Summer 2012

University College Connection Summer 2012

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University College Connection

From the Dean’s Office

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Good Luck, Emily!!

Emily Potter, our student worker, will be spending the Fall semester studying abroad in England. She will be attending Harlaxton College. We are thrilled for Emily and this opportunity!

Welcome Aboard!

We have a new student worker, Ryun Warren, who recently joined the Dean’s Office. Ryun has been doing a great job covering the front office! We are excited to have him with us!

** 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 South Campus, Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, Radcliff, Glasgow or Owensboro campuses, you may call our office (745-4092) by 12:00 p.m. for same day pick-up. You may also drop off your mail at: Tate Page Hall, Room 201. Please CLEARLY label the mail with the person’s name, campus, building name, and room number. Also, please allow plenty of time — Plan ahead! Couriers do not run daily during the summer hours. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Where’s Big Red?

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

The newsletters are distributed in February, May, August and November. The deadline is the 11th of the month. However, feel free to submit items for the newsletter anytime. Email submissions to: wendi.kelley@wku.edu.
WKU & ECTC are sponsoring the Hardin County Chamber on August 15th. Dr. Ransdell and ECTC President Dr. White will be speaking about Joint Admission at this event. They are spotlighting a few outstanding students who’ve attended ECTC and transferred to WKU Etown/Radcliff/Fort Knox. Pictured is one of the students, Kristian Herron. She attended ECTC and graduated from WKU with her Bachelor of Social Work. She completed her practicum at Warm Blessings, a local soup kitchen.

Liza Ramirez, Radcliff Office Associate, graduated from the Staff Leadership Institute 2011-2012. The staff leadership institute seeks to enhance job performance and personal development skills while challenging the spirit of each individual who participates.

Congratulations Liza!
WKU Glasgow welcomes four new faces to campus this fall.

Faculty
Catherine Poteet is a Bowling Green native, and earned both her B.S. in Physics and M.A.E. from WKU. She taught Physics and Astronomy at Greenwood High School for fourteen years. Catherine’s educational interests include gifted education, literacy strategies in Science and Math, and Cognitive Coaching.

Simon Funge, Social Work, received his MSW degree from California State University, Long Beach. He is completing his Ph.D. in Social Work at the University of California. Simon has taught social work classes at California State University, Long Beach and University of California, Los Angeles.

Staff
Mr. Bill Walter was appointed Interim Assistant Director for the fall term. Bill will retire as Associate Superintendent from Barren County Schools at the end of August. He brings with him extensive experience in education.

John Roberts has accepted the position of Coordinator, Communications and Student Recruitment for the WKU-Glasgow Campus. Originally from Scottsville, John earned a B.A. in Psychology from Georgetown College and an M.A.E. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from WKU. John’s background includes a variety of experiences in communications and marketing, as well as student recruitment and retention.

WKU signs joint admissions agreement with Somerset Community College
WKU signed its 7th joint admission agreement with Somerset Community College (SCC). The agreement will create a smoother process when transferring credits from SCC to WKU.

WKU Glasgow looks forward to working with Somerset Community College in facilitating opportunities for transfer students.

Tailgating with the Tops
On August 18th, WKU-Glasgow faculty, staff and students along with the Junior Achievement Advisory Board gathered for a tailgate event to support area football teams at the TJ Samson Health Careers Football Bowl. The event raised funds and awareness for Junior Achievement’s business and economics programs for area students in kindergarten through 12th grades and united the community as sports fans enjoyed the games.
The Educational Leadership Doctoral Program hosted an information session at the Owensboro Campus on June 26. Over 20 people attended the session. WKU-O will have a 10-seat cohort and will be the first regional campus to have a cohort.

The Badgett Conference Room in the WKU-O building is free to any outside group for meeting space. This summer 52 groups have taken advantage of the space.

WKU-O was happy to have Congressman Brett Guthrie, Senator Joe Bowen, Lt. Governor Jerry Abramson and State Representative Tommy Thompson have all visited WKU-O this summer.

Dr. Tice’s family grew by two on July 23. His daughter, Kristeen, had twins, Walker and Sydney.

Congratulations!

WKU-O hosted a booth at the Owensboro Has IT! event, held by the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce.

Hannah King has joined the WKU-O team as an Academic Advisor/Recruiter. She will be traveling between multiple KCTCS campuses. We are excited to have her join us!

