3-10-2008

Arête March 2008

Honors College

Western Kentucky University, Arete@wku.edu

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Honors students running in circles

KEVIN SMILEY
Honors Development Board Sophomore Representative

It seems that at any point in a semester, the Honors College is going on about accomplishing great things. Well, here’s another opportunity to do just that.

WKU is hosting its annual Relay for Life event, and it’s promising to be bigger and better than ever. Relay for Life is an event hosted by the American Cancer Society to raise money for cancer research efforts and to gain greater awareness in the community about cancer. Honors students will have our own team this year, and we would like you to participate in any way you can.

The main event will take place through the night between April 4 and 5 at the Preston Center. Teams will be dressed in themed garb and running around the track the whole night to raise money and awareness. Relay incorporates unique moments to celebrate cancer survivors and to remember those who have been lost. Other special events of the night will include tons of giveaways, music to dance to, and team competitions. Relay is a fun way to actively tackle a problem that we can all work towards beating.

...you can send a Relay e-mail to several people you know...

HDB Student Representatives

1. What is your favorite pick-up line?
2. What is your favorite Dr. Seuss book?
3. Where are you going for Spring Break 08? What are your plans?

Jeff Sorce, senior:
1. Do you have a map? Because I just got lost in your eyes.
2. Oh, the Places You’ll Go!
3. I am going to book my wedding ceremony site and spend some time with my fiancé.

Reagan Gilley, junior:
1. I generally start the conversation with: “I’ve been noticing you not noticing me.” Followed by the infallible, “If you were words on a page, you’d be what they call fine print.”
2. It’s a tie between One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish and Fox in Socks.
3. For Spring Break ’08, I’m going to be wild and crazy. I’m headed to the far east (of Kentucky) and doing some shadowing with some local physicians.

Kevin Smiley, sophomore:
1. I like your headband. May I try on it?
2. Green Eggs and Ham
3. The Moon

Lindsey Filiatreau, freshman:
1. I wish I was your derivative so I could lie tangent to your curves. Classic.
2. Oh, the Places You’ll Go!
3. Hmmmm, spring break, who knows… perhaps Chicago, perhaps to visit grandma in Panama City, definitely winter guard rehearsal though!
Students show favor to Obama in poll

KENDRICK BRYAN
Areté staff writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, voters will decide who will become the next President of the United States. The winner will take the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2009.

To win the nomination, a Democratic candidate needs a total of 2,025 delegates, while a Republican candidate aims for a total of 1,191 delegates.

On Friday, Feb. 15, 30 students in the Honors College were polled regarding who they would elect in the upcoming election. Students could select an undecided option, Hillary Clinton (D), Mike Huckabee (R), Barack Obama (D), or John McCain (R). When the poll was administered, Obama led the Democratic race to the White House with 1,259 delegates to Clinton’s 1,212 delegates. McCain led the Republican race with 830 delegates to Huckabee’s 217 delegates.

Obama won the poll with 60 percent of the vote. Six of the eight males polled selected Obama, while 12 of the 22 females polled also selected the 46-year-old Senator from Ill.

Women’s Studies Seeks Summer Camp Volunteers

SARAH HOOD
Areté staff writer

The Women’s Studies Program at WKU is looking for volunteers to work at its Women and Kids Learning Together (WKLT) Camp this summer.

The day camp, which is held on campus from June 2 to June 6, is dedicated to helping low-income, undereducated women and their children in Warren County improve their physical, emotional, and mental well-being through workshops and activities. Student leaders are needed to plan and lead sessions for both women and their children.

Not only will students who participate receive valuable leadership and planning experience, a $200 book scholarship is offered to them for the fall semester.

