Talisman has won 11 national Pacemakers, including four awards since resuming publication in 2003. The Pacemaker awards are considered to be the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism. Talisman advisers are BOB ADAMS and JACKIE BRETZ. FRAN GARDLER serves as the photo adviser.

WKU's Engineering Department and the Warren County Rescue Department conducted a demonstration of a submersible remotely operated vehicle (ROV) . The device is called R.O.S., an acronym coined by the student engineers that means "remotely operated submersible." WKU electrical engineering students, **Jack Wallace** (Springfield, TN) and **Kory Liszt** (Pleasanton, CA) refurbished and altered the submersible's body as well as designed and built all electrical and mechanical systems including the power, control and video. It is the only known fully portable and independently powered remotely operated vehicle among others of similar size and capability. Similar devices of this class and capability cost \$10,000 to \$75,000; the students and support staff were able to develop this device for \$4,000. The Warren County Rescue Department will use the equipment to aid in its water rescue and recovery program.

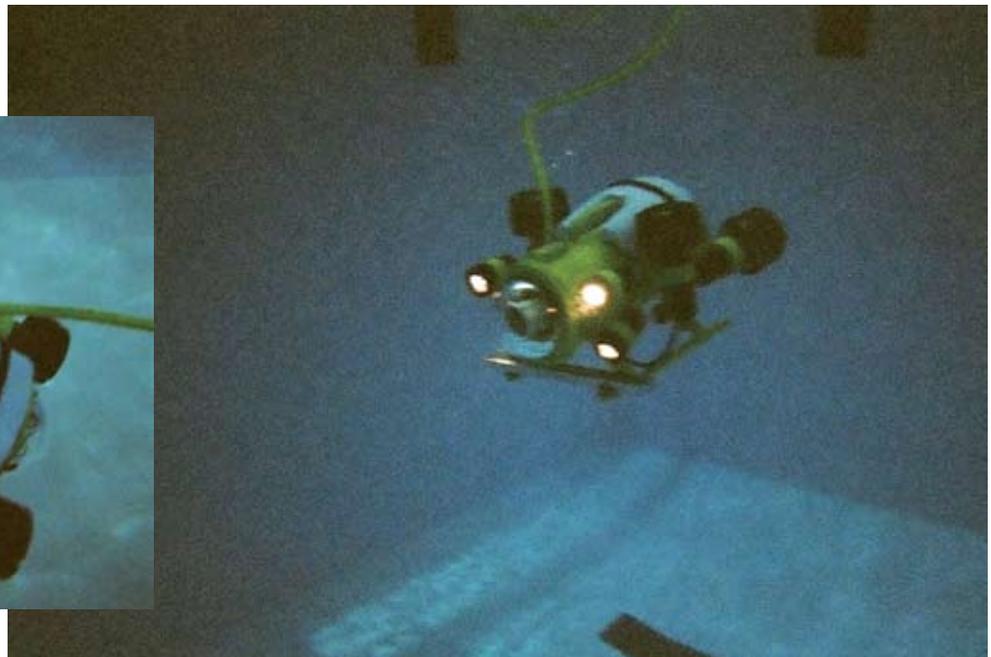
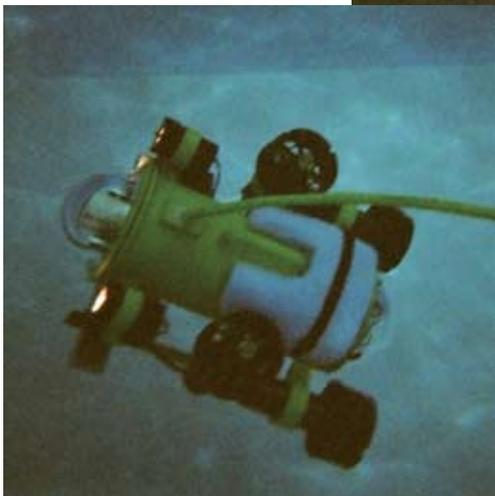


Donald Swoboda

Donald Swoboda, Dean of the Division of Extended Learning & Outreach at WKU has been awarded the Outstanding Service to Continuing Education Award from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). This award is given to an individual who has contributed substantially to the development and maintenance of his or her institution and who has demonstrated service that is recognized and valued by UCEA South.

Charlie Harris, a WKU sophomore from Morganfield, KY, in the Nonprofit Administration (American Humanics) minor program, will complete an internship this academic year with the national organization, the ONE Campaign. The ONE Campaign seeks to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and effort to fight such problems in developing countries.

Susann Davis, Instructor of Spanish, will serve as the President of the Kentucky World Language Association for the next two years.



R.O.S., an acronym coined by student engineers that means "remotely operated submersible"



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Michael Kallstrom, Professor of Music, attended the premiere of his commissioned work, *WHITE WATER*, at Western Carolina University on October 28 by the Smokey Mountain Brass Quintet, a professional ensemble based in North Carolina. Kallstrom gave a pre-concert talk about his new work.

Governor Steve Beshear recently appointed two WKU students to the College Access Work Group’s student committee. **Johnathon Boles**, SGA President from Elizabethtown, KY and **Kevin Smiley**, a member of SGA from Danville, KY were appointed to the committee to work on making Kentucky higher education more affordable. The group is charged with producing reports with recommendations to the governor in the areas of: how to make college more affordable, how to make financial aid more accessible and easier to

understand, how to ease barriers for transfer students going from community or technical colleges to four-year institutions and the best ways to determine appropriate levels of state support for higher education.



Charles Smith

Charles Smith, Science Librarian and Professor of Library Public Services, was invited to give a presentation on the British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace on November 22 at a conference at The Linnean Society of London- the world’s oldest active biological society. The conference celebrates the double occasion of the 150th anniversary of the first presentation of the theory of natural selection in 1858 and the upcoming publication of Smith’s book on Wallace titled “Natural Selection and Beyond: The Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace.”