Lee Underwood has accepted a new position as WKU-O’s IT Consultant!
WKU-O hosted Owensboro’s weekly Friday After 5 event. Staff, faculty, students, and families participated in a water balloon toss and hula-hoop contest.

Three teachers have been placed by the Confucius Institute to teach Chinese in Owensboro schools this year. Jing Cui, Zhi Hu, and Ling Wang will be teaching at Deer Park Elementary, Apollo High School, and Owensboro Middle & High School.

22 undergraduate and 4 undergraduate applications were submitted for the J. Rogers Badgett Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship provides tuition for Hancock County High School graduates and teachers.

At the end of the school year, Deer Park Elementary School students came to WKU-O for a party that was a reward for their hard work during end of the year testing. WKU-O regularly invites elementary students to the building to introduce young students to a college setting.

The WKU Alumni hosted the Annual Alumni Picnic on August 9. A large crowd attended the event, more than ever previously attended.
Diversity and Community Studies

On July 27, the Board of Regents approved a reorganization of some of the units in University College, and one result is the reconfiguration of several programs into one department: Diversity & Community Studies.

The Department of Diversity and Community Studies houses four programs, which offer the following minors or undergraduate certificates: African American Studies (minor); Gender and Women's Studies (minor); Gerontology (minor); and Citizenship and Social Responsibility (certificate).

These interdisciplinary programs share certain important affinities:

- Conceptual frameworks for understanding diverse communities, their histories and contemporary expressions, the structural challenges they face, and the contributions they offer to the fabric of American society;
- A commitment to working for social justice and equality of treatment across differences;
- A record of working collaboratively within communities—in service projects as well as participatory research;
- An understanding that social systems are interconnected in perpetuating institutional oppression and dominate group privilege.
- A conviction that interdisciplinary analysis and community experience are essential to addressing real world problems.
- Individually, the programs focus on the particular issues and sectors of society that define their curriculum, programming, and outreach.

All these programs will retain their current directors—Saundra Ardrey is director of AFAM, for instance, Dana Bradley of Gerontology, Jane Olmsted of Gender & Women's Studies, and Eric Bain-Selbo, Saundra Ardrey, and Paul Markham are the co-directors of the ICSR.

By merging our university home into this new department, we increase the possibilities for collaboration, we offer a departmental (rather than programmatic) home for tenure-track faculty, and we consolidate numerous administrative tasks.
What do some of our department members have to say about the reorganization?

**Saundra Ardrey, Director**  
**African American Studies and co-director Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility**

“The African-American Studies Program is eager to become a part of the new department of Diversity and Community Studies. As our country becomes more diverse and our world grows smaller through an increasingly globalized economy, it is important that we seek to engage and understand diverse communities. As we head into the fall, the African-American Studies Program will further the objectives of the department by offering its “Hip-Hop and Democracy” course and continuing its voter outreach efforts.

Dr. Saundra Ardrey, She’rohn Draper, MPA graduate student, and Lindsey Ardrey, graduate student in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities, will teach Project: Freedom School. Freedom School is the result of numerous meetings with concerned students in the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin killing. The course will focus on civic engagement techniques utilized throughout various freedom movements; students will research Black cultural centers at benchmark institutions.

**Kristi Branham, Assistant Professor**  
**Gender & Women’s Studies**

“I teach introductory, advanced, and graduate-level courses. I am delighted to be joining with my colleagues from the other programs in the new WKU Department of Diversity and Community Studies.”

Dr. Branham’s current research is focused on the American laundry industry’s market relationship to the middle-class white female, and the industry’s reliance on gender- and race-coded and xenophobic advertising to interlock and promote industry and (white) nationalism. Her essay “‘Thrown on Their Own Resources’: Collaboration as Survival Strategy in Imitation of Life” is included in the October 2012 issue of Literature Film Quarterly, and this fall she’s presenting a talk titled “‘With, like, half a body’: Primetime Masculinity and Men of a Certain Age” at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association of the South.
Dr. Paul Markham, Co-Director  
Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility

“We are excited to join the new department of Diversity & Community Studies. The academic mission of the department aligns with the goals of the ICSR and our new colleagues will bring even more creativity and energy to our work.”

