Summer 2014

University College Connection Summer 2014

Dennis K. George, Dean
Western Kentucky University

Wendi Kelley
Western Kentucky University, wendi.kelley@wku.edu

University College, Western Kentucky University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/uc_pubs

Part of the Adult and Continuing Education and Teaching Commons, Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Community-Based Learning Commons, Community College Leadership Commons, Military and Veterans Studies Commons, Organizational Behavior and Theory Commons, Other Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons, Service Learning Commons, and the Women's Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
George, Dean, Dennis K.; Kelley, Wendi; and University College, Western Kentucky University, "University College Connection Summer 2014" (2014). UC Publications. Paper 17.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/uc_pubs/17

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in UC Publications by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
From the Dean's Office

Good Luck to everyone on a successful 2014-2015 Academic Year!

The Dean's Office would like to officially welcome our new student workers, Abby Potter and Miranda Urban. You will most likely find one of them at the main desk in the front office. Feel free to contact Abby and Miranda at 745-4092 if you have questions regarding regional mail pickup or delivery.

** 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, 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 win a University College travel mug! Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and tell us where you found him!
Hill House and THDS Graduate Assistant

2014-2015 Hill House Graduate Assistants:

Ms. Jessica Bertram: Second year Social Work graduate student
Mrs. Alekhya Patagarla: Second year Healthcare Administration graduate student
Ms. Keira Martin: First year Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate student
Ms. Katlyn Farris: First year Leadership Dynamics graduate student

2014-2015 The $100 Solution™ Service-Learning Program Graduate Assistants:

Mr. Kene Anyigbo: First year Athletic Administration graduate student
Mrs. Samantha Mallory: First year Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate student

The $100 Solution™ Living Learning Community House OPEN this Fall

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships along with the department of Housing and Residence Life and The $100 Solution™ service-learning program are proud to announce the Fall opening of the first theme-living house at WKU. The $100 Solution™ Living Learning Community House is located at 1534 Chestnut Street and will house a total of six WKU undergraduate and graduate students, who will work to solve local community determined issues with $100. For more information on THDS LLC House contact the WKU ALIVE Center or the department of Housing and Residence Life.
The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships is pleased to welcome the Bonner Leaders for the 2014-2015 academic year. The Bonner Leader program at WKU is designed to assist students (who have experience serving in communities) with the cost of their college education. WKU Bonner Leaders dedicate 300 hours per year to community service and training and enrichment. In return, they receive financial assistance. A few students also enter into the program each year as a Bonner Volunteer. B-Vols actively participate in the program, but have different requirements.

**First Year Bonner Leaders**
- Rebecca Haynes
- Kennady Galofaro
- Martajia Armstrong
- Meagan Coomer
- Hannah Shaffer
- LaDeirdre Mumford
- Jennifer Willis

**Second Year Bonner Leaders**
- Daniel Banks
- Grace Gilliland
- Erin Evans
- Courtney Ritchie
- Lejla Mehmedovic
- Kurtis Spears

**Bonner Volunteers**
- Rachel Williams
- Emily Burchfield
Welcome, Julia Rivas!
The ALIVE Center welcomes our new Office Associate, Mrs. Julia Rivas. Julia serves as the primary point of contact in maintaining resources and fielding communications related to the university’s regional stewardship mission. She also manages volunteer services and the Center’s budget and personnel actions. Previously, Mrs. Rivas worked as the coordinator of the Hispanic GED and ESL Program and as the Multicultural Services Coordinator at the ALIVE Center.

Julia was born in El Salvador, Central America. At the age of thirteen her family migrated to New Jersey, where she lived for five years. Despite her unfamiliarity with the language, culture, and customs, Julia worked very hard to improve herself and help her family. Later, Julia and her family moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she graduated from high school and had the opportunity to attend Western Kentucky University. She was the first in her family to graduate from an American university, acquiring a BIS in Interdisciplinary Studies with emphasis in Organization and Communication of Ideas from WKU.

