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Speak Up - It's Leap Year!

by Lynn Niedermeier

As Western Kentucky University's earliest student magazine, *The Elevator*, reminded readers in 1916, February 29 marks the year when "hopeful ladies are supposed to take bold steps," defy the rules of courtship, and propose marriage to the objects of their affection. [more...](#)



echo is a publication for the Western Kentucky University community, produced by the office of University Relations.

E-mail items or comments for *echo* to the editor or call 745-7024.



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Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu

Speak Up - It's Leap Year!

by Lynn Niedermeier

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When last we heard of the bissextile day, better known as February 29, it was the year 2000. Our computers had successfully made the transition to the 21st century, but experts feared that this extra day might yet cause havoc in the world's digital infrastructure.

Tradition, however, tells us that leap year creates even greater fears in the unmarried male. As Western Kentucky University's earliest student magazine, *The Elevator*, reminded readers in 1916, February 29 marks the year when "hopeful ladies are supposed to take bold steps," defy the rules of courtship, and propose marriage to the objects of their affection.



This 1912 postcard depicts a bachelor's anxiety during leap year. Photo courtesy Kentucky Library



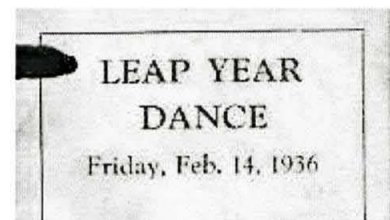
"Don't Let a Chance Slip Girls— This is Leap Year"

Husband-hunters receive encouragement from this 1908 postcard. Photo courtesy Kentucky Library

Some say that this custom originated in fifth-century Ireland, where St. Patrick allowed women to take the initiative every four years after St. Brigid complained to him that they were having to wait too long for husbands. Others credit a Scottish law enacted in 1288 under the unmarried Queen Margaret, which allowed a maiden "liberty to bespeak ye man she likes" during leap year. The knave who refused to marry her and could not prove his engagement to another was assessed a fine.

If anyone ever pointed out to Western's women students that St. Brigid was still a child when St. Patrick died, or that Queen Margaret was only eight when she died, or that legal historians have searched the books in vain for the much-cited Scottish law, they simply ignored these churlish attempts to shrink their social calendars. Although *The Elevator* warned of actual reports confirming that "some maiden has taken unto herself a husband," leap year proposals to young men on the Hill more commonly took the form of invitations to teas, dances and parties. When the guests assembled at these events and the music began, the women continued to do the asking, leaving their dates to worry about becoming wallflowers. A man could expect to have his dance card filled, counseled one young woman in 1932, only if he wore his best suit, plenty of sweet-smelling hair tonic and a smile.

Western's first campus-wide leap year dance, sponsored by the *Talisman* staff and the senior class, occurred in March 1936. The organizers gave women the traditional privilege of choosing their partners for the first half of the dance, but restored rights to the men in the second half. Returning to the campus in large numbers after World



War II, men encountered even more ardent leap year rituals. At the 1948 dance, a sophomore football player defeated nine other candidates for the title "Leap Year Sweetheart," and at the 1952 festivities the "Most Eligible Bachelor," accompanied by two male attendants, received his crown.

In 1937, cartoonist Al Capp added a distinctly American flavor to the leap year tradition. On Nov. 15, readers of the comic strip "L'il Abner" learned of the predicament of Sadie Hawkins, severely challenged in the matter of physical beauty and, accordingly, unable to attract a husband. The next day, her father lined up the local bachelors, and with a shot from his pistol, sent them running. Another shot sent Sadie in pursuit of the slowest among them, who, when caught, was obliged to take her hand in marriage.



Sadie Hawkins Day at the Bowling Green Business University, about 1950.
Photo courtesy University Archives

Almost immediately, Sadie Hawkins Day spread from the fictional town of Dogpatch to college campuses across the country. In 1940, Western students dressed as hillbilly characters from "L'il Abner," enlivened Homecoming festivities with a chase down the football field (now the site of the Ivan Wilson Center). On Nov. 4, 1949, classes at the Bowling Green Business University broke for an hour to allow women students time to capture a date for that evening's dance at Beech Bend Park. Western's 1956 event began once more on the football field, with permission granted the women "to chase your dreamboat into Potter Hall should he seek a haven there." The junior class sponsored the Sadie Hawkins Dance, which featured prizes for the best costumes and instant wedding ceremonies performed by Marryin' Sam, the preacher from "L'il Abner." Though Sadie Hawkins Day became an annual affair, unmarried males still faced double jeopardy every fourth year. Female students whose dreamboats outran them at the "Leap Year-Sadie Hawkins Dance" in February 1964 could try again at the November dance after purchasing tickets at any women's residence hall.

