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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

Western Kentucky University has formed an educational affiliation with the global education services provider Navitas Ltd for the establishment of a University Pathways Program at the Bowling Green campus. Currently, Navitas has 28 international partnerships and WKU is proud to be their first U.S. affiliate. The highly successful Navitas teaching-learning model will allow international students to begin their WKU careers with an intensive first-year program. WKU President, Dr. Gary Ransdell, said Navitas' global presence adds another unique perspective to life at the 103-year-old institution. The partnership is expected to double the number of international students attending WKU over the next decade and provide them with the very best educational transition into the American higher education system. It will also provide special opportunities for both domestic and international students to gain new perspectives that will be critical as they engage in a global society.

Matt Long, a 2002 WKU graduate from Winchester, is one of the stars of the new ABC show "The Deep End." Long's TV and film credits also include "Jack & Bobby" and "Ghost Rider."

Matt Long and Tina Majorino of ABC's *The Deep End*

WKU's Community Engagement House is located on East Eleventh Street in Bowling Green, which will provide four students each year with the opportunity to complete projects in a local neighborhood bordering WKU's campus. **Thang Le** (MBA), **Phuong Vu** (Communciation), and **Greg Capillo** (Philosophy & Mass Communication) are serving as the first students to take part as they use the house's central location to communicate with neighbors, develop projects, and in turn, use their interests and knowledge to make a difference in the area and a better community in which to live.

The American Astronomical Society (AAS) awards the Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Awards to recognize exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students who present at one of the poster sessions at the meetings of the AAS. At the 215th meeting held in Washington, D.C., in January WKU's **Kyle Cook**, a Physics major from Bowling Green, was selected as one of the recipients of this year's award.

WKU's Division of Extended Learning and Outreach has been honored for excellence in Management Practice by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), an international association in lifelong learning. The winning entry, submitted by former DELO marketing manager **Stacey Biggs**, was an online project request form that facilitates saving staff time while increasing effectiveness and efficiency. Julie Coates, Vice President of Information Services for LERN, said that this year's award nominees were among the highest quality ever submitted. WKU's entry was selected from more than 140 nominations from four countries.

Stacey Biggs

Western Kentucky University's doctoral program in educational leadership has selected its fourth cohort of students. The selected students are: **Jennifer Anderson** of Fort Campbell; **Kirk Biggerstaff** of Tompkinsville; **Steven Briggs** of Bowling Green; **Joel Carwile** of Louisville; **Kay Combs** of Louisville; **April Craft** of Lafayette, Tennessee; **Heidi Crocker** of Des Peres, Missouri; **Kim Cunningham** of Bowling Green; **Donna Dietz** of Wingo; **Jennifer Flowers** of Burkesville; **Christopher Gaddis** of Owensboro; **Kristie Guffey** of Smiths Grove; **Terry Hall** of Bowling Green; **Walter Malone** of Louisville; **John Marshall** of Louisville; **Mary Moore** of Bowling Green; **Shahbaz Munawar** of Louisville; **David Oliver** of Shelby Township, Michigan; **Leslie Peek** of Bowling Green; **Jo Shackelford** of Bowling Green; **Rhonda Simpson** of Glasgow; **Douglas Spainhower** of Elizabethtown; **Olympia Stewart** of Murray; **Lee Ann Wall** of Columbia; and **Gary Wiser** of Bowling Green. This program makes it possible for students to remain in their current professional positions while completing the doctoral degree. This fourth group of students began the program in February and will complete it in December 2013.

Dan Opallo, director of marketing for the NBA, visited WKU's campus in December to discuss the use of social network marketing in the NBA's marketing efforts. Opallo spoke in Grise Hall Auditorium about how the NBA is building influence and ties with consumers through an online community.

Several WKU students and faculty attended the Kentucky Academy of Science's 95th annual meeting this past November at Northern Kentucky University. **Kenneth Crawford**, Associate Professor of Biology, received a 2009 Superlative Award for Outstanding Academy Service. Several students received awards in both the 2009 Undergraduate Research Competition and the 2009 Graduate Research Competition.

Three outstanding educators have been selected for the third class of the Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame. The three chosen by a statewide selection committee are **Linda D. Childress** of Cub Run (WKU '72, '74, '79), **Walter Dick** of Cumberland, and **Frances Steenbergen** of Glasgow (WKU '73, '77, '84). WKU was selected as the home of the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame because of its 100-year history in teacher education.