Julia is a caring person who strives to give back to her community. She became part of HOPE, the Hispanic Organization for the Promotion of Education, to help Latino students to pursue higher education. Julia was the first president of the organization in 2009 and continues to be an active member. She believes that education is the key to success and with hard work, faith, and great expectations everything is possible. Please join us in welcoming Julia to the ALIVE Center and University College!
Louise Barr

Louise Barr was recently hired as a Graduate Assistant with the Center for Gerontology, WKU Aging. She is from Ohio, and traveled to WKU for her Master of Social Work degree, with an interest in clinical and counseling and emphasis in the mental health field. Louise was awarded two degrees from Ohio University, OU, in 2013. An Associates in Science and Bachelors in Arts and Sciences with the major of Psychology. Additionally, she earned a certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies while at OU.

While there, Louise served as an executive board member for several organizations including Psi-Chi honors society and Psychology Club, The Residents’ Action Council, and Bobcats for Suicide Prevention. All while she maintained an internship as the program coordinator at United Campus Ministry, a non-profit organization that provided weekly meals for all community members.

Louise enjoys being active by volunteering on campus, shooting archery, swimming, and walking her beautiful bullmastiff dogs. She also has an avid love for movies, and spends much of her time watching them whenever possible, in addition to traveling and sight-seeing. Scrapbooking and taking pictures are also activities she greatly enjoys. Louise has always had an interest in working with the mentally-ill adult population and looks forward to learning and applying her knowledge to the aging population.

Why Study Aging?

Populations are aging worldwide. Every 8 seconds, someone turns 60 in the United States. People born today can expect to live beyond their 75th year. The age group growing fastest in our society and in many other countries is the "very old", people aged 85 and older. Every profession needs experts in aging. These include: financial services, human services, religious organizations, health care, government agencies, and retirement communities.

WKU Aging offers three academic programs in aging including an undergraduate Minor in Gerontology (21 hours), an Aging Specialist Certificate (15 hours) and a Graduate Certificate in Aging Studies (12 hours). Faculty/staff or students with questions about any program may contact Marybeth Hunt at marybeth.hunt@wku.edu or 270-745-3177 for more information.
Second Annual Gathering Held

The second annual “Gathering” was held on August 12th at the Augenstein Alumni Center. This event, hosted by WKU Aging, the City of Bowling Green, and AARP Kentucky brings together area businesses and organizations to discuss the age-friendliness of Bowling Green. Twenty-four entities were present and provided information about their own efforts to become age-friendly, as well as brainstormed ideas to help Bowling Green become more age-friendly. The information gathered from these discussions is being compiled as part of a larger project called the Age-Friendly Bowling Green Initiative. This hands-on community initiative utilizes the World Health Organization’s framework for assessing age-friendliness. See WKU Aging’s website at [www.wku.edu/aging](http://www.wku.edu/aging) for more information about this project.

In addition, the second annual Age-friendly Awareness Award was presented to Christian Care Communities, who demonstrated their commitment to age-friendliness not only to the people they serve in their facilities, but to the Bowling Green-Warren County community as a whole.

Pictured left to right: Dr. Dana Burr Bradley, Director of WKU Aging; Heather O’Banion, Executive Director of Christian Care Communities; Emily Harlan, Director of Business Development with Home Instead Senior Care (the 2013 award winner) and Bowling Green Mayor Bruce Wilkerson.
We’ve moved!

Come find us in Tate Page Hall 110 (formerly Communication Disorders) - entrance located closest to Einstein’s Bagels.

We look forward to a great Fall semester!
CanDoo has been extremely busy this summer providing therapeutic benefits to students. ESLI students from Brazil and Upward Bound participants have especially enjoyed visits with him. He entertained large groups of visitors each day. They were very pleased to learn that CanDoo was part of the student success team at WKU. Visits with CanDoo appeared to uplift the students as he enticed smiles, laughter, and a chance for them to unwind between classes.

