Winter 2012

University College Connection Winter 2012

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University
College
Connection

From the Dean’s Office

A Winter Eden
By Robert Frost

A winter garden in an alder swamp,
Where conies now come out to sun and romp,
As near a paradise as it can be
And not melt snow or start a dormant tree.

It lifts existence on a plane of snow
One level higher than the earth below,
One level nearer heaven overhead,
And last year’s berries shining scarlet red.

It lifts a gaunt luxuriating beast
Where he can stretch and hold his highest feat
On some wild apple tree's young tender bark,
What well may prove the year's high girdle mark.

So near to paradise all pairing ends:
Here loveless birds now flock as winter friends,
Content with bud-inspecting. They presume
To say which buds are leaf and which are bloom.

A feather-hammer gives a double knock.
This Eden day is done at two o'clock.
An hour of winter day might seem too short
To make it worth life's while to wake and sport.

Where’s Big Red?
Liza Ramirez, from our Radcliff campus, sent us a picture of Big Red celebrating Valentine’s Day. Look for Big ‘Cupid’ Red throughout the pages of the newsletter. The first one to respond with the location will win a University College travel mug. Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and
Sergeant First Class (SFC) Celia Hodge is one of the many military students enrolled at WKU Ft Knox. She is currently working on her MPA with WKU. Celia is the first student to receive a scholarship award from the Staff Sergeant Geno Scariot Emergency Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship fund is available due to the generous support from Terry and Kathy Scariot. The emergency scholarship fund was established to assist military students with financial aid issues who need immediate assistance. Named in honor of Geno Scariot, a WWII Air Force Staff Sergeant, who served in the 458th Bombardment Group of the 96th Combat Wing, Eighth Air Force, in Norwich, England.

Pictured are Bea Cobb, Military Programs Counselor, SFC Celia Hodge, Tonya Archev, Military Student Services Director, and Melissa Ballinger, Office Associate at Ft Knox.

The mission for 6th Squadron, 4th US CAVALRY, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in Afghanistan “was to provide assistance to the afghan Army in the re-establishment of their country while providing assistance and security to the people.” While deployed in Afghanistan, CSM Brownell, flew an American flag for Bea and Melissa. In the picture he is presenting them with the flag that was flown, a certificate and a squadron “Coin of Excellence.” The coin was designed by CSM Brownell. It is awarded by the Squadron Commander and CSM Brownell to “warriors who exemplify excellence.” The coin is shaped in the country of Afghanistan with crossed sabers running through it to symbolize our cavalry heritage and it's mission. The front side of the coin bares the distinguished unit insignia with the squadron motto “Prepared and Loyal.” The three camps listed to the left of the coin are the three camps that the squadron occupied while there. The backside of the coin states Operation Enduring Freedom XI/XII covering the year that CSM Brownell's unit was there.
The brand new Elizabethtown / Radcliff / Ft. Knox Resource Library is open and ready for business. The picture above show the very first students to use the library, Ashley Glenn and Melanie Ybarra. In the second picture, Librarian Laura DeLancey consults with Ashley and Melanie. WKU Libraries collaborated with the Regional Center in developing the new Resource Room.

President Ransdell, Dean George, and Ron Stephens recently visited with the Garrison Commander and other officials at Ft. Knox. The group also visited the WKU Ft. Knox office and with the Army Continuing Education Center Chief. Pictured on the left are Dr. Ransdell with Mr. Rob Eagain, Army Continuing Education Services Officer, and WKU Senior Military Programs Counselor Bea Cobb. Pictured right shows Dr. Ransdell, Mr. Eagain, and Dean George discussing WKU programs for Soldiers.

