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Arête: Honors College at WKU Newsletter

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Honors College

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# ARETTE

THE SPIRIT OF ENGAGED EXCELLENCE – A PUBLICATION OF THE WKU HONORS COLLEGE

OCT. 2008  
VOL.4 ISSUE 2



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## How to write an Honors grant



**AMY CASEBOLT**

*Honors College Office Associate*

Many Honors programs and colleges offer money to their students. So do we. But more than just money, we use these funds to open doors of opportunities for you – life experiences that prepare you for your future and accomplishments you can list on a résumé. We support these opportunities through Honors College grants. All Honors Students are eligible to apply for these grants.

As grant opportunities become more popular and our Honors College enrollment grows, these grants are becoming increasingly competitive. So, how can you make sure your application will outshine the rest? Here are a few tips on filling out your application:

- Read the instructions carefully. The instructions will assist you in filling out the form **and** will inform you of necessary details for how to receive your money if you are awarded a grant.

- Turn it in on time. Deadlines for Grant applications are listed on the website. Grant applications must be submitted to the Honors College **before** you leave on a trip or purchase the requested materials – even if the deadline for submission is after you leave on the trip.

- Be sure to **type** your application in the PDF on-line. All Honors College forms are available in a typeable PDF on-line, and we only accept them if they are completely typed.

- Fill the form out completely. Double check that no information is missing, and no question unanswered. An incomplete application will be returned to you.

- Attach all necessary documents. Use the check list on the application to make sure that you have attached all the required documentation. Applications are not accepted unless **all** the documentation is attached – including the recommendation from the faculty member.

- Do not wait until the last minute to ask for a faculty member to provide the letter of recommendation or travel abroad recommendation! The more time they have to write the letter, the more they can put into the letter to support you.

- Put yourself into your essay! Remember that the Honors Development Board, the group that reviews the applications and makes awards, reads a **lot** of essays from students who want to be funded by the Honors College. What makes **you** different? How is this experience going to benefit **you** personally? What makes this an Honors-worthy opportunity? What educational value does it carry? **Be passionate.** We do not want to know why you want the money, we want to know why you want the **experience!**

- Most importantly, take the grant seriously. The Honors College is looking to fund experiences for passionate people.

Keep your ears open for opportunities to attend a Grant Writing Workshop!

**Here are the opportunities currently available to you: (You can find these applications on-line at [www.wku.edu/honors/forms](http://www.wku.edu/honors/forms))**

### **Honors Development Grant (HDG): up to \$500**

- Funds CE/T Projects (materials, travel for research, etc.)
- Funds travel to attend or present at a professional conferences

*HDGs are due twice a semester. The remaining deadline this semester is Oct. 13.*

### **CE/T Excellence Award: up to \$1500**

- Funds exceptional CE/T projects – **must** lead to publication or be submitted for national recognition
- To apply, use the same form as Honors Development Grant, and select “I want to be considered for the CE/T Excellence Award” on the first page.

*CE/T Excellence Awards are due at the same time as HDGs.*

### **Travel Abroad Grant (TAG): up to \$500 for partial semester (at least 3 credit hours), up to \$1000 for full semester or 10-week summer program, up to \$2500 for a full year**

- Funding for Study Abroad trips where credits are earned.
- Is processed as a scholarship, and the money is deposited into your tuition account after you leave for the trip.
- Gordon Ford College of Business students: If your *major* is in the Gordon Ford College of Business, the GFCB will match travel abroad funding up to \$500! To take advantage of this opportunity, be sure to see the instructions on the TAG form.

*TAGs for Winter 09 and Spring 09 Study Abroad are due Oct. 27.*

***In all cases, be sure to read the instructions on the form carefully about what specific expenses can be reimbursed, and what you will need to provide.***

## First Honors Club Meeting a Success

AMANDA LOVIZA

Areté staff writer

Honors students who had never before tasted the famous Big Red Rumble ice cream got their chance at the first Honors Club meeting of the semester, on Tuesday, Sept. 9. An ice cream social as well as the first meeting, the event was held at the Faculty House located next to Cherry Hall, and a record number of at least 100 students attended, with many representatives from the incoming freshman class.

