Winter 2011

University College Connection Winter 2011

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University College has been busy, as you can see from our newsletter! Please take a moment to look at what we’ve been up to. Feel free to use our clickable links. Hopefully this will give an opportunity to learn more about some of the programs that make up University College.

**WELCOME!!**

Jessica Gilland joins University College as the Budget Manager. She comes to us from Academic Affairs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact her at Jessica.Gilland@wku.edu or 745-4000.

We Are Moving!

University College Dean’s Office will be moving from Cherry Hall, Room 229 to Tate Page Hall, Room 201. No absolute date has been determined. We will send out a notice once we are settled in our new home.

**Regional Mail**

University College is responsible for getting mail from the Bowling Green campus to the regional campuses. If you have an item that needs to go to the Commonwealth School, Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, Radcliff, Glasgow or Owensboro campuses, you may call our office (745-3570) by 12:00 p.m. for same day pick-up. You may also drop off your mail at: Cherry Hall, Room 229. (This will change to Tate Page Hall Room 201A once our move is completed.) Please CLEARLY label the mail with the person’s name, campus, building name, and room number. The Glasgow and Commonwealth School courier runs daily. The Owensboro courier runs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Items for Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, and Radcliff are delivered by UPS. Please be mindful of the schedule when making delivery requests. Your cooperation is appreciated!

**Where’s Big Red?**

Big Red (like the image to the left) is hidden somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to find him and you win a University College travel mug! Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and tell us where you found him!

The next newsletter will be distributed in May. Please feel free to submit items for the newsletter anytime. Email submissions to: wendi.kelley@wku.edu.
The article below was taken from the Turret newspaper, By STAFF SGT. JOHN ZUMER, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs, January 11, 2011:

Under the watchful eyes of their commanders and noncommissioned officers, Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, are heading overseas from Fort Knox in numbers not seen here since World War II.

Leading the way for the brigade are elements of the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, who will be followed almost daily over the next few weeks by elements from all six battalions that make up the roughly 3,500 Soldiers of the 3-1 IBCT.

“The cavalry is on (its) way,” said 6-4 Command Sgt. Major John Brownell, as he watched his troops complete final preparations for travel Dec. 28.

The Soldiers of the 3-1 IBCT, also known as the Duke Brigade, are heading to eastern Afghanistan for a one-year deployment. Their mission will be to assist the Afghan National Security Forces in protecting the Afghan people, neutralizing the insurgency, and setting the conditions necessary for successful transition of regional control to the Afghan government.

Duke Brigade Soldiers will deploy over the next few weeks, and replace the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
Gamma Beta Phi Honor’s Society Serves Elizabethtown Community

Gamma Beta Phi is an honor’s organization open to WKU students with a 3.0 or greater GPA. This organization is based on three principles of service, character and scholarship. In fulfilling the principle of service, the organization adopted a community organization to serve for Fall 2010. Students contacted Spring Haven Domestic Violence shelter in Hardin County, KY to ask about their needs. Two areas were identified by program staff. First, they wanted to host an event for the children of Spring Haven and they needed personal products for the women and children as they came into the shelter. With that as their mission, Gamma Beta Phi members worked to fulfill those needs.

On October 23, 2010, the group sponsored a fall festival for the children at Spring Haven. Along with the Gamma Beta Phi members, daughters, mothers and friends of the members helped with the activities. The activities included face painting, making masks, bag and cookie decorating, an outdoor pumpkin hunt, and storytelling. The most exciting part of the afternoon was a horse provided by a friend of Spring Haven. As a memento of the day, the children had their picture taken on the horse and it was framed. In discussing the event, the volunteer services coordinator noted it was the best volunteer experience during her tenure at Spring Haven.

During the months of October-December, students also collected personal products for the shelter to restock their shelves. Donation boxes were placed at the three WKU locations in Hardin County. Items donated included shampoo, soap, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. For this activity, Gamma Beta Phi partnered with a local Girl Scout troop and a book club to ensure enough products were collected. By all measures, the donation drive was a success as hundreds of items were collected.

In a ceremony held on January 13, 2011 members were officially inducted into the organization. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Dr. Ronald Stephens, Associate Dean and Director of WKU Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Ft. Knox. He noted the importance of organizations like Gamma Beta Phi in promoting academic excellence and service to community.