Before assuming that more liberal attitudes toward female initiative have now made the leap year tradition unnecessary at Western, we must consider that it has long been regarded as a harmless fiction. Why would a clever woman wait until leap year anyway, observed the *College Heights Herald* in March 1940, when she could "steer a proposal" out of her victim, almost without his knowing? For even longer, however, women have pointed to the greater fiction in the tradition, namely that they spend every waking hour plotting to trap a husband. If that were the case, asked one, why do they turn down so many of those proposals they supposedly "steer" out of bewildered men?

Perhaps it was actually a man, wishing to avoid the complexities of courtship and the risk of rejection, who asked St. Patrick to let the women bespeak themselves.

As an anxious poet wrote in 1908 of his love interest at Potter College for Young Ladies, Western's predecessor on the Hill:

*I have just one chance, this much is clear,
Whisper to her it is now leap year.*



Tickets for Western's 1959 Sadie Hawkins Dance could be purchased from any member of the junior class.
Photo courtesy University Archives

Lynn Niedermeier is an archival assistant at the Kentucky Library & Museum. She thanks Sue Lynn Stone for her assistance with this article.

Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu

The Naked Truth About Romance Novels

by Kimberly Shain Parsley

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As Valentine's Day approaches, thoughts turn to romance as people anticipate giving and/or receiving flowers, candy and cards. Perhaps some people will even escape into a good romance novel, reading at their desks during the lunch hour with their paperback romance hidden inside a newspaper or scholarly journal lest a colleague catch them engrossed in the latest paperback.

If you belong to this group of closet romance readers, never fear. Ellen Micheletti says romance novels have come a long way since the early bodice rippers, and there should be no shame in enjoying an entertaining read. She should know: Micheletti, senior library assistant at the Educational Resources Center, reviews romance novels for the All About Romance website, www.likesbooks.com in her spare time.

Micheletti said that changes in the romance genre reflect the changes surrounding women in society. She said that modern romance heroines are rarely "impossibly beautiful," and they are no longer always shrinking violets, secretaries or nurses; rather they are more assertive, more diverse and more equal to their male counterparts.

Recently, Micheletti had her 400th romance review published on the All About Romance website. She has become so well known and well respected among not only romance readers, but also romance writers, that one author even named a character in a novel after her.

"I had read some of her books and really enjoyed them, and I had given them really good reviews which she deserved," Micheletti said. "She's quite a marvelous writer."

The author is Barbara Samuel, who writes romances for the Silhouette line of books under the name Ruth Wind. Samuel has recently branched out into hard cover books published by Ballantine.

"Her first book as Barbara Samuel is called *No Place like Home*. In it, the main character, who is a chef, is going to a convention and she runs into a food representative for about two sentences, and the rep's name is Ellen Micheletti."



Micheletti said that romance novels account for over 50 percent of all mass market paperbacks sold. The Romance Writers of America reported that in 2002, romances enjoyed a readership of over 51 million in North America. Sales of romances for that year were \$1.63 billion.

Overwhelmingly, readers of romance novels are women. Micheletti said



Ellen Micheletti is a senior library assistant in the Educational Resource Center and teaches children's literature. She reviews romance novels in her spare time. Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

this is because romances deal with issues that are of interest to women.

“For the most part, the main character is a woman,” Micheletti said. “She is a lot of times in a position of power: She’s the one who gets the prize: She’s the one who has her dreams fulfilled: She’s the powerful one.”

Micheletti said women read romances for the same reasons that men read adventure books wherein the man performs the heroic deed, solves the problem, saves the world and gets the girl. “That’s their wish fulfillment, their fantasy, their fun read. Romance novels fill that position for a lot of women,” she said.