WKU Ft. Knox Senior Military Counselor Bea Cobb and Ft. Knox Office Associate Melissa Ballinger staffed our WKU table at the KCTCS Super Sunday event at the New Hope Baptist Church in Radcliff in February. This event was developed to provide information to minority families about college opportunities, and a large crowd attended the program. ECTC coordinated the local program and invited WKU to participate with them for the day. Many expressed interest in attending ECTC and WKU.
WKU-Glasgow held its first Graduand Recognition Ceremony on December 8 at the Plaza Theatre in Glasgow. The event celebrated WKU-G’s December 2011 graduates, and was attended by Provost Gordon Emslie, University College Dean Dennis George, and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Brian Meredith, among many other notable names. More than 30 students were recognized on the stage, given an alumni pin and a gift, and photographed with Dr. Emslie. Elementary Education major Adrienne Turner, the only WKU-G student to graduate with a 4.0, delivered a speech and was given the Scholarship Award for her commitment to academic excellence. Two other students, both Elementary Education majors, were chosen by Glasgow faculty to receive awards. June Hammontree was given the Juanita Bayless Award for balancing her life as a mother of five children and a student, and Kayla Duckett was given the Leadership Award for taking the helm in class projects as well as outside events like Agriculture Safety Days. The May 2012 graduand is scheduled for Thursday, May 3.
The beginning of the Spring 2012 semester brought a big change to the Glasgow Regional Center – the opening of Smarts Think Tank Café, an affordable food option for WKU and KCTCS students. The café is staffed by Sandy and Peggy Bates, owners of Glasgow’s popular Fine Arts Bistro, and offers a varied menu including sweet treats like Nutella paninis and savory bites like their famous chicken salad on pretzel bread. The vending machine area on the first floor was renovated to include the café and countertop seating as well as a fountain drink machine, cappuccino machine, and bottled drink cooler. Before the café opened, students’ options were limited to snacks from vending machines or the WKU Store, food brought from home, or drive-thru meals from off-campus – but now, it’s not uncommon for the Think Tank Café to sell out of items throughout the day.

The Glasgow Regional Center celebrated its tenth anniversary in January with a reception for WKU and KCTCS students. Dr. Sally Ray, director of WKU-Glasgow, and Ron Baldwin, campus administrator of Bowling Green Technical College’s Glasgow Technology Campus, served cake and punch as we marked the first decade in our beautiful home. Ground for the Glasgow Regional Center was broken on October 20, 1999, and the building officially opened on January 14, 2002.

Agriculture instructor Kristie Guffey and several WKU-Glasgow students participated in a Department of Agriculture Winter Term study abroad course to Ecuador. The group learned about food issues and production systems by touring a pineapple production plant and visiting a farm where students tasted raw chocolate, among other activities. They also visited elementary schools and orphanages, where they applied dental varnish to children’s teeth to help guard against cavities. The annual trip to Ecuador is one of many study-abroad opportunities available to WKU-Glasgow students.
Mary Ellen Miller, professor in the Department of English, visited WKU-Glasgow in November for a reading from her new book of poetry, “The Poet’s Wife Speaks.” The reading and a book-signing were both very well attended by students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Saundra Ardrey, head of the Department of Political Science, visited our campus in February to hand out information about her department, study abroad opportunities, and internships. WKU-Glasgow loves visitors, so if you’d like to come to our campus just let us know!

The WKU-Glasgow Associated Student Body won first place in the school/school group division at the annual Glasgow Christmas Parade with their float, “Big Red’s Giving Machine.” The float featured a working conveyor belt and smoke stack, elves preparing toys, and, of course, Big Red! The award plaque joins many others on the wall downstairs.
The WKU-Owensboro staff served lunch at the Boulware Mission, a homeless shelter in Owensboro that houses up to 78 people. Members of the WKU-O staff prepared the food in the morning and a larger group visited the shelter to serve chili and sandwiches to the residents.

WKU-O staff greeted students during the first week of the spring semester. Students were asked to fill out a brief survey about smart phone usage to enter their names into a drawing for two WKU gift baskets. The winners, pictured with their baskets, were Damon Bailey and Christine Hagan.