Members for 2010-2011 include: Ebony Ashley (Treasurer), Alisha Bryant, Teresa Coffie, Mary Ruth Drescher, Sharon Farris (President), Laura Lamb, Elizabeth Nichols, Pamela Phillips (Secretary), Geneive Rayburn, Tonya Robinson, Carole Runyon, and Marsha Wise (Vice President). The faculty advisors are Donielle M. Lovell, Department of Sociology and Vivian Robertson, Department of Elementary Education.
2010 Summit Awards
Brenda Bush (’76) is a proud WKU alumna. She made her career in state government and lived in Frankfort for over thirty years. Since her retirement, she has returned to Barren County to be closer to her family, especially her mother, Velma Martin Bush. Brenda has become one of the most active members of the Barren County Chapter of the WKU Alumni Association. She attends all the meetings and is often the first to volunteer for events held in Barren County, especially when they are held at WKU-Glasgow. Brenda is actively involved in community activities, is a supporter of the arts, and has participated in the Alumni College. She is a shining example of what is means to give back to the university, and a tremendous asset to WKU-Glasgow and the Glasgow-Barren County community.

Dr. James McCaslin, Brenda Bush, Dr. Gary Ransdell

Guest Speaker
Traci Peppers, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney for Barren and Metcalfe counties, spoke to David DuCoff’s SOCL 332 (Juvenile Delinquency) on transferring serious offenders from juvenile detention facilities to adult detention facilities.

Traci Peppers, David DuCoff

In addition, the Juvenile Delinquency class went on a field trip to Columbia, KY to the Adair County Youth Detention Facility.

FASFA Workshops
During the month of February, WKU-Glasgow will be holding FASFA workshops each week to assist students. The specific dates are: February 2, 10, 15, 23, and 28. Each workshop will last from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dynamic Leadership Institute
Phases III and IV met at Colton’s Restaurant for their semester end banquet in December. Michelle Heil, Community Representative from the American Cancer Society, spoke to the group on philanthropy.

Pictured are: Dr. McCaslin, Erica Anderson, Candice Simpson, Hunter Williams (with DLI), Brittney Wilkinson and Sarah Huffman.

Study Abroad
Nine WKU-Glasgow students traveled to Ecuador during the Winter Term on an agricultural study abroad experience. They were accompanied by 9 students from the Bowling Green campus, Dr. David Coffey, Dr. Melissa Stewart, Kristie Guffey and a dentist from Winchester, Kentucky.

The group left the winter cold of Kentucky for the warm, tropical conditions of South America. They arrived in the capital of Ecuador and experienced the art, architecture, churches, and culture of Quito. The group joined Dr. Rankin Skinner, a dentist from Winchester, in the city of Santo Domingo. There the students and leaders of the group learned how to administer dental sealant to the teeth of children and adults in the area. Dr. Skinner and Partners of the Americas have the combined goal of improving the overall health of teeth in the children of Ecuador. The students also went to two orphanages, two schools, and a small coastal village where they applied the dental sealant and gave each child a toothbrush. The service learning project was magnified by the overwhelming majority of students who are now donating money, time, and dental supplies to the next study abroad trip that will be leaving on March 2, 2011.

After experiencing the magnificent mountains and volcanoes of the Andes, the group travelled to the tropical Pacific coast of Ecuador. They visited a bamboo farm and also witnessed the cultivation of pineapple, cacao, beef cattle, palm oil, and hearts of palm. Additionally, they visited fishing villages, local markets, and witnessed a local group of indigenous people in their native culture. As a culminating experience, the students walked on the equator and conducted exciting scientific experiments that proved they were in the middle of the world.

Lashelle Courtney, a WKU-Glasgow Pre-Pharmacy major, summarized the trip by writing, “To see mountains that touch the clouds, to witness farms and plantations of bamboo, bananas and palm oil, to be indulged into lifestyles that are new and different from our own, to touch peoples’ lives and have them touch ours right back; the study abroad trip to Ecuador was the trip of a lifetime.”

Agriculture freshman, Josh Dennis and junior, Drew Peden applying dental sealant.
The entire WKU – Glasgow agricultural group 14,000’ high in the Andes Mountains.

Left to right (bottom row): Elizabeth Maestle, TJ Mann, Kristie Guffey, Lashelle Courtney, Courtney Houchens, Megan Bailey.