Though romance novels are most appealing to women, Micheletti said that two of her fellow reviewers for the All about Romance website are male, and even some romance writers are men who write either independently or as part of a husband/wife team. According to Micheletti, romance authors Tori Carrington and May McGoldrick are husband/wife teams, and Leigh Greenwood is an independent male romance writer.

A recent trend that shows just how much the romance genre has changed is “chick lit,” which was ushered in by *Bridget Jones’s Diary* by Helen Fielding. Chick lit focuses on a heroine who does not focus on a man, though certainly there is some of that. The main character of a chick lit novel will be just as interested in her career, her family or her friends as she is in the tall dark stranger who keeps giving her the eye.

“Chick lit is becoming a lot more popular,” Micheletti said. “Also, romantic suspense is now a very big seller.”

Micheletti said that many authors of chick lit and romantic suspense are being published in hard cover, leaving behind the world of trade paperbacks.

Micheletti said that genres such as science fiction, mystery and horror have gained a respectability that romances have been denied. As an example, she pointed out that romances, unlike other genre fiction, are rarely if ever reviewed in the newspapers.

“They are like Rodney Dangerfield, they just don’t get much respect.”

Micheletti said there are a few exceptions. After all, “What are *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre* if not romance novels?”

Micheletti said that she thinks one reason for the romance’s lack of respect may be because of the feminine nature of the content, but she believes there’s something else.

“I sometimes wonder why it is that for a lot of people, reading is something that you do either to learn something or to better yourself. It has to teach you something or be good for you,” she said. “I’ve read enough that I know that I could read something like *Absalom, Absalom!* and recognize that it is great literature, but I can also turn around and read *No Place Like Home* for enjoyment, and what’s wrong with reading for enjoyment?”

Micheletti said that the purpose of All About Romance is to provide a



Popular romance writers from Kentucky include Karen Robards, Elizabeth Bevarly & Teresa Medeiros

forum wherein romance novels are reviewed and respected, and where fans can interact with each other.

“John F. Kennedy enjoyed reading James Bond,” Micheletti said, “so if he enjoyed reading for pleasure, why in the world should anyone be ashamed of reading for pleasure.”

Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu

The State of Planning at Western

by Jim Flynn

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Commentary

The issuance of the annual planning progress report, which was released at the Board of Regents' meeting on Jan. 23, is a good time to remind ourselves of where we are with the planning process.

People & Positions

This year the strategic planning progress report appears as a somewhat streamlined version that accompanies an overall institutional annual report, prepared by Assistant Vice President Bob Edwards and his staff in University Relations. As in past years, the progress report gives a quick assessment of how we are doing as an institution in achieving 78 key performance indicators, each of which directly supports one of our strategic goals. Those goals, in case you've forgotten, are

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1. Increase student learning.
2. Develop the student population.
3. Assure high-quality faculty and staff.
4. Enhance responsiveness to constituents
5. Improve institutional effectiveness.



Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

Overall, the planning progress report shows that we are making good advances in most areas. The summary of the levels of progress for each of the performance indicators is as follows:

Achieved: 28
 Exceptional Progress: 10
 Substantial Progress: 20
 Some Progress: 11
 Little Progress: 2
 No Progress: 7

Particularly notable are the number of achieved indicators relating to student enrollment growth (Goal 2), alumni programming (Goal 4), and the successful completion of the Investing in the Spirit Campaign (Goal 5). Likewise, major construction and renovation projects on campus are on track (Goal 4 and Goal 5). Many other performance indicators reflect excellent progress, including alumni satisfaction (Goal 1), minority employment, healthcare benefits and salary equity (Goal 3).



Some of the areas we are struggling with include restoring student/faculty ratio to at least 17:1 (Goal 1); increasing non-traditional student enrollments, attracting GED completers and KCTCS transfers, and increasing retention rates for freshmen (Goal 2); hitting a 20 percent participation rate

among alumni who contribute to the annual giving program, and achieving Tier 1 ranking in our division of the *U.S. News and World Report* annual college ranking (Goal 5). Such indicators will require renewed attention.