Applications are processed on a rolling basis and are followed by a background check and an interview process, which begins in March. Honors students are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information about WKLT, please contact Dr. Jane Olmsted at (270) 745-5787 or jane.olmsted@wku.edu, or go online to http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Graduate/WStudy/wklt/wklthome.htm
Minton Hall throws party in honor of Valentine’s Day

KACY ALBANY  
Areté staff writer

Whether Cupid was faithful this year or not, Minton started off the sweet-heart season with a bang on Wednesday, Feb. 14. A Valentine’s Day party was held in Minton's lobby, which was decked out with colorful hearts, banners, and CANDY! The party absolutely helped residents to get into the holiday spirit. While many munched on the delectable valentine candy, others opted to sit and talk with friends. Couples in attendance played a spin-off of the newlywed game where they competed to see who knows each other best.

Minton definitely kicked off the holiday season with a smash. Only time shall tell what grand theme parties shall come, especially with St. Patrick’s Day and Easter right around the corner. The Minton Residents will party then as well, whether Cupid likes it or not!

Honors students celebrate Super Bowl

MATT VAUGHAN  
Areté staff writer

As the Giants defeated the Patriots in Arizona, WKU Honors students threw around their own footballs on campus at the Honors College’s very own Super Bowl XLII party.

The party was held in WKU’s Mass Media and Technology Hall and featured the game on a 20-foot HDTV screen. Pizza and snacks were also available for students at half-time and throughout the evening.

The Honors College also provided all students in attendance with flags to throw for bad calls throughout the game.

While Honors advisor Amy Chester ironed out all the details of the event, Honors freshman Nikki Deese created a Facebook event to promote the Super Bowl party and, in doing so, encouraged about 30 Honors students to come out and participate in the night.

“We could have had more people, but those who came had a lot of fun and it was a good atmosphere,” Deese said.

The Super Bowl party is just one of several new events that the Honors College is planning for this year.
Group takes trip to Mammoth Cave

AMANDA LOVIZA
Areté staff writer

Students who signed up for the Honors Mammoth Cave trip expecting just an average cave tour were in for a surprise. On Saturday, Feb. 2, a group of Honors College and Gatton Academy students left WKU and enjoyed a breakfast at Cracker Barrel before heading to Mammoth Cave for their educational tour. While the tour did not actually take them very far into the cave, the students spent about two hours learning the history of the cave, its rock formations, and how the cave has impacted the local region. It was a blend of science and history, according to Kristen Houser, a sophomore Photojournalism major from Louisville, Ky. “We learned a lot about our region and how the cave impacted our area... It was interesting to see how the cave transitioned from a resource to a tourist attraction and perpetual science experiment,” Houser said.

The students learned a vast spectrum of facts about Mammoth Cave, from the efforts the people there are taking to protect the cave to the annual Christmas caroling held at the cave. “It was a side of the cave you never really hear about. It felt like a backstage tour,” said Joey Coe, a freshman from Louisville, Ky.

The tour guide really emphasized to the students how much Mammoth Cave is trying to focus on sustainability and preserving the cave and its surroundings. Mammoth Cave employees want to teach local area residents how to protect their environment for the future. Coe wondered how they justified the constant traffic they created in and out of the cave by their tours, but he was reassured by his tour guide that most of the cave remains untouched by tours. When asked why they conduct cave tours, the guide answered, “People only save what they know.”

English Class takes part in public reading of Beloved

BOBBY DEIGNAN
Areté staff writer

If you walked through DUC on Feb. 20, you probably came upon an unusual sight—a microphone and podium surrounded by students and professors listening to someone read aloud. By now, we’re used to club recruiters and credit card hecklers hanging around the first floor of DUC, but what on earth was the microphone and podium for? What you saw was the Marathon Book Reading of Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Beloved, about a mother and daughter trying to rebuild their lives after escaping from slavery when a mysterious young woman, whose name gives the novel its title, finds them.

The event was set up so that students and others could take turns reading from the novel. The reading went from 8 a.m. until they finished. For being the first time for a reading like this on campus, plenty of people showed up to take part in it. Dr. Angela Jones, an assistant professor in the English Department, said, “They had more students than they knew what to do with.” Jones said she scheduled her entire day around the reading.

