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## UA11/1 Echo, March

WKU Public Affairs

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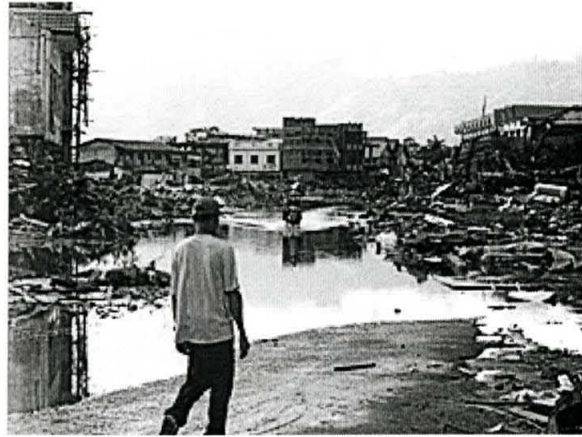
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*echo* is a publication for the Western Kentucky University community, produced by the office of University Relations.

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



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## *Tsunami Relief extends far beyond food and water.*

by Kimberly Shain Parsley

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When Jackie Bretz traveled to Indonesia in January as an Internews instructor, she carried with her more than lecture notes and class outlines.

Bretz, a Western Kentucky University journalism instructor and trainer with the International Journalism and Media Management Training Program, went to Jakarta on Jan. 7, shortly after the devastating tsunami that struck Southeast Asia. Her job was to teach Indonesian journalists and media workers how to effectively communicate with and train students and others in media careers, but she embarked on another mission even before leaving the U.S.

In Banda Aceh, one of the areas hardest hit by the tsunami, 15 of the 16 radio stations were not broadcasting because of damaged equipment, lack of staff, or loss of electricity. To help improve communication in the region, Internews supplied two remote radio-transmitting units. Bretz, along with Shannon York, an Internews program associate, agreed to transport the equipment with them.

“We brought them over with us. We checked them in like luggage to transport them over,” Bretz said. “Because of the complicated method of getting any kind of media equipment into the country, we just thought it would be better if we hand carried this equipment in.”



Remains of Nikoya Radio, one of Banda Aceh's most successful radio stations.  
photo by Wayne Sharpe/Internews

Once in the country, they handed the equipment over to some Indonesians who could see that it got to Banda Aceh. They also delivered hand sanitizer, latex gloves and water purification systems.

“This is a fragile society there. There aren't redundant systems and back ups. There's basically one road in and out,” Bretz said.

Communication was crucial to the rescue and relief efforts. Bretz said the portable radio transmitting units were critical in supporting and extending the broadcasting strength of the one radio station still in operation.

Bretz volunteered to travel to Banda Aceh to assist with the relief efforts, but she was never granted permission by the Indonesian government because they could not ensure her safety in that region.

“It's a very tightly controlled political situation. You had to be



Devastation in an area of Banda Aceh that is about 3 km from the ocean. Roads in Banda Aceh are still being cleared and running water is still only sporadically available in various parts of the city. It is the rainy season in Indonesia, so large downpours and flooding are hampering recovery efforts.  
photo by Wayne Sharpe/Internews





deemed essential before you could travel around in Aceh” she said.

Though Bretz was not permitted to travel to Banda Aceh, some of her Internews colleagues were allowed in to conduct a media survey. She said their reports were of unimaginable devastation. From a communication standpoint, there was no electricity, no telephone service, and little radio broadcasting capability. The only television broadcasts were from Jakarta, 700 miles away.

Bretz said that U.S. AID and the U.S. Agency helped Internews with the cost of the radio transmitters for International Development.

“I was there to do a training, and I think one of the most important things that we can do for Indonesia right now is to help them get back to normalcy,” Bretz said.

She explained that Indonesia is a fledgling democracy that needs all the assistance it can get from the U.S. Students in her classes were very interested in such topics as press freedom and the American democratic system. She said she hopes that the U.S. can become a friend to Indonesia and help them on their path to freedom.

“We can’t forget Indonesia. I have read that the real tsunami in Indonesia is not necessarily the tidal wave, but the corrupt system that they have and the fact that they need to get caught up with the rest of the world in terms of technology and freedom and civil rights,” Bretz said.



Serambi's printing press, which was bolted to a cement floor, was launched more than 30 meters from the building by the tsunami. photo by Wayne Sharpe/Internews

She said that throughout Indonesia, the poor are exploited. There are no public programs for the sick, the poor, or for education. She said that children swarmed taxis in the streets, singing songs and begging for money. There are no public schools in which to educate poor children.