Also available for distribution now is a new printed version of the strategic plan, *Challenging the Spirit*. It, too, is streamlined so that it's portable and packable. The new version incorporates changes made since the original printed version of 1998 (although an online version has been updated as needed in the interim). It is important to have a new printed version for lots of reasons—for inclusion with our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmation supporting documents, for example. Universities are expected to have comprehensive plans and planning processes, so we want to be able to demonstrate that we have both of those.

To help us document our planning process for SACS we will rely on our online planning pages and Action Plan forms that departments and units file annually. This year, as department heads and directors know, we have been in the process of updating our online forms to make them easier to use and capable of being maintained by different tech support people (a problem with the older forms). Eric Wolfe, in Network Computing, has designed and mounted the new pages and forms. Our thanks to Eric!

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the University's mission underwent a re-wording last year, and the new version of the mission appears in the newly printed *Challenging the Spirit*. SACS reviewers, I am told, like to check to see if faculty and staff members have any clue as to what the University's mission is. In case it's not on the tip of your tongue, here it is:

Western Kentucky University prepares students to be productive citizens of a global society and provides service and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents.

Short, sweet, and hugely challenging!

Thanks to everyone who participates in the strategic planning process for helping make the process run smoothly (as it does most of the time). As always, if you have any suggestions or comments about the strategic plan or the planning process, please feel free to contact me at james.flynn@wku.edu.

Dr. Jim Flynn is the assistant to the Provost for Planning and a professor of English.

Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu

Why Wait for Cupid?

by Rebecca A. Miles

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Looking for the perfect present for that special someone on Valentine's Day? Tired of overcrowded malls and shopping plazas after a busy Christmas season? The University Bookstore can get you in and out without a hassle and provide you with a wide selection of Valentine's Day treats.

Sherry Blanton, a Bookstore associate, has provided for all of your Valentine needs. "Whether your sweetheart likes plush animals, candy or balloons, you'll have a variety to choose from," she said.

If you'd like one of each, the Bookstore has prepackaged Valentine arrangements, which range in price from \$6.25 to \$10.95. Balloon bouquets, always a popular choice in the past, cost \$8.99 and are also available for free delivery. This year the Bookstore is also carrying silk and perfume roses for \$2.95 each.



Trying to plan the perfect Valentine's Day? Start with a gift from the University Bookstore. Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth



This year, you may be the lucky recipient of a Valentine's Day balloon bouquet. Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

Back by popular demand, the Count the Kisses promotion is going on in the Bookstore. While you're perusing the rest of the Valentine's Day selection, check out the jar full of Hershey's kisses. Fill out a form with your contact information and your guess at how many kisses are in the jar. Only one entry per person is allowed. The person who gets the closest to the correct amount wins a prize package. Last year's winner won: a large stuffed bear in a WKU t-shirt, dinner for two at Applebee's, two passes to the Great Escape movie theater and the entire jar of Hershey's kisses.

If you or your sweetheart prefers a book rather than hearts and candy, each month Sarah Fricks, a senior Bookstore associate who handles the Trade Book Department, coordinates the Author Birthday Sale. Books by authors who were born in February will be discounted by 25 percent. February authors include: Charles Dickens, Judy Blume, John Grisham, Wilhelm Grimm (*Grimm's Fairy Tales*), Victor Hugo, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Norman Bridwell (author of *Clifford the Big Red Dog* books), and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Just in case reading doesn't suit your fancy, Fricks has also coordinated a Gift Book Sale for February. All journals, address books, selected stationery, and more have been discounted by 25 percent.

If you would like more information on what the Bookstore has to offer,



please call 745-2466 or stop by the third floor of DUC, Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu

A Publications Game Plan

by Bob Edwards

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I have always liked analogies. They effectively make a point by drawing similarities between two seemingly dissimilar things. I guess as an abstract-challenged person, a good analogy helps me understand something better or look at it in a new light.

The analogy was between a marketing principle and a football team.

The person making the analogy was comparing how the “look” or image of a university was similar to the “look” of a football team. For the purpose of this example, let’s use Western Kentucky University’s team.

Each player wears the same style helmet. Each player wears the same style pants, shoes, and socks. The same goes for the jerseys. There is one minor difference in jerseys beyond the different numbers. Each jersey has the name of the player stitched onto the back to further identify him.