Not only were there all the new faces of the freshmen, but for those who attended meetings last year, there were a couple new faces on the executive board as well. With the club's former president studying abroad this fall, former treasurer, sophomore Chelsea Moulden, stepped up to fill the position of Honors Club

president for the semester.

Sophomore Allie Kerns, now club treasurer, and Moulden were sworn into their offices at the last meeting of

**A record number of at least 100 students attended.**

the spring semester. The rest of the executive board from last year includes junior Kevin Smiley, junior Drew Eclov, and senior Jeremiah Bush, with Amy Chester serving as advisor to the Honors Club. After the board announced an open position for the social events chair, sophomore Laurel Mallory and freshman Jennifer Hail volunteered at the end of the meeting to share the role.

With a pretty even mix of new and old officers, Moulden is looking forward to what the club will accomplish this fall. "The leadership team has come up with



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

*Top: Honors Club's Ice Cream Social. Over one hundred Honors students attended the event.*

*Bottom: Honors freshmen Chloe Muller (left) and Kristen Mikulcik (right) enjoy their ice cream.*

more social events than ever before for Honors students to participate in," she said. "There's definitely more to be excited about this semester."

Once officer introductions were complete, the meeting continued with announcements about everything that is happening in the Honors College this semester, including upcoming social events.

The meeting wrapped up with lots of ice cream and soda, and students had the chance to talk with Amy

Chester and Dr. Craig T. Cobane as well as to meet other Honors students. If attendance at all Honors events this semester reflects that of the first Honors Club meeting, Honors is going to be very busy indeed.



## Residents compete for racing supremacy

**KENDRICK BRYAN**

*Areté staff writer*

As some students mixed and mingled at Lost River Cave, a number of others competed in the McLean Cup in the community room of McLean Hall, one of three residence halls designated for Honors College students. The McLean

Cup consisted of 12 participants competing in Mario Kart for the Wii, a kart racing video game that was released in April for the Nintendo Wii console. A total of 45 students attended the event.

The game is the sixth installment in the Mario Kart video game series, which began in 1992 with the release of Super Mario Kart for the Super Nintendo

Entertainment System (SNES). Jerrod Nelms, a ground floor resident, won the competition. Louisville senior Matt Effinger and Elizabethtown juniors Andy Burrell and Michael Simpson also competed for the grand prize.

"If we have another event, I want to participate in it," said Louisville junior Art Scisney, a resident assistant at McLean Hall. "It seemed like students had a lot of fun, and I want to face Jerrod for the title."

Students also played Mario Kart 64 and GoldenEye 007 on the Nintendo 64.

"The McLean Cup gave students a chance to socialize and take their minds off of studying for a few hours," said Park Hills sophomore Amanda Beers.

McLean Hall staff members expect to host more Nintendo Wii events in the near future, and campus residents have a chance to win a console for their residence hall at the Hallapalooza event on October 18. The residence hall with the highest attendance percentage and displaying the most WKU spirit at the Hilltopper football game against Florida Atlantic University will win a Nintendo Wii and an additional controller. The crowd is encouraged to wear red attire, and residents need to check in at the top of Gate 6.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

*McLean Hall resident Stuart Kenderes races on Mario Kart while other hall residents watch and wait their turn to race.*

## Workshop gives students head start on personal statements

**LAUREL WILSON**

*Areté staff writer*

Students who participated in a personal statement workshop on Sept. 13-14 received a head start applying for scholarships and graduate school.

"The workshop helped students learn about what a personal statement is, how to write one and allowed them to begin drafting their own," said Amy Eckhardt, Director of the Office of Scholar Development, who helped facilitate the workshop.

"About 40 students participated in the workshop, which was held in the

Academic Advising Center in Downing University Center for two hours on both days," Eckhardt said. "The workshop included presentations as well as group sessions for rewriting and revising."

"The workshop specifically targeted students applying for graduate schools and scholarships, and was co-sponsored by the Office of Scholar Development, the Writing Center, and The Learning Center," said Dr. Angela Jones, an assistant professor of English who presented at the workshop.

Even though a number of Honors students attended, Jones pointed out

that the workshop was open to the entire student population. Eckhardt said it was a great first workshop, but she wishes there had been more time allotted for it.

Jones said it is possible that the workshop will take place again in the Spring, and a faculty version might also be held, so that teachers would be able to instruct students in writing personal statements.