Dr. Markham received the 2012 John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement in June, at the American Democracy Project Conference in San Antonio. Markham says, “Civic engagement involves a process of collaboration and reciprocity and a purpose of creating partnerships of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”

Regarding his role at WKU, Peter Levine noted that WKU is a national model of an engaged public institution: “I am sure that many people are responsible for WKU’s record, but from my perspective, Paul Markham is the most prominent representative of the University in national discussions about civic renewal and higher education,” he said. “He appears repeatedly in key roles, whether presenting at the White House, co-writing a statewide report on Kentucky’s Civic Health, or being invited to the Education Commission of the States’ national dialog on K-12 civic education” (June 14, 2012 Herald article).

Jane Olmsted, Professor and Director  
Gender & Women’s Studies

“I’m glad that our tenure-track faculty will now have a home with others engaged in important social justice, diversity, and community work. It feels right that we are together and that we can begin looking at ways to do what we’ve been doing better. I’m reminded of the line in the old organizing song: ‘Many stones can form an arch, singly none, singly none.’”

Dr. Olmsted’s most recent conference is this month in Malibu! She’s co-presenting with WKU art historian Guy Jordan and her son Galen (first-time for everything), who just completed his MFA at the University of Florida. Her paper is titled “Rivers Spilling, Overflowing: Metaphors and the Realities of Healing.”

Other faculty members not already mentioned are Dr. Lloren Foster (AFAM), Dr. Molly Kerby (GWS and SRSC), and Dr. Courte Voorhees (ICSR, SRSC). Terry Shoemaker is program coordinator for the ICSR, and Renee Purdy, currently the office associate for Gender & Women’s Studies, will serve as the department’s office coordinator.
Population aging is an international issue that the whole world is faced with. With the formal arrival of China’s aging era, their social security system is greatly challenged. May 21-23, scholars from all over the world met at the First Aging & Social Security International Conference funded by the Ford Foundation. Hosted by the Academy of Social Sciences of Zhejiang University and the Gerontological Society of America, the conference took place at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou China. Dana Burr Bradley presented a paper “How to Build A Better Long Term Care Systems: Lessons from the Forty Year US Experiment.” Dana with her co-authors, Keith Knapp, PhD and Randy Lindner, discussed the historical evolution of long term care licensure across the US and offered pragmatic advice for how China could strengthen its regulatory systems to insure the best possible care outcomes for its older adults.

The Certificate in Aging Studies welcomes its 17th student! Only a year into implementation, the Certificate is attracting a lot of interest. With our population aging both locally and globally, it is no wonder that people are seeking information about the fastest growing part of our society. The Certificate is offered entirely in an on-line format with courses led by leading experts in Gerontology. This diverse faculty with PhDs in Gerontology or related fields has applied research expertise in public policy, disaster and emergency preparedness, long term care, dementia, caregiving and global aging. Required courses (there are 3 of them) are rotated frequently so that students may complete the certificate in one year. Electives (one is required) are offered as needed and may be drawn from a related graduate program upon approval of the program director. For more information, please contact Dr. Dana Burr Bradley, 270.745-2356 or dana.bradley@wku.edu.

Dr. Keith Knapp, Senior Scientist and co-Instructor of the popular Honors GER0 100 course has been named chair-elect of the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB). Dr. Knapp will serve for 2 years prior to ascending to chair. He is only 1 of 2 individuals representing Kentucky to serve in that capacity. Dr. Knapp is the President and CEO of Christian Care Communities and currently serves as LeadingAge Kentucky’s representative on the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Long Term Care Administrators.
Kudos to Gerontology Center Senior Scientist and popular Gerontology instructor, Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald on her appointment as **United Nations NGO representative for the International Federation on Ageing**. Dr. Fitzgerald, representing International Federation on Ageing, will be attending the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna in September. This is the regional review of the Madrid International Plan for Action on Ageing (MIPAA). "The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted at the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002. Subsequently, the General Assembly endorsed the Plan on December 2002 during its 57th session. The Second World Assembly on Ageing brought together delegates from more than 160 Governments, intergovernmental institutions and NGOs to respond to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing. The Plan responds to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing and promotes the development of a society for all ages. It calls on Governments to integrate the rights and needs of older persons into national and international, economic and social development policies. The aim is "to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights" (para. 10).” The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE’s) “major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. To do so, it brings together 56 countries located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. The Ministerial Conference will be hosted by the Austrian Government under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and will also include the participation of NGOs and the scientific community. The Conference will conclude with a Ministerial Declaration.” We look forward to hearing an international update after in late September.