WKU-O Director, Dr. Gene Tice was honored in January with a Lifetime Honorary Member Award from the Southern Association for College Student Affairs. A luncheon was held at the Kentucky Museum to present him with this award. Dr. Tice is pictured with Dr. Peggy Crowe, Assistant Director of Resident Life.

The WKU-Owensboro organization, Volunteerism in Progress organized a supply drive for the Owensboro Humane Society. The drive is scheduled to conclude on Friday, February 17. As of Wednesday, February 15, 879 items had been donated. Donations are continuing to come in.
WKU-O has started recognizing students through a new section of the WKU-O website called “Student Spotlight.” **Chelsea Gaddis** was the featured student for the month of February.

**Q: What inspired you to seek a college education?**

**A:** I value the gift of education so much. I've seen kids in Africa who have zero hope of ever stepping foot in a school. Therefore, I know it's something I must pursue. Also, since first grade, I have always known that I wanted to be a teacher. It's just something I'm called to do. It's part of who I am. So here I am, at WKU, seeking a degree in Elementary Education.

**Q: What would you say is your motivation for success?**

**A:** I know I am doing exactly what I am called to do and that is what keeps me going and striving for the best for my life. There is nothing more reassuring than knowing you are smack dab in the middle of God's will for your life, and I know I am.

**Q: What is your academic major or area of study? What are some of your possible career goals?**

**A:** My major is Elementary Education and I hope to one day teach kindergarten or first grade. I will one day be part of re-facing global education. I will establish well functioning schools in third-world nations, specifically Africa and India. At one point in my life I hope to be able to say I have been part of Kentucky Schools in teaching and administration, third-world nations in educating the teachers, in private institutions, and in some form of Bible College. I know they are high goals, but I'd rather reach high, than not high enough.

Wanda Curtsinger, WKU-O IT Consultant, received an IT Division Red Towel Award for 2011. The Red Towel Award is given annually to individuals selected within the IT Division based on exemplary overall job performance.
Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center
Academic Support Department
South Campus Academic Wing

The 2012 semester started with meeting, greeting and welcoming fifty-one new WKU students on January 19th and 20th for ATP’s. The ARLAC provided placement testing and the students attended FYI sessions with Jennifer Dietzel, South Campus Academic Advisor, and James Kennedy ResNet Coordinator. In the afternoon the students arrived at South Campus Academic Wing where they were greeted by Dr. Dennis George, of University College and met with advisors to get their classes. We were excited to welcome these students to our WKU South Campus Community!

After the new WKU students visited the finish line in the ARLAC, on January 20th, the staff and tutors met with Academic Support Department Head, Tim Brotherton to discuss tutor goals and expectations for the New Year. We also prepared for student and class visits and reviewed procedures for the center. This year we have hired four new tutors: Josh Treon, Ali Abdulrheem, Katie Jaggers and Megan Nader. We are very excited to have them as members of our ARLAC family.

This semester the center has welcomed class visits from Janice Watts, Dawn Hall, Megan Thompson, Anne Heintzman, Erica Marsh and Brent Fisk of the English Department as well as Kim Cunningham of University Experience. The ARLAC has also received training from Elizabeth Heller from Career Services regarding Professionalism and Rick Thompson from Academic Support on SEXI (critical thinking) for tutoring English students. We are looking forward to a visit from Michael Crowe of Judicial Affairs on January 17, 2012 and Jennifer Howard, Math Instructor from Academic Support on January 24th for additional training.

The LAC advisory board members elected a chair person. Congratulations to Shirley English, Math Instructor, from the Academic Support Department. This year’s members include Clint Haynes from Liberal Arts, Mark Staynings from Professional Studies, Jennifer Dietzel, Academic Advisor, Member at Large, and Rick Thompson, Kim Cunningham, Nichole Sherrell and Jan Duvall each from the Academic Support Department.