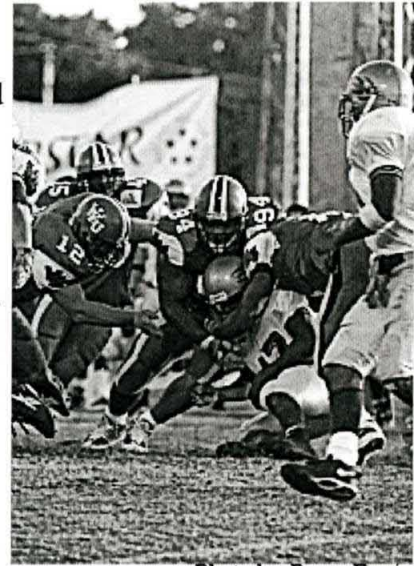


Photo by Bruce Davis



Brochures courtesy Publications Department
is to present a “uniform” look for the University. Just as consistent use of the cupola as Western’s logo can visually tie different parts into one organization, so too can the quality and consistency of University publications.

Does each player physically look alike? Does each player have the same role? Certainly not. Some on the team are on the offensive squad while some are on the defensive squad and even others are on special teams, etc. Within each team, each player has a distinct role or function to perform. The quality of the team members may vary. Some may be all-American candidates, some may be substitutes. But all have the same overall mission.

Here’s where the similarity of the university comes in. A university such as Western has many team members with a variety of different roles and functions. Similarly, different academic programs play different roles. Some programs, such as journalism and broadcasting, are nationally recognized. But all have the same mission. All belong to the same team.

A major objective of an integrated marketing plan is to communicate consistent messages. To speak with a unified voice. Another objective is to present a “uniform” look for the University. Just as consistent use of the cupola as Western’s logo can visually tie different parts into one organization, so too can the quality and consistency of University publications.

The Publications Department in the Office of University Relations currently has an initiative

underway to develop a family of publications for different colleges and divisions within the University. The idea is to take a dissimilar collection of publications and make them appear uniform, but still unique to their particular program. The desired effect is to have publications that reinforce the message and look of Western through a consistent, professional image.

Additionally, the similarity of publications, as well as printed and electronic advertising reinforces messages and over time, helps create a residual effect among our audiences.

So no matter what area is being promoted by a publication, all areas of the University benefit. In this case, the sum is greater than the individual parts. And part of a team.

Bob Edwards is the assistant vice president for University Relations.

Email comments to the editor at: kimberly.parsley@wku.edu



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Architectural & Manufacturing Sciences

Judy Pennington, Office Associate

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Robert Napier, Manager, Glasgow Bookstore

Training/Technical Assistance Services

Betty Robertson, Data Manager

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Sociology

Gerhard Daday, Instructor

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Krista White, Teacher

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21st Century Media

Heather Garcia, Manager, Agency

Academic Advising

Melissa Flowers, Advising Associate

Pamela Wilson, Advising Associate

Agriculture

Laura Summerall, Office Assistant

Allied Health - Dental Hygiene

Rita Akin, BW PT Temp Tech

Art

Kristi Bass, BW PT Temp Maint

Christopher Fox, BW PT Maint

Alex Turner, BW PT Maint

Bookstore

Wanda Quiggins, Manager, Glasgow Bookstore

Jennifer Whipple, Bookstore Associate

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Natasha Widner, BW PT Clerical