Eckhardt said online tutorials and podcasts are planned so that students can learn about personal statements on their own as well.

# Students get lei-ed at Lost River Cave

**MANNIE WEBB**

*Areté staff writer*

Lost River Cave was the place to be Friday, Sept. 19, from 7p.m. to midnight for the Honors annual fall mixer. Approximately two hundred students welcomed a well-deserved break from the week's work at the Mix 'n' Mingle Luau. Honors students, Gatton Academy Students, and guests were invited to the Lost River Cave for the event. The mixer had a lot to offer, as Honors events always do. In addition to the great music and chocolate fountain, attendees had the opportunity to take a ride on the cave boat tours for free.

Throughout the night, the dance floor was packed with students, many of whom dressed ready for the Hawaiian luau theme (including guys in grass skirts and coconut bras). Additional leis and sunglasses were even provided at the door. Honors College staff was even seen having a blast and dancing the night away alongside the students. Towards the end of the evening, a raffle was held where three students won prizes. Everyone who came had an awesome time, and students look forward to the Honors formal in the Spring.



PHOTOS BY JOSH GONZALES

*Top: Two WKU students square dance. Bottom left: Two WKU students find their groove and shake their booty. Bottom right: Students enjoyed dancing to popular music in Lost River Cave.*



# WKU Chem Club Goes Green

**MANNIE WEBB**

*Areté staff writer*

The Chemistry Club is more than just an award-winning chapter. In addition to the existing community outreach programs and service, the Chemistry Club is hoping to add another achievement to its list. In the last several years, the club has taken home awards in all the categories except for one: this year the club is looking forward to filling that space with a Green Award.

After discussing different projects aimed at a greener campus, club members have chosen to begin a plastic bottle recycling project. Plastic bottle recycling bins with a Chemistry Club logo will be placed on each floor of Ogden College buildings. Be on the lookout for these bins, and help us make WKU a greener campus!



MANNIE WEBB

*Honors senior Jacob Vervynckt (far right) stirs the liquid nitrogen ice cream made at the second general Chemistry Club meeting*

# KHRT: Practice Makes Perfect

**KATIE KNECHT**

*Areté staff writer*

How late have you stayed up practicing that speech again and again, pretending you're talking to an audience? No matter what you do, it is hard to replicate the feeling of actually getting in front of a group of people and giving a presentation.

The Honors College is involved in the Kentucky Honors Round Table (KHRT), which gives students an opportunity to give presentations on their research and then receive feedback on those presentations. All the Honors programs and colleges in the state attend KHRT, and the event's location rotates from school to school.

"Presenting a project and getting feedback can give you more ideas,

inspire you, and it's really just enjoyable," Jessica Orlofske, coordinator for WKU's KHRT said.

The event occurs every semester, and it is a perfect opportunity for presenting a project, reading a term paper or CE/T project, or discussing a particular topic. All those who attend KHRT, students and teachers alike, listen to each piece of work, ask questions, and give feedback afterward.

Dr. Clay Motley attended this semester's KHRT in Louisville during the last weekend of September. "Presenting research in a conference setting is a great experience," he said. "It also gives students a chance to stay in contact with other Honors programs and create a network of professional contacts."

Motley also said that any kind of presentation is welcome to KHRT, includ-

ing research under any discipline, an augmentation project, and a teacher-student presentation. "The Honors community is so vibrant, and it's a great opportunity to see other schools and how their programs work," Motley said.

Some WKU students participated in a general discussion about a class they took together, while another group analyzed baseball statistics.

Any ideas are welcome and encouraged at this event that is not only good practice, but looks good on a résumé too.

KHRT will be held at Murray State during the spring semester, and student transportation, lodging, and meals are all paid for. Anyone who is tired of standing in front of the mirror and practicing can contact Jessica Orlofske in the Honors College for more details!

## Make Your Mark on Minton

**KATIE KNECHT**

*Areté staff writer*

The warm afternoon of Sept. 21 found Minton Hall's sidewalk particularly busy. Minton, the freshman Honors residence hall, had its first hall social of the year.

Over 100 students participated in Make Your Mark on Minton, where each floor was assigned a specific color not only to dress in, but also to make a lasting handprint with. Every floor, including the staff one, had a long piece of paper and a bucket of paint to make their own handprint.