Along with his regular duties of serving students from Military Student Services, CanDoo also has been a valuable asset to the Kelly Autism Program. Children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are inhibited by developmental brain disorders which hinder their ability to communicate and interact socially. A number of studies suggest that animal assisted therapy has proven beneficial to children with autism. Benefits include:

- Increased attention
- Enhanced thinking
- Helping students learn faster and retain information longer
- Puts students in a better mood

Although the true benefits of animal assisted therapy are numerous and still remain to be fully researched, evidence has shown it to be a highly effective form of psychotherapy intervention. Interaction with therapy dogs can reduce blood pressure, aid in stress, anxiety, and depression as well as a host of other health benefits.
Many of our WKU military students are called to duty with little or no notice. I ask that you please work with these students to ensure they are not falling behind due to circumstances that are beyond their control. If military obligations cause them to miss a quiz or a critical assignment, please work with them so their grade does not suffer. Their classes are very important to them, but their military duty must always come first. They don’t have a choice. When duty calls they generally do not have internet connectivity.

Our military student population is growing exponentially. We are serving active duty, reserve, and national guard units from all over the country and globally. As this population continues to grow our military flexibility must be enhanced. We are currently the top ranked (BEST For Vets) school in Kentucky, and number 7 in the nation because YOU are serving them so well. Please continue to look for ways to help them overcome last minute, duty related, interruptions to their classes.

If you need verification of their temporary duty assignments, or need assistance with a military student, please don’t hesitate to contact our office. 270 745-5837 or 270 745-4163.

Student Veterans Alliance

The Student Veterans Alliance is Western Kentucky University’s chapter of the national program, Student Veterans of America. The Student Veterans Alliance was established in 2010 by Arthur J. Petersen, a U.S. Navy Veteran. With over 1,000 chapters nationwide and a growing membership currently within our local chapter, the Student Veterans Alliance advocates for policy change and provides the networking opportunities necessary to ensure that our student veterans succeed in higher education and gain meaningful employment.
Chapter President, Dan Collins, presents talking points at a monthly meeting hosted at Mellow Mushroom. The Student Veterans Alliance meets the last Wednesday of every month to discuss current issues facing student veterans, policy changes to bring forward, and social events to bring the community together.

Chapter Vice President, Joe Hunter, pictured 3rd from right, 2nd row from bottom, attends the 2014 National Student Veterans of America Leadership Institute hosted in Bentonville, Arkansas. The institute provides chapter leaders with intensive, in-residence chapter leadership training focused on best practices and operational concepts designed to strengthen the local chapters.

Chapter Vice President, Joe Hunter, pictured sweeping debris from a tornado ravaged house in La Follette, TN with the veterans disaster response group, Team Rubicon. The Student Veterans Alliance links student veterans with the resources and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in their local, state, and regional communities.
This past May and June, Dr. Michael Trivizadakis and Dr. John Baker co-led a study abroad to Greece to better understand the Greek leadership process, both ancient and present. Ten students participated in the study abroad that occurred from May 20th to June 11th. The adventure started at the northern Greece city of Thessaloniki, the same place where the Apostle Paul preached to the Thessalonians in Biblical times.

While in Thessaloniki, the group studied the leadership of Alexander the Great along with the leadership challenges encountered by his father, Phillip II. One could argue that Alexander the Great was one of the most important leaders in the world as he spread the Greek and Christian culture throughout the Middle East and Eastern Europe. While in Thessaloniki, the study abroad group was able to visit the waterfalls at Edessa, take an olive tasting class from a professor with a PhD in olive oil, visit the Byzantine Museum, the War Museum and the Jewish Holocaust Museum. A highlight was the opportunity to participate in the Cretan Dance Club. The Cretan Dance Club focuses on preserving the ancient, traditional Cretan dances for future generations. The Cretan dance club was extremely gracious hosts and allowed students to participate in the traditional dances while also serving them traditional Greek foods and drinks. The evening with the Cretan Dance Club allowed students to truly experience the Greek culture while gaining an experience that they will never forget.