The ARLAC has extended hours to include Saturday and Sunday. We are open to serve students, faculty and staff: Monday – Thursday 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday 7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The staff and tutors of the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) are dedicated to the success of the students taking courses at WKU’s South Campus.
Paying It Forward

University Experience Peer Mentoring Program

Spring 2012 welcomes the new University Experience Peer Mentoring Program. Peer mentor candidates were carefully selected from their University Experience instructors based on their demonstration of outstanding academic and leadership skills. We chose these students because we thought they would make excellent role models for other students that may need additional assistance. These students have volunteered to become peer mentors for this new program in order to give back to their campus community and help make a positive impact on another student’s life. Students that have been selected to become peer mentors and volunteer their time for the University Experience Peer Mentoring include the following:

Chevon Boyles                      Alexis Mullins
Sidney Brown                      Tavoria Nevette
Dylan Burton                     Matt Porter
Tyler Gilmer                  Alima Sesay
DeAveon Gregory                 Jeffrey Walker
Aarion Hinds                    Laura Williams

The primary objective of this program is to develop relationships and social networks among peers in order for students to increase their chances of success. The University Experience Peer Mentoring Program is a great way for new or struggling students to gain familiarity with WKU’s South Campus and to build confidence in their abilities to achieve their goals. The program is accessible to any and all students at the South Campus that want to apply.

Peer mentors will be matched with other students based around their major and classes they have taken at the South Campus. We want to pair up students with mentors that are already familiar with instructors and classes so that mentees will understand more about class expectations. These peer mentors will be checking on their mentees once a week to see how they are doing and how their classes are going. If students have questions about class work, how to access TopNet and Blackboard, or where they need to go for financial aid, tutoring, and advising, their mentor will point them in the right direction. Peer mentors will also provide a confidential setting where their mentees can talk about stress or issues related to being a student.

-Jessica Bledsoe

University Experience Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator
Alex Kimura Wins Leadership Award

Alexandria “Alex” Kimura is an Interdisciplinary Studies senior from Louisville. She is founder and president of the WKU chapter of FeelGood, a student-run, nonprofit deli that makes grilled cheese sandwiches in exchange for donations to help end world hunger. Since starting the group in Spring 2010, Alex has helped coordinate more than 50 student volunteers and raised over $8,000 through weekly sandwich stands and two benefit concerts. 100% of all of the money raised goes to The Hunger Project, a global development organization that believes in empowering the hungry to become self-reliant by creating partnerships.

Alex is also an advocate for the National Bone Marrow Registry, Be The Match. After her younger sister fell ill with a severe blood disorder, Alex became aware of the dire need for bone marrow donors and has planned three major campaigns and marrow donor drives, one in Louisville and two on WKU’s main campus. Since July 2010, she has helped register more than 4,000 donors and raised over $41,000 for the Be The Match Foundation. She is currently the chair of the WKU Dance Marrow-thon, an event that will be held in November of this year to raise money and awareness for bone marrow donations.

Alex is an active member of Alpha Delta Pi and is a WKU Spirit Master. She is studying Interdisciplinary Studies with an Emphasis in Social Justice. Alex decided to major in IDST so she could have more freedom in her education and explore the different aspects of what might contribute to her future career in the philanthropic sector. She believes her IDST education has developed her into a more well-rounded thinker and allows her to see how various fields can be combined to achieve a solution. Alex sees her IDST degree as a perfect representation of her ultimate goal of eliminating the divisive barriers between people that inhibit finding solutions to significant societal issues.

Alex will be honored for the Leadership Award on March 1, 2012 at the Annual Leadership Banquet, held at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center.

Three WKU students won the WKU Libraries and University Experience Undergraduate Research Awards for the fall 2011 semester.

Kelcie Smith, freshman from Saint Paul, Indiana won the award for the best Career Exploration Paper in the UCC 175 University Experience classes at South Campus; Jessica Holland, freshman of chemistry from Alvaton, Kentucky, won the award for the best Annotated Bibliography in the UC 175 University Experience classes on Main Campus; and Andrew Cato, a freshman of business economics from Lanesville, Indiana, won the award for the best Annotated Bibliography in the Major/Department/College Specific University Experience classes on Main Campus.