She said that relief efforts are very important right now, but she hopes American support will extend beyond Tsunami relief. She said she is proud that she and Western, through the media-training program, have played a part in bringing freedom to that country. “Those relationships, that’s where the real power is. I think you can win wars, and launch campaigns and sanction governments and societies, but people change basically one at a time.”

*A Global Relief Fund has been established within the WKU Foundation to help provide tsunami relief as well as relief for disasters that might occur in the future. A secure website has been established at <https://secure.ga3.org/03/WKUGLOBAL> to allow those interested to give online.*

## *In the Zone*

by Joy Baum

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Are you looking for a grown-up lunch but short on time? Tired of burgers and fries? There's a place at the bottom of the hill just for you, where servers actually bring you your food.



At the bar, you can enjoy a smoothie and other drinks, but no alcohol is served.  
photo by Roy Biggers

The Red Zone opened last September in Downing University Center, and it's a nice lunch break right on campus.

A cross between a family restaurant and a sports bar, it combines tantalizing entrées such as Barnhouse Chicken, a cheese and bacon smothered chicken breast served with a side item and salad, and a sports-themed atmosphere with munchies like hot wings for the game.

“The best thing about the Red Zone is the atmosphere,” said Chad Hilton, who tends the non-alcoholic bar. “It gives everyone an escape from the normalness of the rest of the food court.”



Red Zone offers several appetizers, including hot wings to enjoy while watching the game.  
photo by Roy Biggers

Faculty, staff and alumni donated most of the WKU sports memorabilia that makes up the décor of the restaurant, and the red banners that used to hang in Diddle Arena have found a new home in the Red Zone.



The theater room offers 19 plush reclining chairs and a 123-inch projection television.  
photo by Roy Biggers

The restaurant is surrounded with 27-inch televisions and a 42-inch plasma television over the bar. There is a theater room that offers 19 plush reclining chairs and a 123-inch projection television. The room is available to rent for parties or for fans to hang out before games.

For faculty and staff, the easiest way to get the food you want in a limited amount of time is to e-mail in your order. Visit [www.wkudining.com](http://www.wkudining.com), put how many people will be coming for lunch or dinner, and what everyone wants to eat, and what time the party will be arriving. The wait staff has the table ready, and the kitchen has your appetizer ready to bring out at arrival time. Voila! No waiting, and food ready to be devoured when you walk in the door. Pretty snazzy for campus dining. No more rushing back to the office because of slow service or because someone ordered a roasted chicken breast that took forever.

Two clubs offer benefits to faculty and staff, the Carryout Club and the Touchdown Club. Join the Carryout Club, and if you have five to-go orders, a free appetizer coupon is thrown in. With a Touchdown Club card, after five lunch entrées, the sixth entrée is free. Faculty and staff also get a 10 percent discount.

Hours for the restaurant are Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday hours are 4:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Email comments to the editor at: [kimberly.parsley@wku.edu](mailto:kimberly.parsley@wku.edu)



## *Bringing History to Life*

by Kimberly Shain Parsley

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Teaching and public service are part of everyday life for many faculty members at Western Kentucky University, but Dr. Judy Pierce, elementary education professor, is combining the two and taking her show on the road.

Pierce regularly gives living history presentations at elementary schools in Warren County. Recently, she gave one such presentation to a group of fourth graders at Potter Gray Elementary. The topic was Kentucky in the Civil War—a topic the students won't read about in their social studies books.

Pierce said that what she does is go to schools and tell stories.

"I love storytelling. I think it is one of the most interesting and challenging instructional tools that a teacher can use."

Pierce dresses in costumes for her presentations. For the students at Potter Gray, she wore the uniform of a Confederate soldier. She also has costumes of a Civil War era nurse and a slave costume, which she wears when she tells about John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.

Pierce said she began giving the presentation five years ago. "A kindergarten teacher at Warren Elementary School had a very diverse class and asked me for a suggestion, and I said story telling."



Dr. Pierce explained to students that although Kentucky voted to remain neutral during the Civil War, sympathizers for both sides were active in the commonwealth.

Pierce went to the class and told stories to the kids and taught a lesson. "Word spread from there," she said.

Shortly thereafter, she was asked to tell a story about the Civil War. "Ever since that time, I have been sharing all types of stories about the Civil War," she said.

Pierce is interested in the Civil War, and enjoys teaching students about that period. Popular topics include Kentucky in the Civil War, the Underground Railroad in Kentucky, female soldiers in the Civil War, nurses of the Civil War, and occasionally a Kentucky Civil War battle.

"Whatever a particular teacher needs, that's what I do," she said.

Three years ago, Pierce said she gave 62 living history presentations. Most were given to elementary school students, but some were during area battle reenactments.