The signs were hung up in Minton's lobby, and the floor with the most participation won a dessert party.

The Hall Council produced the event along with the help of a representative from each floor who took note of all the residence hall members who partici-

pated. "It was a great opportunity to meet people from our hall," Whitney Churchman, Hall Council treasurer said. "We got a chance to start proving that Minton really is the best."

The girls of the sixth floor won the competition for the most participation, but the social was really an opportunity for Minton's residents to get to know one another and find unity. Kasey Bishop, an eighth floor resident, said she feels like the residence hall isn't separated by floors anymore. "It's like we're all part of one family together."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

*Honors freshman Michelle Child signs her name by her handprint.*

## Honors BBQ with the Profs



PHOTOS BY NIKKI DEESE

*Honors freshmen participated in this year's BBQ with the Profs. Students traveled to various faculty and staff members' homes to eat dinner.*

## Meet Natalie Brown: an Honors Twin

**SAM MICALLEF**

*Areté co-editor*

**Class year:** Senior!

**Major:** “I used to want to major in rocket science... you know, just to be that person who, when asked, ‘What are you—a Rocket Scientist?’ could say, ‘Why, yes. Yes, I am,’ without sounding completely full of themselves. Then I realized that no matter how you answer that question (short of tucking tail and running away, that is), you’re going to sound full of yourself. So, I opted for Nursing.”

**Favorite color:** “In a word, pink.”

**What she likes best about being in Honors:** Honors Housing. “Not to sound like the underachieving Rocket Scientist, but I like the looks from people who are not in Honors housing. And I look at them and say, ‘Yeah, that’s right, I get my own bathroom.’ Then I begin to understand that this also means I must clean it... and buy toilet paper. Small price to pay.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Senior Natalie Brown from Bowling Green, Ky. poses for the camera at last year’s Honors Formal.



SAM MICALLEF

Senior Derrek Brown (left) is a Pre-Med: Biology and Chemistry double major. His twin sister Natalie Brown (right) is a nursing major.

**After graduation plans:** “After graduation—that distant diploma that screams, ‘Yay! You did it!’ I’m also hoping to secure a job in the Medical Center, something close, something near, something with which I’m familiar.”

**Favorite animal:** “Oh, puppy, puppy, puppy. Dog? No... unless I knew it as a puppy first. And, honestly, you’ll catch me calling grown dogs, puppies... because cuteness, my readers, knows not age. Cute canine = puppy.”

**Favorite song:** “I’ve always been a HUGE fan of ‘Jingle Bells,’ and I can play the first 6-ish notes on ANYTHING!”

**Favorite holiday:** Christmas. “I like Christmas... think of Christmas, think of snow, think of reindeer, off we go! Honestly, though, Christmas is amazing... it brings people together, if only for a day. Plus, who doesn’t love snow? And stomping through it in flip-flops? I mean, come on!”

**Halloween plans:** Attending a Halloween party dressed as a good fairy. “I’m going to be a good fairy. White dress, blonde hair. Not to be mistaken for Marilyn Monroe, though. \*laughs\* I was always told I should be a blonde. (No offense to those of you out there.)”

**Fun facts about Natalie:** “I’d go FAR out of my way to destroy a crunchy leaf, and I’d do almost anything for a soft chocolate chip cookie. It’s my Klondike Bar.” Natalie also has a twin brother, Derrek Brown, who is also in the Honors College at WKU.

**Favorite thing to do in her spare time:** Instant Message. “IM. That’s right, I thought I was immune to the cyber addiction, but I regret to admit that I am not.”

**Word of advice to other Honors students:** “You should definitely be a rocket scientist. Oh, and if at first you don’t succeed... go skydiving.”

## Student sees Germany again as a Fulbright Scholar

**BOBBY DEIGNAN**

*Areté co-editor*

Brooke Shafar graduated from WKU and the Honors College last year as a double-major in English and German. But that doesn't mean she's done with her education. Appointed as a Fulbright scholar, Shafar is spending one year in Germany, where she will be responsible for assisting in and sometimes leading lessons in English classes for a German school in Bad Dürkheim, Germany. "It is a college prep-track school, which houses grades 5-13," Shafar explained. "So I could potentially be working both with teenagers and ten-year-olds."