Cave & Karst Center Prof Services

Ezzatollah Raesi-Arda, MN Temp PNF

Controller

Jessica Link, Accounts Associate

Counseling & Testing Center

Elizabeth Mohon, Staff Counselor

Extended Campus-Owensboro

Michael Gilmore, BW PT Maint

HVAC Services

Christopher Richardson, HVAC Technician

Institutional Advancement

Carrie Barnett, Director, Development/Libr

Institutional Research

Shelley Hamlet, Office Associate

Douglas Kimbler, Research Coordinator

Intramural & Recreational Sports

Lucas Bartlett, Outdoor Rec/Facility Coord

Network Computing & Communications

Nyan Win, Network Engineer

Police

Stephanie Shreve, Communications Officer

Registrar's Office

Tonya Beck, Office Associate

Special Instructional Programs

Courtney Hatcher, BW Temp Clerical

Melissa Skaggs, BW Temp Clerical

Swimming

Robert Benson, PT PNF

Talisman

Josh McCoy, PT Tech

Staff Promotions

Building Services

Susan Barbour, Group Leader, Building Svcs

Freda Hazel, Group Leader, Building Svcs

Daniel Holloway, Supv, Building Services

Doris McFall, Group Leader, Building Svcs

Campus Services

Joseph Taylor, Sr Groundskeeper

Brian Young, Zone Maintenance Technician

Educational Television Services

Kristi Costellow, Asst Mgr, Interactive Dist Ed

Tamela Maxwell, Manager, Distance Learning

Facilities Management

David Appleby, Sr Skilled Trades Technician

Kimmy Givens, Supervisor, Zone Maintenance

Charles Jones, Asst Supervisor, Electrical

Student Activity, Org & Leadership

Charles Pride, Director, Student Act & Org

Teacher Services

Kaye Gordon, Certification Officer

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Professional Activities

Submissions for entry in the Professional Activities section should be sent to Rebecca Miles, rebecca.miles@wku.edu. All submissions must be sent electronically. Please include name, department, title, current position, name of presented or published work and name of publication or conference. No acronyms or abbreviations please.

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Accounting

Dr. Rick Aldridge coordinated a pretest of the computer-based test of the CPA Exam over a period of three days in late November. The Department of Accounting at WKU was selected as one of only a limited number of sites across the nation to sponsor the pretest.

Dr. Jan Colbert has been named to the following three committees/panels: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA): The Audit Preparation Committee for the CBT of the AICPA Examinations Team; AICPA Virtual Grassroots Panel; and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA): Regulatory Structures Committee.

Dr. Harold Little presented, "Does Formalization of the Budgeting Process Enhance Altruistic Behaviors?" at the 2003 Emerging Issues in Business & Technology Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The paper was published in the conference proceedings. Little also served as track chair for the accounting and finance section of the conference. Also, Little was reappointed to the Bowling Green/Warren County Regional Airport Board for a second three-year term.

Agriculture

Dr. Jenks Britt, Dr. Nevil Speer and Roger Thomas, WKU graduate and now a student at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, co-authored, "Efficiency of Converting Nutrient Dry Matter to Milk in Holstein Herds," in the November 2003 *Journal of Dairy Science*.

Center for Gifted Studies

Dr. Julia Roberts was selected as one of the 50 most influential people in gifted education. She is recognized in *Profiles of Influence in Gifted Education: Historical Perspectives and Future Directions* for her 20-plus years of working with gifted children, their educators and parents coupled with her advocacy work on the local, state, national and international levels.

Curriculum and Instruction

Tracy Inman presented, "So I Have Gifted Students in My Social Studies Classroom- Now What?" at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Jana Kirchner presented, "New Perspectives Through Integration," at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. Terrence McCain presented, "ESL Strategies and Methods for Social Studies Teachers," at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. John Moore and WKU students, Paul Coomer, Rusty Francis, Evelyn Harkins and Chelly Taylor-Stamps presented, "Pre-service Social Studies Teachers' Expectations of Student Teaching and Internship," at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. Judy Pierce and Dr. Pamela Jukes presented, "Teaching about Appalachia Through Children's Literature and Storytelling," at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. Terry Wilson presented, "Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future," at the annual Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference in Bowling Green, Ky.

Geography and Geology

Dr. Andrew Wulff co-chaired a session on "Arc and Continental Magmatism," at the international American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco, Dec. 8-12. He also presented research on "Composite Chemostratigraphy of Lavas From the Casitas Shield, Descabezado Grande-Cerro Azul Volcanic Complex, Chilean Andes," on Dec. 12. The presentation highlighted Wulff's examination of the eruptive history of a large volcanic complex that includes Volcan Quizapu, site of one of the largest volcanic eruptions in South American history.

Music

Mark Berry can be heard on the newly released CD entitled, "Historic Works for Percussion Ensemble (1931-1942)." During the fall semester, Berry coordinated the musical performance and master class of the marimba/percussion group, Grupo Bambuco, on Western's campus. He was also awarded an Action Agenda grant from the Council on Postsecondary Education to start WKU's first Caribbean Steeldrum Ensemble. Berry served as timpani music judge for the 2003 Kentucky All-State auditions, marching-percussion judge at the McClean County High School Marching Band Festival, and percussion teacher for the WKU All-State Help-Session Workshop. Live performances by Berry included an evening of percussion music on Jan. 12 at the Vera McIntosh Theatre in Ann Arbor, Mich. Berry also performed with the WKU Percussion Ensemble as well as other settings at the WKU PRISM concert on Jan. 23.