Dr. Judy Pierce holds the attention of 60 fourth graders at Potter Gray Elementary with her stories about Kentucky's role in the Civil War.  
photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

“It’s instruction, but it’s done in a different way,” Pierce said. “It makes it come alive.”

Pierce has combined her love of Civil War history and storytelling in another way. She has written two children’s books, which are awaiting publication. One involves a female heroine in Virginia, and the other is a chapter book about a slave who helps 900 other slaves escape to freedom.

In addition to the Civil War, Pierce also gives presentations on Appalachian folktales, folktales in general, and other topics. Once, she said a teacher asked her to tell a story that would help students understand economics for their CATS (Commonwealth Accountability Testing System) test. She used cookies, a teapot, and a log house as props and made up a story.

“We took cookies and decorated them so that the third graders could understand about assembly lines,” she said. “We also talked about the price of the cookies and about how much we should sell them for. If they were 49 cents for twelve, and someone bought three bags, what would be the total cost? It was a combination of social studies and math.”

Pierce teaches college students the value of storytelling as well. She requires them to teach a lesson through storytelling.

“They have to teach a concept of social studies,” she said. “They collaborate with the classroom teacher where they are doing their field experience.”

The students videotape their story presentation, and Pierce issues a grade for the project based on the tape.

“I wish more teachers were aware that they could really make their instruction come alive with storytelling,” Pierce said. “We’re all story tellers.”

Email comments to the editor at: [kimberly.parsley@wku.edu](mailto:kimberly.parsley@wku.edu)





***WKU Geoscientists Initiate New China Cave Research Project***

by Tommy Newton

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Western Kentucky University geoscience faculty and students have begun a new cave karst research project in China's Hunan Province.

At the request of the local government in the city of Chengzhou in southeastern Hunan, a group from WKU's Hoffman Environmental Research Institute is studying the karst area that contains Wanhuayan, or Thousand Beauties Cave, during several trips to China this winter.

Wanhuayan is a well-known tourist cave where visitors travel in one entrance and out another, according to Dr. Chris Groves, who directs the Hoffman Institute within WKU's Applied Research and Technology Program. Dr. Groves recently visited Wanhuayan and other nearby caves and met with Chinese scientists and officials to plan the project. The exit of the tour leaves the cave by climbing up through a spectacular 260-foot deep shaft.



A joint WKU/Chinese team is currently in China exploring and mapping Songjia Dong, or Song Family Cave, in eastern Hunan. photo by Chris Groves



Chinese scientists try to avoid a swim in Thunder Cave. photo by Chris Groves

The Chinese contacted the WKU group with a request to organize an expedition to explore and map side passages in the cave that have not been completely explored, as well as other nearby caves that might connect to Wanhuayan.

"This is a great situation because a project like this allows our group to explore and study great new Chinese caves, while simultaneously providing a service to the local government there," Dr. Groves said.

The WKU group also will conduct fluorescent dye tracing studies to gain more information on the routes of the area's underground river systems. Several caves in the area have never been entered because the local people lack the ability to negotiate many entrances that consist of deep vertical shafts, Dr. Groves said.

The officials hope that discoveries of new areas in the cave will allow them to further develop new tours in the cave, eventually to attract additional tourists to the area, he said.

Like other parts of southwestern China's rural karst regions, the area is relatively poor, and the ability to attract additional tourists to the area offers a potential resource for sustainable economic development. About eight million people in the southwest China karst region live below China's poverty level, which is defined as an income of 625 Chinese yuan, equivalent to about \$75 per year.



WKU's Pat Kambesis will lead a nine-person expedition to the Wanhuyan area in early March. The expedition team will include WKU geoscience graduate students Andrea Croskrey and Ben Tobin as well as several of Dr. Groves' Chinese colleagues from the Institute of Karst Geology of China in Guilin.

WKU scientists have collaborated on numerous projects with the Institute over the past nine years.

Dr. Groves said the projects have evolved from purely basic research (understanding the fundamental behavior of how karst landscapes form, for example) to a more applied model, where research questions are directed toward solving problems on human quality of life.

In the spring of 2004, Dr. Groves traveled to China to organize an expedition to western Hunan Province where WKU graduate students and other experienced cavers from around the United States explored and mapped a cave system to aid Chinese geologists and engineers with the construction of an underground dam/reservoir system that, if ultimately successful, will make water more readily available to tens of thousands of very poor residents of villages on a high plateau above the cave system.



Chinese scientists undertake a reconnaissance of Coffin Cave, western Hunan. A WKU team returned to explore and map the cave, finding deep vertical shafts within.  
photo by Chris Groves

In the village on the plateau where the WKU caving expedition stayed, for example, during the region's winter dry season residents can spend up to several hours per day walking to small springs to obtain drinking water. The cave surveys required descending deep pits by rope, as well as the first American cave scuba diving ever carried out in China.