The award ceremony was held in Helm Room 100 on the afternoon of December 8, 2011. Each recipient received a plaque and a $100.00 cash prize for winning the awards. WKU Libraries Interim Dean Connie Foster convened the ceremony with an opening remark. University Experience Coordinator Sara McCaslin conferred the awards.

This award was established in 2010.
Gender and Women’s Studies

Gender & Women’s Studies’ Book Club for Women Inmates at the Warren County Jail
By Meagan Harris

It is Tuesday at 8:36 pm and I am doubled over about to pee myself. This is the third shrill of laughter that has emitted from the Warren County Regional Jail Library this evening. Welcome to book club—where the irrational realm of institutionalized living serves as an instant community for a rousing group of animated ladies. Why are we laughing? Tracy, a wide-eyed brunette with a murky tattoo on her forearm, has shared the big event of the week—she informs Hilary and me that charges were nearly pressed on one of the kitchen staff inmates for sneaking a dry, tasteless piece of cake. Once she shares this, everyone guffaws. In this room, the women are allowed to hike up their sweats without it being viewed as a suspicious gang sign, they may stick an article from the New York Times in their book without getting frisked, and best of all—they can speak about sex, their children, the cigarettes they aren’t allowed to smoke, and all of the things that make them bold and beautiful women. This is the reason that I love my Tuesday nights. The energy in the room mounts and there is a great release over something like the cake that brings us all back to our humanity and our interdependence of being. If I can facilitate those moments, why would I rather be anywhere else?

Eileen Ryan and Jennifer Doper were the Book Club volunteers before they passed the torch on to me in Spring of 2010. It wasn't always so easy. I remember the first book that I read with the group, Nabokov's *Lolita*. I could think of nothing more distasteful for a group of nearly all mothers. We have had great success reading African-American women writers like Mia Angela and Gloria Naylor. Faulkner was a bust, but Plath was a hit. Recently, we have been reading popular fiction such as Chris Cleaver's *Little Bee*, Kathryn Socket's *The Help*, and Sara Green's *Water for Elephants*—all of which I would have never read on my own, but were well-loved by the group.

When I would mention something about Book Club to my family, they would treat it as something that was swell on my part but didn't really make a hill of beans on the part of the women. I beg to differ. This club has certainly changed the way I view others. Their joys are my joys—their pain brings me tears. I would like to think that their voiced appreciation of the club does not fall on my ears alone. This club is based on much more than a book—this club creates room for communion as well as opinion. It allows us to discuss difficult issues like death, loneliness, and love. It allows us to break the silence that creeps in the halls. It allows us to laugh at the madness and remember that we are all in this life together. The Warren County Book Club fosters a relaxed environment where women may simply be themselves—and that, my friends, is a beautiful thing.

Alas, I am leaving to finish my German degree across the pond in Regensburg. I am proud to have a brilliant woman like Hilary Harlan to take my place. I promise she will be much more orderly than I. We met as counselors during the 2011 Women and Children Learning Together camp. When I was asking around to see if anyone was interested, I was hoping that she would say yes. If you don't know Hilary, you should because everyone should know at least one person that it going to do great things. In a harried, nearly frantic way, I have tried to endow her with everything that I have learned and yet I feel like there is something that I am missing. I think that is the feeling that everyone has when they have experienced something life changing. What more can I say?

Thank you to all who have made this club possible including Dr. Jane Olmsted, for your wisdom and ideas, Renee Purdy for your expert Amazon.com skills, and all of the sponsors for your generous gifts.

One of my favorite quotes from the women of the club was from a Mrs._____. She said to me at the close of one of our meetings, as if an epiphany, "Meagan, we all have got stories to tell." And I hope they do.