When Governor Steve Beshear signed Senate Bill 1 into law in March 2009, it set into motion events that would impact Kentucky high school students who would seek post-secondary education. A significant part of the legislation requires the development of plans to reduce the number of high school graduates who need developmental classes at the college level by making sure they are ready for college when the graduate. WKU is working with the Green River Regional Education Cooperative (GRREC) and its member school districts to take a leadership role in improving college readiness. This represents how higher education and the school systems will have to work together as partners for the provision of Senate Bill 1 to be successful.

WKU's Applied Physics Institute will be receiving a $2.7 million gift from the U.S. Department of Energy – one of the world's largest scanning electron microscopes. Similar microscopes are typically located at research facilities or military installations. When it is installed this spring, it will be publically accessible.

Applied Physics Institute receives microscope

WKU student Darra Jackson introduces herself in Chinese during the announcement of the Chinese Flagship Institute Pilot Program

WKU is now home for the Chinese Flagship Institute Pilot Program. The Flagship program is an intensive, four-year Chinese language program funded through a Diffusion of Innovation Flagship Partner Planning Grant from The Language Flagship of the National Education Security Program at the U.S. Department of Defense. This undergraduate course of study leads to an Honors degree in a home major and to certified proficiency in Chinese. All students graduating in this program will complete a capstone year of study at Nanjing University and an internship experience in China. WKU has recruited Liping Chen as Academic Director of the Flagship program and an Assistant Professor of Chinese language and linguistics.

Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Director of WKU's Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching, received the 2009 Robert J. Menges Award for Outstanding Research in Educational Development by the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

The College Heights Herald and the Talisman won national Pacemaker awards at the National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas this past October. The national pacemakers are considered the Pulitzer Prizes of college journalism. WKU was the only university to take home national Pacemakers in both newspaper and yearbook competition. The Herald, which competes in the four-year non-daily newspaper category, has won the national Pacemaker 12 times. The Talisman also has won 12 national Pacemakers, including five awards since resuming publication in 2003.

For the second year in a row, members of the WKU Division of Extended Learning and Outreach have received awards from the University Continuing Education Association. The WKU Center for Training and Development and the WKU Summer Sessions office were both recognized by their peers for excellence in the field of Continuing Education.

WKU graduate **Matthew Gerbig**, now known as Matthew Alan, has had a successful acting career since his days on the Hill. The 2000 graduate from Evansville, Indiana, has recently appeared in a holiday Folgers coffee commercial. In addition, he has worked on several network television shows, wrapped up two movies, worked on a new video game for Playstation, and this month will begin production on his first film called "Bowman."

Western Kentucky University has been named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright students. The success of the top producing institutions was highlighted in an edition of "The Chronicle of Higher Education." Two students who recently graduated from WKU won Fulbright awards for 2009-2010, more than any other public higher education institution in Kentucky. **Richard Deem** of Fort Knox received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English as a Foreign Language in Giessen, Germany. He was assisted by **Laura McGee**, Associate Professor and interim head of the Department of Modern Languages. **Katherine Rose Hale** of Nicholasville received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Argentina. She was assisted by **Larry Snyder**, Associate Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program equips future American leaders with the skills they need to thrive in an increasingly global environment by providing funding for one academic year of study, research, or assistant teaching abroad.

WKU Spanish Instructor **Susann Davis** is currently serving her second year as the president of the Kentucky World Language Association.

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At the 2009 Tau Beta Pi Annual Convention, the National Engineering Honor Society voted to approve that a Chapter of Tau Beta Pi be granted to Western Kentucky University. WKU will be completing the lengthy and detailed petitioning process in the minimum time allowed, and a chapter will be officially installed in February 2010.

WKU graduate **Amanda Davis Bogard** has been accepted to the Naval Postgraduate School and will be earning her master's degree in Homeland Security. She is a native of Christian County and received her bachelor's degree in public health education in 2002. Currently she serves as the Branch Manager for Disaster Preparedness at the Barren River District Health Department. The curriculum includes key policies and organizational design problems that future homeland security leaders are likely to confront.

Kentucky Mesonet Station

Marshall Scott, WKU Professor of Trumpet and Director of the WKU Jazz Band, recently recorded original compositions with John Martin, WKU Instructor of Guitar. Their "JMS Jazz Duo" CD represents a collaborative effort to create compositions for the unique combination of trumpet and guitar.

The Kentucky Mesonet is expanding its weather and climate monitoring network to Graves and Trigg counties. In addition, they have reached the milestone of their 50th site agreement. The license agreement is with the Marion County Board of Education with support from the Marion County Fiscal Court. The Mesonet stations collect real-time weather and climate data and transmit the data to the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU every five minutes, 24 hours per day.

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