“In China in particular I've gone over there to look at basic research questions like how do caves form and what's happening to CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Then I realized at the same time we're going to these caves I look around and see a village with average salary of \$60 a year,” Dr. Groves said. “I look around more and more and see that we're spending a considerable amount of resources – both financially and intellectually – to look at relatively esoteric questions when we could be taking the same energy and applying it to how we get better water supplies for people.”

Email comments to the editor at: [kimberly.parsley@wku.edu](mailto:kimberly.parsley@wku.edu)



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**Professional Activities****Professional Activities**

*Submissions for entry in the Professional Activities section should be sent to Joy Baum, joy.baum@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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**Library Activities****Athletic Media Relations**

Brian Fremund published an article entitled "Hoops On The Hill -- A Storied Tradition" in *Street & Smith's Special Publications' Greatest College Basketball Programs of All Time*.

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**Archive****Music**

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David Paul Gibson premiered his third opera "Verlaine and Rimbaud" in Boston this past January.

Paul Hondorp was named "College/University Teacher of the Year" for 2004-2005 by the Third District of the Kentucky Music Educators Association. Together with the WKU Women's Studies Program, he hosted a lecture/recital entitled "Women Composers: Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel," with Dr. Sean Wallace of the University of New Orleans and the WKU Chamber Singers.

Michael Kallstrom performed his composition, "Dreams and the Shore", for the Florida Flute Festival in Daytona Beach.

Michael Kallstrom's compositions "Starflame" and "Headbanger" were played by the TransAtlantic Horn Quartet in London, England in January for a live BBC radio program that was also simulcast via the BBC's Internet site.

Dr. Heidi Pintner hosted the Flute Society of Kentucky Annual Festival at WKU with guest artist Rhonda Larson.

Heidi Pintner, Michael Kallstrom and Mark Berry premiered three recently commissioned works at the Flute Society of Kentucky Festival at WKU and at the Florida Flute Fair in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Robyn Swanson received the Distinguished Leadership Service Award, the highest recognition bestowed by the Kentucky Music Educators Association, at the annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., in February.

**Public Health**

Dr. Ritchie Taylor was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Safety and Health Network, Inc. (<http://www.kshn.net/>)

**Sociology**

Dr. Douglas Clayton Smith and Dr. James Grimm, presented "Effects of Managed Health Insurance on Physical and Emotional Well-Being in South Central Kentucky," "Effects of Managed Health Insurance on Physical and Emotional Well-Being in Rural Pennsylvania," and "Health Insurance,



Health Care and Well-Being in Rural America" at the annual meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association in Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 6-8.

Douglas Clayton Smith received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southern Rural Sociological Association at its annual meeting in Little Rock, Ark.

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The "Picture Yourself With Martin Luther King, Jr." mural was started by participants at the Kentucky Library and Museum on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day under the direction of Lynne Ferguson and Alice Gatewood Waddell. Participants at the Warren County Regional Detention Center and Girls, Inc completed it. This acrylic on canvas mural will be exhibited at The Kentucky Museum through April 30.

### *U.S. Bank Celebration of the Arts 2005 Open Art Exhibition Reception and Awards*

You are invited to the USBANK "Celebration of the Arts 2005 Open Art Exhibition" reception and awards ceremony from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturday, March 5 at the Kentucky Building, Western Kentucky University.



Additional support from The Dorothy Grider Art Exhibit Fund and the College Heights Foundation.

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### *Silk Painting With Laura McGee*

This is a five-hour workshop for beginners Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Students will be introduced to mixing colors, salt technique and line drawing with gutta as well as design concepts for silk scarves. Fee is \$75 for Library/Museum Associates, \$90 for nonmembers. Fee includes all supplies and materials, including two pieces of silk to paint. One is an 18" x 18" square for framing or to sew for a pillow top; the other is a silk scarf (either 30" x 30" or 9" x 54").

Workshop space is limited; pre-registration is necessary and **must be made by March 2**. If there are too few enrollees, the workshop will be cancelled.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Lynne Ferguson (270) 745-2594 or [lynne.ferguson@wku.edu](mailto:lynne.ferguson@wku.edu).

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*Integra Bank Series Faraway Places*

March's FARAWAY PLACES program is scheduled for 7 - 8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 17, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on Campbell Lane. The topic will be "Cyprus" and Dr. Richard Keyser, assistant professor, WKU history department, will be speaking.

Integra Bank underwrites this series of programs, and all programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Brian Coutts (270) 745-6121 or [brian.coutts@wku.edu](mailto:brian.coutts@wku.edu).

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