*For more information, please visit the very vague and incomplete blog at wcrjbookclub.wordpress.com
Last semester, three of our GWS minors had the opportunity to study abroad at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England. Tracy Jo Ingram, Shawna Felkins, and Meg Kennedy, one of our GWS student assistants, took an extensive British history course in addition to specialized courses for their majors and minors. Tracy Jo and Meg had the opportunity to take the art history course Women and Art. The students summarized their experiences upon their return.

**Tracy Jo:** “At the same time I had the privilege of traveling all over the British Isles and continental Europe, I was having deep revelations in my feminist awakening. Without a doubt, the women’s art history course I took broadened my understanding of oppressive systematic structures by teaching me to analyze EVERY image around me in new context. We started with Medieval women artists and made our way all the way through the contemporary catalogue exploring women artists of all walks of life, their methods, and how their art should be read. The best part of this experience was getting to **GO** to the galleries with our professor to study our subjects in a hands on way. Galleries in London, Paris, and Berlin were mind-blowingly, outrageously exciting anyway, but the course enhanced my experience ten-fold. In any case, things I hadn’t thought about before are all I can think of now when I see a piece of art or an advertisement. Harlaxton was the time of my life, but I feel so blessed/privileged that I was able to come home with not only photographs, great stories, and new best friends, but a much more conscious way to see the world around me.”

**Meg:** “I learned a lot about women artists, women as subjects of art, the distinction of art and craft, high art and low art, and what ‘good art’ has traditionally meant. These are all really important for someone interested in gender issues and the humanities to learn, and to apply in my studies as an English major considering the literary canon. But what impacted me most was what I saw outside of the classroom. I saw a role-model in my professor, who was a scholar, a world traveler, a mother, and a force to be reckoned with. I saw myself gaining a new level of independence. Who knew I could live in Europe for four months and nothing bad would happen—that I could read maps and buy plane/train/bus tickets and it would work! Study abroad did everything for me that it’s supposed to: I learned about culture and even more about myself.”

**Shawna:** “Harlaxton was an amazing and truly once in a lifetime experience. I visited several countries, made new friends, and sampled local cuisine. I learned more about myself during that semester than during any other point in my life, and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to accomplish something so wonderful.”
The Ninth Annual Leadership Banquet is scheduled for March 19th at the Carroll Knicely Center. After last year’s November cancellation due to a sudden snow storm, we have moved the banquet from fall to spring. We look forward to honoring the outstanding student leaders nominated by their respective departments.

This spring Leadership Studies has a record number of students taking our classes. We have 304 students compared to 209 in 2011.

Our Leadership Studies Resource Room continues to obtain new books relating to leadership, culture, women, conflict, ethics, management, motivation, terrorism and coaching. We also subscribe to several Leadership Journals.

Marie Yager, John Baker, and Phillip Coleman had a paper accepted for publication in the Journal of Business & Leadership. The research paper, titled The Impact of Coaching on the Leadership Practicum Process, discusses the impact coaching has on undergraduate leadership practicums and the benefits students can gain from the guidance provided by leadership coaches.

We have 11 faculty and professional staff assisting 22 leadership students with their capstone or practicum experiences this semester.

The WKU Rotaract Club has begun a new semester. The focus of this semester is to raise enough money to purchase a Shelter Box, approximately $1000. A Shelter Box is a large plastic box containing a tent, stove, cooking utensils, and other survival items. Shelter Boxes are prepackaged and easily deployed to areas of the world that have experienced natural disasters. Shelter Box is an established charitable program begun by a Rotarian who wanted to help people globally. The WKU Rotaract Club also received recognition at half-time during the Women’s Basketball game on February 15. The recognition was part of a program to promote academic clubs on campus.
GRADUATE STUDENTS…
LIVE, LEARN & SERVE AT THE HILL HOUSE

Four graduate assistantships available through the ALIVE Center, in collaboration with numerous graduate degree programs at WKU.