Left to right (top row) Roy Ratliff, Christy Violette, Erik Brown, and Drew Peden

Left to right (top row) Roy Ratliff, Christy Violette, Erik Brown, and Drew Peden

Christmas Parade

Each year the Glasgow Barren County Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade has included a float created by the WKU-Glasgow Associated Student Body. This year also saw the WKU-G ASB enter a float that won 1st place in the School Division and also won the Jim Moody Award for best music. The float this year was *A Christmas Story*.

Chantell Jessie, Tiffany Miller, Johnathon Daniel, Lisa Boswell (faculty advisor), Shelly York, Erica Anderson
WKU-O students, faculty, and staff joined in the community Christmas parade on November 20th. The Owensboro Christmas parade is one of the largest parades in the state each year! The 2010 parade had more than 100 participants, comprised of school groups and organizations, churches, businesses, and community groups. The theme for the 74th annual Christmas parade was “A Christmas Story.”

WKU-O December graduates were recognized at a reception on December 17th for their accomplishments. The reception was attended by graduating students and their families, as well as faculty and staff.

On January 13th, Big Red and the WKU-O graduate advisor, Lewatis McNeal, attended two Burns Middle School basketball games. Between games students enjoyed shooting baskets with Big Red. The games brought awareness to supporting children with disabilities. Half of the proceeds collected went to Two Rivers Buddy Ball, which provides sports programming to children with disabilities ages 8-21, and the other half went to the Kelly Autism Program in Owensboro.
Effective Principles and Practices of Service-Learning Workshop
Tuesday, March 15th
2:30 – 4:00pm
DUC 226
Register online: [http://www.wku.edu/alive/servicelearningworkshop.html](http://www.wku.edu/alive/servicelearningworkshop.html)
For more information: [Nadia.deleon@wku.edu](mailto:Nadia.deleon@wku.edu)

Are you considering developing a service-learning component for your class?
Have you tried using service-learning and are looking to bring it up a notch?
Do you have years of experience in service-learning to share with others?

Join us to learn more about Effective Principles Practices of Service Learning.
Workshop content to include:

- **Discipline-Specific Service Learning: Curricular Connections**
- **Collaborative Service Learning: Partnership and Reciprocity**
- **Community Development through Service Learning: Empowerment and Sustainability**
- **Transforming Experience into Learning: Tools for Reflection**

**ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships: We Are Here to Help You!**

You will also have the opportunity to:

- Share your own experiences and learn from other faculty who utilize service-learning in their courses.
- Learn more about available resources for service-learning, including topic and discipline-specific materials and publications.
- Brainstorm about the future of SL at WKU, the role of community partners, and the ALIVE Center.

Workshop will include a handbook with information, how-to-guides, useful materials, templates, information on community needs and organizations, contact information, and more!
FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The ALIVE Center is accepting proposals for the Community Partnership Incentive Awards. The next deadline for submission is April 1, 2011. Applications, program guidelines, and examples of previously funded projects can be found online at www.wku.edu.alive/cpia.html.

If you are planning to submit a proposal, contact Nadia DeLeon, WKU ALIVE Center, at 270-782-0966 or nadia.deleon@wku.edu. In addition, you may also contact Courte Voorhees, WKU Interdisciplinary Studies, at 270-745-2093 or courte.voorhees@wku.edu, particularly for community-based research projects.

Engage & Exchange Challenge
University College Newsletter – March 2011

Nearly 40 students registered to participate in the 2010 Engage & Exchange Challenge, and the ALIVE Center hopes to receive at least 50 submissions this year. Students may submit pieces for the Engage & Exchange Challenge until 4:00pm on March 18, 2011.

This challenge to students to highlight their engagement experience in an effort to exchange ideas on how to impact the community, allows students to submit work in writing, still photography, and/or multi-media reflective of their experiences or experiences of their peers in community involvement. Any instructors with coursework related to service-learning or community engagement are encouraged to share this information with their students who may be interested. Prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place in each category ranging from $100-$300. We would like for students to take this opportunity to reach beyond volunteerism and be able to demonstrate significant community impact or public problem solving.

To download official rules, visit www.wku.edu/alive.