For many students, this was their first time participating in a public reading. Kirby Watkins, a junior English major from Hendersonville, Tenn., said, “It’s an important novel because it tackles the issues of slavery head-on. Using a ghost story as a base, Morrison created a setting that emphasizes all the horrors that accompany slavery.” Watkins is one of many students currently enrolled in the Honors English class called “Transatlantic Gothic Literature” that were able to participate in this reading as a part of the course. Morrison’s Beloved is on the course syllabus for later this semester, and a trip to Cincinnati to visit the Freedom Trail Museum is in the works to accompany the class’s reading of this powerful novel.

Due to the great turnout, more public book readings are sure to come. Not only do students have a chance to take part in a unique experience like a Marathon Book Reading but they are also exposed to some of the great works in literature.

Honors students enjoy Nashville opera

MATT VAUGHAN
Areté staff writer

The Honors Music Appreciation class took a field trip to the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville on Saturday, Feb. 2, to experience an opera. The Honors class schedules one regular opera trip per semester. This semester’s trip was to watch Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore.

The opera is a comedy set aboard the British steamship, the H.M.S Pinafore, with a romance between the two leads: Ralph, a sailor, and Josephine, the captain’s daughter. The two lovers are separated by their social differences until a plot twist allows the lovers to live together in harmony.

For most Honors students in the class, this was their first opera. “When I first found out about the opera, I was optimistic,” freshman Kayla Tyson said, “I had never seen an opera before, so I wasn’t sure what to expect. It was a lot better than I thought it would be.”

Each Honors student was required to write a paper about the opera for the class, highlighting such things as his or her thoughts on the chorus, costumes, set, and acting.

“My favorite part of the night was the music,” Tyson said, “As a member of the Women’s Choir, I enjoy beautiful vocals, and I was awed by the vocal ranges of the lead characters.” Tyson also spoke of her appreciation of the elaborate costumes as well as the caliber of the acting, appreciating the humor in some of the characters.
Study Abroad Photo and Essay Contest winners

SAM MICALLEF
Areté staff writer

This semester, the Honors College held a 2007 Study Abroad Photo and Essay Contest where Honors students who had studied abroad in 2007 could submit pictures and stories that were intended to encourage other Honors students to study abroad as well in the future. The deadline for the contest was Jan. 31, and winners were announced Feb. 19.

Honors staff judged the contest, and they were not looking for traditional, artistic submissions. Instead, they wanted to have WKU Honors students in the pictures and convincing essays to make students want to travel. The contest will now take place each semester, so students studying abroad should look for future e-mails about upcoming contests.

Three winners were chosen for each category. First place won $100, second place won $50, and third place won $25. In the photo contest, first place went to Chase McNulty, second place to Mary Grace Petty, and third place to Ashley Belcher. In the essay contest, first place went to Amanda Brown, second place to Ashley Belcher, and third place to Renee Davidson.

The third place photo is on the next page as well as the winning essay from the essay contest.
A Harlaxton experience

AMANDA BROWN
Essay Contest Winner

Awesome, wonderful, amazing, life-altering, remarkable, magnificent. The thesaurus simply does not have enough words to describe my study abroad experience at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England. A full semester abroad offered me opportunities to further my education, both in academic areas as well as in life.

Being away from home forced me to become more independent and self-reliant. As I went out on my own, however, I realized I would never be alone. I made new friends that helped me through the semester, and I met strangers in strange places that helped me when I was lost and confused. These people broke so many stereotypes for me. (The French aren’t rude, and the British don’t have bad teeth.) As the semester progressed, I continued to grow and mature. No single experience helped me as much as my Spanish fiasco. Stranded in a foreign country, without a passport or much knowledge of the language, scared me, but it made me stronger. I, surprisingly, remained reasonably calm throughout the whole ordeal. I got a new passport, made it safely back to school, and learned several lessons, the first being to keep your passport on your body at all times!