If you advise students considering graduate school at WKU this Fall, consider recommending the Hill House graduate assistantship to students a) interested in public service and b) that could incorporate local/regional applied research opportunities into their graduate degree programs. For more information, contact Nadia Deleon at nadia.deleon@wku.edu or 270-782-0966. Assistantship application and guidelines available online at www.wku.edu/alive/hillhouse.

STUDENT INTEREST MEETING & OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, February 29th
2:30 - 3:30pm
DUC 226

Hear from current students, ask questions, and meet the staff!

An open house at the Hill House, located at 741 East 11th Street in Bowling Green, will follow from 4 - 7pm. Come tour the space and learn more about the Hill House experience. Students and faculty welcome!

HILL HOUSE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Hear from current Hill House students from the Departments of Applied Economics, Social Work, Sociology and Student Affairs!

Join us for a presentation of their projects and research on Friday, May 9th at 1pm at the ICSR in Garrett.

R.S.V.P. to Terry Shoemaker at terry.shoemaker@wku.edu or 270-745-3217.
ALIVE Center Expanding to Serve Refugee Families

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, in collaboration with CEDARS (Center for Education, Development, Acculturation, and Resolution Services), has been awarded $70,505 from the Kentucky Office of Refugees to enhance and expand work with the refugee communities in Bowling Green.

This partnership consists of two programs. The Community Integration Program focuses on community inclusiveness and adjustment, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and relationship-building. Students at WKU will also have more opportunities to partner directly with refugee families for service-learning projects and mentoring opportunities.

The Empowerment Services Program (through CEDARS) will provide direct services such as driver’s education, acculturation group counseling, life-skills education, and cultural and civic development for refugees.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky and Bowling Green Technical College will also partner with the ALIVE Center and CEDARS to expand services to refugees in Bowling Green. Community Action will focus on career counseling and employment services for refugees, and Bowling Green Technical College will expand ESL classes for local refugee families.

The ALIVE Center looks forward to expanding our partnerships with refugee families and supporting organizations! For more information on how faculty, staff, or students may join our efforts, contact Nadia DeLeon @ 270-782-0966 or nadia.deleon@wku.edu.

Community Partnership Funding for Research and Service-Learning

The ALIVE Center is currently accepting proposals for research, service-learning and community development projects through the Community Partnership Funding program.

Faculty, staff or students interested in applying should contact Nadia DeLeon at 270-782-0966 or nadia.deleon@wku.edu to discuss your project idea before submitting a proposal.

Proposals are due on April 1st. For additional information about the Partnership Funding, as well as a listing of previously-funded projects, visit our website at http://www.wku.edu/alive/partnershipfunds.php.
Exploratory Trip to the Peruvian Amazon: Dr. Jane Olmsted, professor in Gender & Women's Studies, and Dr. Kay Gandy, associate professor in the School of Teacher Education, attended the National Collegiate Honors Council’s study abroad program in January, to get information to design a collaborative course for doctoral students in the Educational Leadership program and master's students in Social Responsibilty and Sustainable Communities.

Both programs, the SRSC and Educational Leadership, are firsts for WKU. The SRSC is the first interdisciplinary master's program devoted to sustainability and community leadership, while Educational Leadership was the University’s first stand-alone doctoral program. Both programs seek to prepare “students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen leaders of a global society.”

Graduate students Chad Green of Louisville and Brandi Button of Glasgow accompanied Dr. Olmsted and Dr. Gandy on the trip to Peru.

The proposed study abroad course, “Community, Place and Leadership on the Amazon Frontier,” will provide students an opportunity to include an international aspect in their program of study, to meet with international leaders and to do service work in rural and urban communities.

The sojourners traveled to Iquitos, Peru (the major city of the western Amazon) and at the Madre Selva Biological Station (Orosa River), from December 28 – January 16.