Engage & Exchange Challenge
Submission deadline
March 18, 2011 at 4:00pm

Prizes
1st Place - $300
2nd Place - $200
3rd Place - $100

Submission Categories
Writing
Still Photography
Multi-Media
In the Career Services Center (CSC) students often ask us ‘What can I do with this major?’ Our goal is to help them answer this question so they can be passionate about their career!

The CSC currently has two career counselors serving as liaisons to University College:
Adrienne Browning (adrienne.browning@wku.edu) works with those students within University College who are Exploratory and General BIS majors. She also travels to each of the Regional Campuses on a monthly basis to meet with students one-on-one and give classroom presentations.
Elizabeth Heller (elizabeth.heller@wku.edu) works with students majoring in Computer Information Technology, Systems Management & Leadership Dynamics. She also counsels with those students attending Commonwealth School (UCCS) and has weekly office hours at UCCS.

We are happy to help UC students in a variety of ways! Refer students to us if they:
- are considering switching majors
- want to know “what can I do with this major?”
- are seeking internship or employment opportunities
- need resume or personal statement assistance
- would like to participate in a mock interview

We are also available to give classroom presentations. We have many topics available and can tailor a presentation to fit your class.
We look forward to working with you and thank you for your support of the CSC!

Adrienne & Elizabeth
Career Services Center, DUC A230
wku.edu/career
Follow us on twitter @ http://www.twitter.com/wkucsc
When Robert Putnam concludes his famous work *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, he details several challenges to American communities in fostering civic renewal. One of those challenges reads:

"Let us find ways to ensure that by 2010 Americans will spend less leisure time sitting passively alone in front of glowing screens and more time in active connection with our fellow citizens. Let us foster new forms of electronic entertainment and communication that reinforce community engagement rather than forestalling it."

The Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility has created a new program starting this spring that will meet the Putnam challenge. Starting in March, the ICSR will host the first *Wii™ the People Bowling League*. Using the Nintendo Wii™ bowling game, teams will come together to foster civil discourse, find common ground with others, and have fun.

Each week, teams will be given a contemporary topic to discuss while they bowl. Instead of focusing on the differences that the teams might have, the teams will cooperate to build an agreement list pertaining to the given topic. Through this fun experience, participants will realize that there is much more common ground between groups than may be perceived.

The league starts on March 15 and will be played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the ICSR (Garrett 109). There will be a championship game on April 12 and a prize for the winning team. If you are interested in fostering civic renewal, creating a team, and being crowned the first *Wii the People Champions*, please e-mail icsr@wku.edu, visit wku.edu/icsr or call 745-3218 for more information.
ICSR Launches Public Achievement Pilot Program for Commonwealth

**Democracy. Power. Diversity. Self and Other.** These concepts are some of the many that students in Bowling Green are learning and putting into action this semester. A national youth initiative, Public Achievement instills the idea that societal issues and challenges are everyone’s responsibility. Through public work, youth become effective civic and political actors, learn to think and act as citizens, and recognize that they are not citizens in deferral. With the assistance of coaches, students use public problem-solving techniques to navigate through a self-identified community issue. As “civic co-creators” they actualize their own power to affect change within their community and beyond; learning to become active producers rather than consumers of democracy.

Committed to the principles of Public Achievement, coaches are WKU students trained in the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility’s (ICSR) Public Problem Solving course. Working collaboratively with the Bowling Green Independent School District, three teams of coaches are leading two groups of third grade students at T.C. Cherry Elementary and tenth graders at Bowling Green High School. One group at T.C. Cherry will spend this semester addressing animal rights and cruelty, while another remains close to home by tackling the issue of playground litter and neighborhood upkeep. Passionate Bowling Green High School students will delve into the systemic issues of poverty in Bowling Green and discover ways to combat it. With their infectious high energy, these youth have the drive and promise to accomplish great tasks this semester and in the future.

For more information, contact Lindsey Ardrey at lindsey.ardrey@wku.edu.
BIS Featured Student

Rebecca (Becky) Tracy has been inducted into the 2010 WKU Hall of Distinguished Seniors. She is a stellar student who is obtained the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) with an emphasis in Business and the Financial Planning Certificate from the Gordon Ford College of Business. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in December 2010.