Since my semester in England, I have come to be a bit English. I use words such as “queue” and “hiya.” I call soccer football, the bathroom is the toilet, and the elevator is the lift. I have begun to really enjoy rugby and J2O. I missed ice but realized it is not necessary. My time there has made me further realize that I really do hate tea, and that’s not going to change. I no longer notice English accents, but I can distinguish between English, Scottish, and Irish in a heartbeat. I no longer think it at all weird to drive on the wrong side of the road. I can name every monarch in Britain’s history in the (almost) correct order. I know the difference between England, Great Britain, and the UK...they are NOT all the same! While these feats and/or traits may seem so very odd to you, I really am proud of them. I love that I can truthfully say these things. I also love that I climbed a volcano, broke into a world-known tennis court, and had a photo shoot at the Eiffel Tower. Most of all, I love that I have list a mile long of similar instances.

That’s enough about what I loved. What about the things I hate? Well, don’t get me started. I hate being homesick, homesick for England. I hate that my weekends seem so boring now. I hate that I have to walk up a hill to have class in a dull room instead of walking downstairs to have lecture in a beautiful long gallery. I hate that it took me a full month to stop crying once I came home. I hate that my brother laughs at me for saying “rubbish bin.” I hate that I don’t get to sleep in airports anymore. (Well, maybe I don’t hate that so much.) I hate how restless I feel now. I hate that I didn’t get to see more of Europe.

Yes, I am full of hate. But, the thing is, I know that I would have hated myself even more had I not went to Harlaxton. I’ve grown, matured, changed, and become more independent. I am still me, but I am a different me, a better me. I am the new and improved, England-fied me.
Brittany Kittleman

Sometimes, it is still hard to believe that I am living in a castle. I’ll be returning from a long weekend trip, as the coach slows down, approaching the front drive towards the iron gates, and I look out my window and I gaze in amazement, wondering how this could possibly be happening to me, how I could possibly be spending the next four months of my life on the fifth floor of Harlaxton manor. It continues to captivate me as my friends and I further explore its deeply held secrets and mysterious architectural style.

I am thoroughly enjoying my classes and my professors here. As intimidating as it may come across, the British Studies history course has not been bad at all. To be completely honest, I am actually enjoying it. It is intriguing to learn his story through a new set of eyes, to experience another country’s successes and tragedies from their perspective rather than from an outsider’s viewpoint. And British professors are incredibly interesting. It continually amazes me how proud the British people are of their heritage and their culture, and how well everyone here knows exactly where they came from.

The longer I am here and the more I fall in love with it, the more I realize how difficult it is going to be to come back to the United States and readjust to normal life again. I had no idea of the extent to which I would enjoy living in Europe and experiencing all it has to offer. But I sure am going to miss it when it has to end.

Elizabeth Thornton

Living in a “castle” is a dream come true for me. I mean, when I was a little girl I always wanted to be a princess living in a far-off country in a huge castle to call my home! I bet every girl has had those thoughts too. The Harlaxton Manor is beautiful, and the beauty around me is so hard to put into words. It took me a few days to figure out how to get around because there are many doors and halls to take to get where you are going. I enjoy exploring my home! There is a downside; it is always cold! But other than that, I could not ask for more.

I am enjoying my classes here in England. I am taking a marketing class and love it! My marketing professor is British, so the class loves listening to him talk! HA! He tells us how marketing is done in the UK as well as the USA in order for the class to see differences and similarities. This class would have to be my favorite!

I am also, believe or not, liking British Studies. All the professors teaching this class are, well, British. The material we are covering is enormous, but I like learning about the history of the country I am living in. My British Studies professor is Dr. Bujak and he is a wonderful professor! Not only does he know his history, but he makes history fun to learn!