Dr. John Carmichael was selected by the executive board of the National Band Association to serve as editor of the *NBA Journal*. The Western Kentucky University Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Carmichael, will be performing at the Southern Division College Band Directors National Association Conference on Friday, Feb. 27 at Emory University in Atlanta. The Wind Ensemble has received an invitation to perform in Moscow, Russia from Alexander Demchenko of the Russian Ministry of Culture.

David Gibson directed Gian-Carlo Menotti's "The Medium," for the New England Chamber Opera Series at Berklee College of Music (Boston, Mass.) in January. The company has also commissioned an opera from him to premiere at the same venue in January 2005. Titled "Verlain And Rimbaud," the 90-minute work considers the artistic/personal relationship between the two 19th century French poets.

Physical Education and Recreation

Dr. Raymond Poff was elected president of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education at the 17th International Conference on Outdoor Recreation and Education in Orem, Utah. Also at the Conference, Poff, Steve Hutton (Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, Charleston, S.C.) and Steve Christensen (Carbon County Recreation, Price, Utah) presented, "Building connections: Understanding city and county outdoor programs," and, with Scott Hurst (Brigham

Young University), Leigh Jackson (Western Carolina University), and Jeff Turner (Georgia College & State University) presented, "Partnerships between academic departments and outdoor recreation programs." Poff also presented, "Municipal and county-based outdoor recreation programs," at the 2003 Congress, National Recreation and Park Association, in St. Louis.

Postal & Printing Services

Marshall Gray was elected to the National Association of College and University Mail Services board of directors.



University Libraries Activities

echo Home

A New Look

The Kentucky Library and Museum has completed a seven-month project to improve its website for both researchers and the general public. Visit the site at: <http://www.wku.edu/Library/kylm>.

Commentary

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People & Positions

WILLS: Western's Interactive Live Library Services

As of Feb. 2, accessing library services and resources is even easier with the introduction of a new virtual reference service, called WILLS (Western's Interactive Live Library Service). With this new chat reference service, WKU faculty, staff and students will be able to access library materials and receive a librarian's assistance from home, work or wherever they are located.

Professional Activities

Library Activities

WILLS allows librarians to help users online by answering questions, guiding them through Web sites, electronic databases and other online resources. As the librarian provides assistance, the user can see on his or her own computer exactly what the librarian is doing.

Archive

Editorial Staff

WILLS is easy to access through the Libraries' Website: www.wku.edu/library. Click on the "Ask Us! If you have a question" prompt. Five options appear. Click the WILLS icon and provide the information requested.

This new virtual reference service is an additional way for WKU Libraries to increase user access. At least for the time being, the service will be available 6–10 p.m., Monday–Thursday. If demand increases dramatically over the next few weeks, the hours of service may be increased.

For more information, contact Bryan Carson, WKU Libraries' coordinator of Reference and Instructional Services, (270) 745-5007 or bryan.Carson@wku.edu.

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Black History Month @ Your Library

A Celebration of Kentucky African American Writers

The Book Fest partners are sponsoring this celebration of the written word featuring some of Kentucky's finest African American writers: Marie Bradby, Sheila Williams and Crystal Wilkinson. These authors will read from their books and sign copies.

Sheila Williams, author of *The Shade of My Own Tree*, will appear at the Bowling Green Community College on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m., and at Barnes and Noble on Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. Award winning children's author, Marie Bradby, will speak at the Bowling Green Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 4 p.m. Crystal Wilkinson, author of *Water Street*, will appear at the WKU Glasgow campus on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m., and at Java City on the WKU campus at 7 p.m.

These events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 270-745-5016 or email jayne.pelaski@wku.edu.

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"Artist Always: Erin Brady Worsham"

"Artist Always: Erin Brady Worsham," an exhibit of nine computer-generated prints, will open at The Kentucky Museum, Feb. 7 and run through March 28. The exhibit opening and reception will be Sunday, Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m. at the Kentucky Building. This event is free and open to the public.