Good things come in truly beautiful packages" wishing Meredyth and John Merkling much joy as they wait the arrival of their son,

Jonathan Lawrence Merkling, Jr.
Paul Markham, co-director of the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at WKU, has received national recognition for his leadership in civic engagement.

Dr. Markham received the 2012 John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement last week at the American Democracy Project Conference in San Antonio. The award is given in recognition of exemplary early-career leaders who are advancing the wider civic engagement movement through higher education to build a broader public culture of democracy.

Saltmarsh is the co-director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a faculty member in the Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program in the Department of Leadership in Education in the College of Education and Human Development. The award recognizes his long-standing passion of nurturing and preparing the next generation of civic leaders to sustain and advance the civic engagement movement.

“It feels good to be recognized for work that not only prepares students to be successful in their lives and careers, but to be making a real change in our democracy and building a stronger society,” Dr. Markham, an assistant professor in WKU’s Honors College, said. “I’m thankful to those who have mentored me and look forward to doing the same for the next generation of citizen leaders.”

Recipients of the award are academic professionals working in an American Association of State Colleges and Universities institution. They have demonstrated leadership in building the wider civic engagement movement and have a record of advancing the civic learning of undergraduates. They act as an organizational catalyst to change higher education and to model leadership for change and have made an intellectual contribution to the development of the civic studies field and to the wider civic engagement movement.

This article is an excerpt taken from the WKU News Blog. Full blog post can be found at:

http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2012/06/14/markham-award/
ICSR at ADP

The Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility represented Western Kentucky University at the American Democracy Project’s national gathering held in San Antonio, Texas this summer. The theme of this year’s conference was “Civic Engagement 2.0: Re-Imagining, Strengthening and Deepening Our Civic Work,” and ICSR directors, staff, and students played a large role in making presentations and facilitating discussions.

Some of the highlights from the ICSR presentations were as follows: ICSR Co-Directors, Dr. Saundra Ardrey and Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo discussed their findings in the Kentucky Civic Health Index report that was released earlier this year. They discussed the challenges and successes of writing the report and encouraged other universities to consider their own publications. Dr. Paul Markham and Terry Shoemaker led a session regarding the role of faith communities in democratic work. Dr. Courte Voorhees demonstrated how community-based participatory action research could be used with technology to foster democratic citizenship. In addition, ICSR graduate assistants, Lindsey Ardrey and Bianca Brown, along with ICSR student worker, Noelle Johnson, discussed the implementation of the Public Achievement program at Western Kentucky University and the Bowling Green school system. These students also facilitated discussions at the conference regarding the future of the Public Achievement program nationally.

WKU’s Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility continues to lead the way in civic research, programming, and curriculum nationally.

Written by Terry Shoemaker, ICSR Program Coordinator
This summer brought several changes for us. In June the Board of Regents approved an undergraduate minor in Leadership Studies, and in July changed our program name to School of Leadership Studies. Already we have students who have chosen to minor in leadership, and we look forward to serving many more students.

BS Organizational Leadership Program Gaining Momentum

Due in large part to the efforts of regional campus advisors, the +2 Bachelor’s Degree completer program in Organizational Leadership is attracting new students to WKU. There are 16 majors registered for classes in the upcoming fall semester and the first three graduates will earn their degree in December. This broad-based degree provides a framework for understanding how organizations work with courses in leadership, organizational development, and management, with a focus on broadening students’ global and social-cultural perspectives.

Leadership Program Evaluation And Best Practices

Cindy Ehresman traveled to Saint Paul, Minnesota in early July to attend a special conference devoted to leadership programs. Sponsored by the C. Charles Jackson Foundation, the conference provided information for organizations interested in applying for grants to support leadership programming. The sponsors provided a half-day workshop on Leadership Program Evaluation Methods and Best Practices delivered by a company specializing in program evaluation.
This has been a great summer for us. We have offered classes in each of the summer sessions, and have had student participation increase over last year. John Baker taught a face-to-face LEAD 500 NAVITAS class with students from Kenya, China and Nigeria.