President Truman signed the Fulbright Program into law in 1946, following the aftermath of WWII, as an international educational exchange. This isn't Shafar's first trip to Germany, and she says going there is always a delight. "My favorite part about (sort-of) living here is being able

to explore what is different here from the U.S.," she said. "I've always thought the public transportation system is amazing. Meeting and talking with people and actually being able to communicate with them is also always fun. And the bread. One can't forget the awesome bread."

When asked what she hopes to gain from the experience, she said, "I'm looking forward to learning more about teaching and working in the classroom, since I will probably eventually be in one myself some day, albeit with older students. And of course I want to improve my German skills before I start in the German program at Washington University in St. Louis next fall." She credits the WKU Honors College with giving her the background and experience she needed to be a strong candidate for the Fulbright. We wish Brooke all the luck in the world! Viel Glück!

Honors students interested in applying for a nationally prestigious scholarship, such as the Fulbright, should contact Amy

Eckhardt, Director of the Office of Scholar Development, located in the Honors College.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

*Alumna Brooke Shafar poses in front of the Dom (the very large cathedral in the center of town) in Cologne, Germany.*

## Sophomore enjoys role as WKU's ultimate fan

**KENDRICK BRYAN**

*Areté staff writer*

Big Red may be a decade older than Honors sophomore Josh Pruitt, but that has not stopped him from enjoying his time as the Raymond Entertainment Mascot Hall of Fame inductee. Big Red is WKU's athletic mascot and is considered to be the University's ultimate fan and supporter. The mascot was designed by WKU student Ralph Carey, who also built the costume. Pruitt earned a spot on the Big Red staff after he tried out in April.

"I was inspired to try out mainly by the sheer opportunity to be one of the most renowned mascots not only in America but across the globe," Pruitt said. "I also recognized some of the opportunities that would open up such as connections and the ability to be the face of WKU."

Pruitt is majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Biophysics. He plans to attend

pharmacy school after graduation.

"Big Red is the lovable face of WKU as he was created in '79 and people fell in love instantly. He has the reputation for always staying into mischief whether it be stealing hats, taunting other mascots or eating someone's head," he added, "I also believe that Big Red is the culmination of WKU's spirit from both the students and the faculty."

Pruitt lives in McLean Hall and is also an Alumni Leadership Scholar.

"The Honors College has always stressed extracurricular involvement whether it be student organizations or athletics and for us as students to push ourselves beyond our limits to help us fully experience the college life and to grow as a person at the same time," Pruitt said. "If you asked me a few years ago if I would ever be Big Red, I would tell you that sounds like fun but I doubt it would ever happen. But now after I pushed myself to try, I have accomplished something that I am still trying to figure

out how I managed to accomplish."

Big Red has appeared in a number of ESPN commercials and has also competed in the Capital One Mascot Challenge five times since the annual series began in 2002. He also appeared on *Deal or No Deal*, a game show on NBC.

Pruitt closed by saying, "As a mascot I'm considered a student athlete. I even received the same apparel but with Big Red on it. So I have many of the same responsibilities that they do such as maintaining a positive image and representing WKU to the best of my abilities. My role as Big Red though in the costume is to stay in character and know Big Red's personality. This includes not talking, but also I am supposed to always stay active and doing something whether it be with the crowd, the band, the athletes or the opposing mascot. Big Red is also known to be mischievous, so I need to keep that in mind as well, but there is always a boundary on how much mischief that Big Red should get into."

## Sudoku

1					9		8	
	4					5		9
6		7	3				1	
8			5		3			
		6		1		8		
7					4		3	
5			7	3		9		
				9	5		6	
	8		1		6	7		5

## Calendar of Events

- October** 9-10: Honors Homecoming Queen candidate election  
 11: Honors Nashville Opera trip to see *Don Giovanni*  
 13: Deadline for Honors Development Grants at 12p.m.  
 22-26: NCHC in San Antonio  
 27: Deadline for Travel Abroad Grants at 12p.m.  
 31: Halloween  
 31: Math Symposium at TCCW from 4-10p.m.  
 31: Big Red's Roar at FAC Colonade from 5-11p.m.

- November** 1: WKU Homecoming  
 1: Honors College tailgating  
 13: KRT trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
 27: Thanksgiving Day



Published monthly by students in the Honors College.

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