Worsham's art is amazing in and of itself; however, it is even more amazing when you learn that the artist, who uses a wheelchair and a respirator, creates her artwork with special software with an adapter, which she operates by raising and lowering her eyebrows.

Technology allows this classically trained artist to continue working after having been diagnosed in 1994 with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease).

For more information, contact Earlene Chelf (270) 745-5263 or earlene.chelf@wku.edu or check the website: www.wku.edu/Library/museum.

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2004 Kentucky Live Series

With the generous support of Lowell Guthrie, Trace Die Cast, University Libraries is able to continue the very popular Kentucky Live presentations, a series of programs dealing with Southern culture.

The 2004 series opens on Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., at Barnes and Noble with a presentation by Dr. Marion Lucas, professor of history and University Distinguished Professor, titled, "John G. Fee: Kentucky Abolitionist and Educator."

On March 11, the featured speaker will be Alice Gatewood Waddell, "African American Artist," and on April 15, "Jesse James" will be presented by author J. T. Stiles.

For more information, contact Brian Coutts (270) 745-6121 or brian.coutts@wku.edu.

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Famous-Barr Used Book Sale

The Famous Barr Used Book Sale is scheduled for Feb. 13-15 at the Bowling Green Public Library Depot Branch. Donations are currently being accepted. For more information, contact Jayne Pelaski at jayne.pelaski@wku.edu, or (270) 745-5016.

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Far Away Places... With Strange Sounding Names

The Far Away Places series presentation on Nigeria, by Dr. Johnston Njoku, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies Department, will take place on Feb. 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1680 Campbell Lane. For more information, contact the University Libraries Reference Office at (270) 745-6115 or web.reference@wku.edu.

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Military Pioneer Anna Mac Clarke Headlines Black History Month Observance

Anna Mac Clarke, a Lawrenceburg, Ky., native, played an important



"Big Wheels Keep on Turnin'" is one of nine works of art in the "Artist Always: Erin Brady Worsham" exhibit at the Kentucky Library and Museum. Art courtesy Kentucky Library and Museum



role in the desegregation of the military in the 1940s, but few may know much about her. Clarke's impact on the military - and women's history - will be better known after a one-woman portrayal of Clarke by Haley S. Bowling of McKee, Ky., on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. at the Kentucky Library and Museum.

Anna Mac Clarke was born in 1919, graduated from Kentucky State College in 1941, and went to work at a Girl Scout Camp in New York State to avoid having to become a domestic worker.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Clarke volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (renamed Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943). During officer's training in Iowa, she led the successful opposition to a proposal to segregate black soldiers into their own regiment.

At Douglas Army Airfield in Arizona, Lt. Clarke made history when she became the first black WAC officer to command a white unit. She gained national attention after her protest against segregated seating in the base theatre convinced the commanding officer to ban segregation on the base.

Clarke died a few weeks later from complications from a ruptured appendix. She was just 24 years old.

Also planned on Sat., Feb. 21, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m., is an art workshop led by Alice Gatewood Waddell for upper primary and secondary school-age children. Participants will design a Black History Month calendar by incorporating drawing, painting and collage. Cost of the workshop is \$10 per person; space is limited so pre-registration is required.

Throughout February and March, the Kentucky Library and Museum will also display an exhibit of 20 photographs taken by Marlow Hazard. The photographs originally appeared in the 2004 Women of Distinction Calendar, distributed by the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission.

Finally, selected items relating to African American History and Heritage will also be displayed in a case located near the second floor entrance to Galleries K & L. Among the items is a photo of Dr. Walter F. Becket, the first African American physician to practice medicine at Bowling Green/Warren County Hospital; items related to State Street Baptist Church; and a tribute to "Aunt" Frances Kersey, a freed slave who operated a successful restaurant and catering business on College Street.

Bowling's portrayal of Clarke is a Kentucky Humanities Council Chautauqua presentation; it is free and open to the public. For more information or to pre-register for the art workshop, contact Lynne Ferguson (270) 745-2594 or lynne.Ferguson@wku.edu or Laura Harper Lee (270) 745-6082 or laura.harper.lee@wku.edu.

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