John Baker in Germany
In June John attended the International Leadership Association’s conference in Berlin. The theme of the conference was “Leading Across Generations.” The three day event featured sessions regarding: Workplace Structure, Mentoring and Coaching, Lifelong learning and Retention and Motivation.

Global Leadership Scholar in Taiwan
This summer Miss Bailey Mack, our current Global Leadership Scholar, traveled with the Confucius Institute at WKU to study in Taiwan. Baily will be speaking to our LEAD 200 classes this fall about her experiences. If you are interested in becoming a Global Leadership Scholar, contact Cecile Garmon at cecile.garmon@wku.edu.

Summer 2012 Leadership Classes
This has been a great summer for us. We have offered classes in each of the summer sessions, and have had student participation increase over last year. John Baker taught a face-to-face LEAD 500 NAVITAS class with students from Kenya, China and Nigeria.
Leadership Studies cont.

The Pursuit of Excellence: A Journey to the South
By: Ebo Osam
"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." –Rabindranath Tagore

It is true what they say about higher education; it provides a platform for people to have a richer experience of life. Having explored and tasted of educational experience on the west coast of the United States, southern Africa and in sunny West Africa, I yearned for a new rich cultural experience for my graduate degree. After much pondering I settled on returning to the United States, but the big question was where to go? I found so many remarkable graduate programs to choose from in many different unexplored states with their own unique cultures. Then it struck me. I had not yet experienced the hospitality for which the southern states are famous. When I came across WKU I gasped, a beautiful campus located in a great town with warm people, and the chance to experience southern hospitality! Thousands of miles and many time zones later, I am finally at WKU, and I have not been disappointed. The campus and atmosphere is just as beautiful as I imagined it to be. The people I have met have been helpful and friendly especially at the Center for Leadership Excellence where I am a new graduate Assistant. I certainly underestimated the warmth of the hospitality over here! I look forward to more great experiences as I work and study and perhaps I can carry some of the remarkable southern hospitality to share when I return to Ghana.

Izmir Turkey
Cecile Garmon attended the “International Symposium on Language and Communication: Research trends and challenges” in Izmir, Turkey, June 10-13, 2012. The conference was hosted by Izmir University and supported by approximately 50 universities from around the world. The two hundred participants included about twenty from the United States and a large representation from all areas of the globe. Dr. Garmon presented a paper that she co-authored with a graduate student, Mandhla Mgijima of Zimbabwe. Their topic was “Using Ubuntu: A New Research Trend for Developing Effective Communication across Cultural Barriers.” In addition to participating in the conference and interacting with faculty from around the world, the participants had the opportunity to visit the ancient ruins of Ephesus and other cultural significant sites in Asia Minor.
**Big Red’s Blitz**

Every August, first-year students can start the academic year by volunteering as part of Big Red’s Blitz, a day of service during M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan. Big Red’s Blitz has been a partnership event between Housing & Residence Life and the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships since 2004. At this year’s event, more than 300 students are expected to volunteer at 27 organizations in the community. The WKU students will volunteer for up to four hours at organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Jody Richards Elementary, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, and the Bowling Green Humane Society.

The students will return to campus at the end of the day for the reflection component titled “Now What?” in which students will discuss what they did, why the service was needed, and in what ways can they continue to serve while at WKU. This piece, led by staff at the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility and the ALIVE Center, will help students transform their experience into meaningful learning.

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**The $100 Solution**

Steps to The $100 Solution (™)

September 27th, 2:00-4:00pm

Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (Garret 115)

This is an open workshop for any campus and community members interested in being trained on The $100 Solution so they can conduct their own project. For more information, please contact Nadia at nadia.deleon@wku.edu.

Join us!
Project Affect

Project Affect is a student engagement fair that offers information on how to get involved through service, as well as engages visitors in hands-on activities reflective of different causes. This year’s event is coordinated by the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility. Project Affect will take place during Constitution Week on Tuesday, September 18th from 11:00am – 3:00pm. This year, the event will feature a Citizenship Simulation as well as ongoing service projects. Anyone interested in being one of the 10 $200 sponsors can call the ALIVE Center at 270-782-0082 by August 22nd. Sponsors will have their logo on the back of the shirt and information in the Project Affect packets.