My professors and classes are not that much different from my classes back home in the USA. The only major difference is having British professors. Also, I feel that they are harder to talk to one-on-one when you have questions regarding papers and presentations. Maybe it is just because I do not know them that well as I do my professors back at WKU, or British professors do not do a lot of one-on-one meetings with students, especially those, like myself, who want to make sure their papers and presentations are perfect.

Helen Pruitt

It is great living in a castle! At first I was a little intimidated because I always got lost, but after the first couple of weeks, everyone pretty much knew their way around. One of my favorite rooms is the Ridgway Great Hall because it has a beautiful chandelier. I love to sit in that room and just stare at the chandelier. All the rooms are so beautiful, I have a hard picking a favorite!

The classes aren’t bad at all. I have macroeconomics and theatre appreciation, which are general education classes, and they aren’t too hard. I also have British Studies, and it isn’t as hard as I had imagined it to be. If you stay up on the reading, it isn’t bad at all. The professors here like to assign presentations and papers more than the professors at WKU do, and they also like class discussion more. None of my classes are just lecture except British Studies.
From Honors student to Honors staff: Lindsey Thurman

DANA ADAMS
Areté staff writer

What is your position with the Honors College, and what does your job entail?
“Admissions Counselor. I recruit high achieving students, coordinate visits to campus, am the primary advisor for the HonorsToppers, and coordinate communication with HRL regarding Honors housing.”

Favorite number: 52

Why did you decide to work for the Honors College?
“As I got close to graduation last May, this position opened up, and it just seemed like it fit me perfectly.”

If you could get advice from any person who would it be?
“My Mom.”

What advice would you give Honors Students?
“To take advantage of all the unique opportunities we have in the Honors College, and to APPLY FOR HonorsToppers THIS SPRING!”

Favorite Honors Event: H4

What changes would you like to see within the Honors College or the Honors Center?
“I would like to see a student lounge or an outdoor picnic area for students just to come up and hang out, eat lunch, or study when they want to.”

Favorite Color: WKU red

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?
“Maybe it’s lame, but I’d really just like to travel across America–New England, the West, Alaska, and Hawaii.”

Five songs you know all the lyrics to: “Country Grammar”: Nelly
“Someone Saved My Life Tonight”: Elton John
“Hide and Seek”: Imogen Heap
“Dig”: Incubus
“Comfortable”: John Mayer
Mark your calendar for these Honors events so you can seize the day

Ask A Professor

If you could have any superpower what would it be?

“I would want to see the future.” - Dr. Eric Reed, History.

“Time travel would be my superpower.” - Dr. Andrew McMichael, History.

“The ability to magically appear in NYC & have all the money to buy the newest shoes on the market.” - Dr. Jenifer Lewis, Communications.

“Read people’s minds.” - Sara Shipley Hiles, Journalism and Broadcasting.

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SUDOKU

March/April Calendar

Feb. 29-March 1 - KHRT
3 - CE/T Workshop in Honors Center at 7 p.m.
4 - Udall/NSEP info session in Honors Center at 7 p.m.
4 - Honors Club meeting in DUC 349 at 8 p.m.
6 - Rent sign-ups begin - $25
10-14 - Spring Break 2008!
17 & 19 - Harlaxton info session in Honors Center at 7 p.m.
18 - Tremont sign-ups begin - $40
28 - Honors Rent trip to Tennessee Performing Arts Center
April 4-5 - Relay for Life at the Preston Center
5 - Honors Formal at the L&N Train Depot
11-13 - Honors Smokey Mountain Trip

Published monthly by students in the Honors College.

Newsletter Staff:
Kacy Albany
Dana Adams
Kendrick Bryan
Tanner Curtis*
Bobby Deignan*
Sarah Hood
Matt Jenkins*
Katherine Scanga
Matt Vaughan
Ria Wallace
Mannie Webb
Laurel Wilson

Advisor:
Dr. Angela Jones

Honors Director:
Dr. Craig T. Cobane

*editors
*photo editor
*copy editor

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