She grew up living and working on a rural farm in Glasgow, Kentucky. Her community service began with 4-H and she graduated as Salutatorian at Austin-Tracy High School in 1973. She married James Tracy and continuously worked as an Administrative Assistant in industries such as manufacturing, the legal profession, and agriculture. When their children, James Curtis Tracy and Betsy Ann Tracy, graduated from college, Rebecca requested to re-enroll at Western in the spring of 2006. Within five years, while maintaining a family, a small business, and periodically working full-time for others, she demonstrated a first-rate work ethic and graduated in 2009 with “two” Associate of Arts Degrees with High Distinction: “Office Systems Technologies” and “Business Technology: Office Management.” In 2010, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a “business” emphasis in her Bachelor Degree of Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as a “Financial Planning Certification” from the Gordon Ford College of Business. In addition to academic recommendations, she won 2nd Place in the 2009 WKU Investment Challenge, and was selected to participate in the 2010 WKU Practicum in Portfolio Management. She has made significant contributions to the “Hill” (WKU’s Bowling Green campus), and the WKU-Glasgow Regional Campus, with her leadership in the National Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, other WKU organizations, as well as her dedication to community service. Rebecca is truly honored to be inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Seniors by the WKU Student Government Association, and she is grateful and will always cherish the opportunity of receiving an outstanding education provided by Western Kentucky University.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Chonda White and her family upon the birth of her second daughter, Summer.

Summer was born in December 2010. Chonda is enjoying time with Summer while on maternity leave. She plans to return to work in March.
DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that over 300 adults have inquired about earning a college degree at WKU in the past two years through our Adult Learner Programs???

Learning has no age limit!

Approximately one in every five undergraduate is a non-traditional student.  
- WKU Fact Book

Sixty-two years separate WKU’s youngest and oldest student.  
- WKU Fact Book
Women’s Studies celebrates its twenty-year anniversary this year. The new t-shirt, designed by graduate certificate seeker and professional artist Leslie Nichols. About the design, Nichols says, “I created this image of a woman writing herself with phrases from Hélène Cixous’ 1975 essay "The Laugh of the Medusa." As a construction of self through words it is a visual play on Cixous’ words "Woman must write her self."

The t-shirt is modeled here by the three student assistants in women’s studies (left to right): Samantha Burnett, Leigh Gaskin, and Meghan Kennedy.

Cemetery clean-up project, Gales Point Belize

Women’s Studies minor and student worker, Leigh Gaskin along with folk studies graduate student, James Miller, and Psychology major, Nikki Byrd from the University of Tennessee- Martin spent the winter break involved in a sustainable clean up of the Gales Point Manatee village cemetery in Belize Central America. The project included restoration of head stones, and planning for future grave sites in the community. In addition to enhancing and restoring the cemetery, they actively worked with the village council to include the needs expressed by the community.

As part of the “The $100 solution,” Leigh and her team were given $100 (US) to implement their clean-up project. The $100 Solution, created by WKU’s Dr. Bernie Strenecky, encourages students to learn leadership, social responsibility, and problem-solving skills by translating needs into innovative and sustainable solutions. Through The $100 Solution™ methodology, students from across the spectrum of academic majors learn teamwork, partnership, capacity building, reflection, and reciprocity by using these skills while serving the international community as well as their own local communities.

The team soon realized that totally erecting a new fence around the cemetery as they had originally hoped would be over their budgeted $100. Instead, they were able to utilize their funds to hire local villagers to help. They outlined a plan to clean up the cemetery that included clearing the brush, planting flowers, rebuilding a temporary fence, and clearing the thicket in the back lot. The team also realized the importance to buy local, so instead of purchasing flowers from a nursery, they bought flowers from villagers.

The total cost of the clean-up project was $105.00. Although they were just a little over budget, they created temporary jobs and restored a meaningful landmark in the community. From the first day of clean up, community members would come by and express their “thanks” for the project. (continued next page)
Leigh and her team learned how to identify and respond to community needs. They had an idea to beautify and restore the cemetery but they also fostered the concept of community responsibility for a shared space. In response to their efforts, a few residents offered their time and commitment to continue the maintenance of the yard. According to Leigh, one of the most important lessons learned from this project was that, “helping other people does not cost a lot of money, it takes passion, motivation, and team work to affect our communities whether it be locally or globally.”

These are some pictures taken by James Miller to document the progress of the project.