Calendar of Events

August 23rd - Big Red’s Blitz
September 18th - Project Affect
September 27th - Steps to a $100 Solution
October 18th - Campus & Community Network
November 8-9th - Kentucky Engagement Conference
Check our website each month for our Random Acts of Service events!
Veterans Resource Center slated to open Fall 2012. The Office of Military Student Services is proud to announce the upcoming opening of a Veterans Resource Center in Tate Page Hall 237. The VRC will provide specialized services to our military student population. The goal of the center is to bring campus resources and outside services together to assist not only our military students, but veterans in the community with services and programs to aid in their educational success. Students will receive general assistance as well as help with the GoArmyEd education portal, Textbooks for Troops, counseling and career development advising. A Veterans Administration official will make regular visits to the center to assist with VA claims processing. A career services specialist will be on hand on designated days to assist students with converting military training into equivalent civilian job specialties. Members of the Student Veterans Alliance will be volunteering in the center to provide vet-to-vet mentoring and other peer support services.

Members of the Student Veterans Alliance recently met in the Veterans Resource Center to discuss the upcoming Welcome Back BBQ and 9/11 Heroes Run.

Student Veterans Alliance will be hosting a Welcome Back BBQ on September 1st at 3:30 pm on the patio of Tate Page Hall. Corn Hole games, a rock climbing wall, raffle items, and face painting for the kids will be available. The menu includes pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, brownies, and sweet tea. Tickets for the BBQ are $10 and includes a free "I support Veterans" t-shirt. Please come out and support our SVA and enjoy an afternoon of fun! Tickets are available from any SVA member, or at TPH 207. For more information visit www.wku.edu/sva

Kent Johnson, Part time Military Student Services Consultant, welcomed the birth of his first child, Tate Alan Johnson. He was born on July 7th.

Congratulations to Kent, Ciara and son Tate!!
WKU has signed a pledge to support the Education pillar of Got Your 6 by offering supportive veteran-specific resources, programs and policies. Got Your 6 is a movement led by a consortium of major film and television studios, broadcast and cable television networks, talent agencies, and guilds that are united in changing the conversation in America with regards to veterans and military families. WKU is part of the first wave of colleges and universities committed to heighten their support for current and future students who are also military veterans. Joining the Pat Tillman Foundation as major partners, Student Veterans of America and Operation College Promise are working together to offer peer support for veterans as they strive towards their higher education objectives. WKU was formally introduced at a launch of the Got Your 6 campaign’s Education Pillar in the Jack Morton Auditorium at George Washington University on July 24.

Zipline Challenge - The Student Veterans Alliance met for a zipline challenge. The Navy talked a big game, but the Army and Marines were the overall winners of the day. A rematch is in the works. Members of the Middle Tennessee State University SVA and staff from WKU- Elizabethtown also joined in on the fun.

9/11 Heroes Run - Each year on September 11th the Travis Manion Foundation brings local communities together for a 9/11 Heroes Run to remember, honor and support our men and women in the Armed Services, Police, Firefighter and First Responder communities who protect and serve our country every day. WKU’s Student Veterans Alliance will host a race in Bowling Green giving Americans the opportunity to run, volunteer, donate, cheer but most of all honor the fallen. Proceeds support the Travis Manion Foundation and the Pennyroyal Veterans Center in Hopkinsville, KY. The race will take place at Keriakes Park in Bowling Green on September 8th at 5:30 pm. Come out and support this great cause.

Registration is online at: [http://911heroesrun.com/runs](http://911heroesrun.com/runs)
It is will sadness, but also appreciation that we say good bye to Tim Benningfield. Tim has been a wonderful advocate for our adult learners and his presence will be greatly missed. Tim is now in Anchorage, at the University of Alaska as the Director of the Fire and Emergency Services Program. His 20 years as a firefighter in Owensboro, and his time with us at WKU makes him the perfect person for this job.

Hopefully by the next newsletter, WKU REAL will be announcing the new Adult Learner Counselor along with the new Graduate Assistant.

Did you know???

The WKU REAL office is closing in on its 4th birthday!!! We have helped more than 500 adults pursue the possibility of returning to college, or attending for the first time. Not all have been able to follow through, but we’ve opened the door, and given them a place to call, email or drop in to find services specifically for them. For the adults with 0-79 college hours, 19 have completed degrees. For the FINISH students with 80+ hours, over 150 have completed degrees. Many more are still in the process.