Dr. Jane Olmsted, Chad Green, Brandi Button and Dr. Kay Gandy all of WKU at La Pascana in Iquitos, Peru.
Chad Green, “My Trip to Peru”
When I first heard about the opportunity to go to Peru as part of the Amazon Winterim I immediately filled with excitement. For most of my life I had dreamed about visiting the rain forests in South America. Combined with my love for the environment and outdoors along with being a part of the SRSC program, it was a perfect match. The trip was an unforgettable experience. Being submersed in a completely different culture with exposure to the various communities and ways of life in the region is something I continue to cherish. In fact, the trip has provided me with the kind of meaningful research project I wanted—the impact of oil drilling along the Amazon. In addition, I made some incredible friendships and created some lasting relationships along the way.

Brandi Button, “What I learned in the Peruvian Amazon”
I went to Peru without any expectations as to what I might be doing there. I knew that I was going with Dr. Olmsted in order to gather information about a possible study abroad for WKU, but I had no idea that the trip would impact my life the way it has. While there I was allowed the opportunity to spend 8 days getting to know the local culture of Iquitos, Peru. In Iquitos I participated with the students there that were part of Florida International University’s Winterim in activities considered City as Text. This experience was especially important to me, because I have never been given the opportunity from a professor to just “go out there and see what you think.” We had a brief safety meeting and then we were sent out to explore. At first, I was uncomfortable, mainly because I did not speak Spanish and I have no sense of direction, but then it was like I just dove in head first. After the first day, they all started to warp together. I spent time in the local open air market and experienced sights, sounds, smells and feelings that I have never known before, I visited a school and found out what they felt their greatest needs were, I danced in local disco techas, ate authentic food, listened to local officials, representatives, scientists and activists, and made friends with a culture of people that I could only communicate with through an interpreter and body language. And this was only the first half of the trip, the next eight days I spent in villages 100 miles downriver from Iquitos and had my first AHA moment of what I want to research for a thesis that I had not considered doing for my Master’s in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities. I have a passion for indigenous cultures and their human rights. It is my hope to return to Peru next winter and work on my own research instead of just observing. This experience allowed me to finally put into perspective all that I have read about and studied in courses at WKU, yet never fully understood. I would advise any one with even a remote interest in study abroad to join us next winter!
The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility is home to many student organizations and initiatives. One such program, that has garnered national attention, is Public Achievement. Public Achievement (PA) is often described as “a youth civic engagement initiative”, but that fails to capture what it actually does. PA is about enabling young people to realize their power and instilling within them the skills necessary to create the change they wish to see. Led by Dr. Paul Markham, WKU students are trained as coaches and work with teams of students from grades K-12 on a public works project for an academic year. While being taught core concepts like power, democracy, accountability, and citizenship, Bowling Green City School students are asked what they care about and form a project based around their collective interests. There are currently teams at T.C. Cherry, Potter Gray, and Parker Bennett Curry Elementary Schools as well as Bowling Green High School.

Due to its outstanding work, Public Achievement Kentucky has received significant recognition. In January the White House recognized it as a national model for civic education and engagement during the launch of “For Democracy’s Future.” Ms. Bianca Brown, a WKU student, and Mr. Kyle Norris, a teacher at T.C. Cherry Elementary and WKU Alumni, along with Dr. Markham attended the event to share their experiences working with Public Achievement and empowering young people.

This March, WKU will host the first annual Public Achievement International Coaches’ Conference, bringing together coaches from across the United States and around the world to share their experiences and ideas. The conference will provide much-needed networking time for coaches, but also provide additional resources to further develop PA globally. For more information regarding the International PA Coaches’ Conference visit wku.edu/icsr.

Public Achievement is about creating a new kind of citizenry. In a time when congressional approval ratings and confidence in government are at all time lows and the feeling that the country is on the wrong track are at all time highs, PA is teaching young people that they do not have to wait for someone else to fix the problems they see. “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for; we are the change that we seek…”

By She’Rohn Draper
Graduate Assistant
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