After an amazing time in Thessaloniki, the study abroad took the train to Athens to experience the Acropolis and the Athenian culture. The Acropolis was impressive and not over-hyped. The ancient ruins that pervade all of Greece were most prominent in Athens as one experienced the Acropolis.

Athens was an experience that provided students with a sense of the ancient world history not available in the U.S., but allowing students to fully appreciate the history that has begun in the U.S.
After Athens, the study abroad group embarked on an excursion to the storied place of Olympia. Olympia is the birthplace of the modern Olympic games and a very cool place to visit. The town of Olympia reminds one more of a small, quaint New England village, but one with a three thousand year history. The Olympic ruins gave the study group a sense of the importance and relevance of the games and why they remain important today. The photo to the left shows the study abroad group at the starting line where Olympians stood centuries ago in anticipation of the games they were about to participate. The torch of every modern-day Olympic games is lit at this site then transported via runners or other means to the site for that Olympic year.

After the spending three days in Athens and a day in Olympia studying leadership in various contexts, the group returned to Athens to ride a ferry from Athens to the Cretan port of Chania. The ferry was not what one usually thinks of when imagining a ferry. Our ferry had 10 decks and was more of a Carnival Cruise line than a utility vessel that transported vehicles and goods. Our overnight journey from Athens to Chania was enjoyable, despite the rough seas. Several students and one leader was still swaying gently for half a day after departing from the ferry.

Chania is an ancient seaport with quaint shops and wonderful restaurants. The focus of our studies in Chania was both historic and present day. Our historic studies included the leadership of ancient mariners and the leadership needed to establish, defend and maintain a seaport that was easy to access and defeat. Our present-day focus was on the Battle for Crete during the Second World War. The Cretans, armed with knives and garden tools, delayed the Nazi forces from taking Crete for over a week when the Nazis thought they would conquer the island in a day or so. The delaying actions by the tremendously brave and well-led Cretans allowed Allied forces in North Africa to regroup and prepare for future actions against Germany. Several of the Cretan dances as previously described illustrate and tell the story of the many brave actions by Cretans during this critical point in Cretan history.
After three days in Chania, the group left for Heraklion, the birth place of Michal Trivizadakis, the co-leader, and where he grew up. Heraklion is another seaport that is considerably larger than Chania. Before traveling to Heraklion, the group toured a rusk bakery in a small town outside Chania. Rusks are very healthy, all natural bread-like foods except they are baked until dried and very crunchy. The Mana Bakery has been in existence for over 40 years and is a family-owned business that is expanding globally. Students met the leadership of the bakery and discussed leadership challenges that the Mana Bakery is experiencing and the possible solutions for these leadership challenges. After a tour of the factory and many samples of their products, the group headed to Heraklion. In Heraklion, the group was able to again gain an appreciation of the ancient Greek culture and experience the present hospitality of the Greek people. A day-long excursion to the Palace of Knossos that dates to the seventh century B.C. and was the center of the Minoan culture provided the context of leadership in Heraklion. Students toured the ruins then toured the museum in Heraklion that displayed many of the artifacts from the Palace of Knossos. The leadership aspects studied at Heraklion was those of the leaders of the Minoan culture along with the significance of the harbors close to Heraklion where, during WWII, the Nazi’s would deliver and retrieve Nazi soldiers and officers during the Battle for Crete. A day was spent at the seaside town where Michael spent his summers living simply (without electricity) but enjoying every moment in the Mediterranean paradise. Michael’s family hosted the study abroad with a wonderful day of hiking, dancing and a wonderful meal prepared by his parents and their friends.

After Heraklion, everyone left for the U.S. after creating many wonderful memories and gaining a rare insight to both the ancient and present Greek culture, history and leadership. The School of Professional Studies will sponsor this study abroad again this coming May. If you are interested, please contact either Dr. John Baker or Dr. Michael Trivizadakis.
Two (2) new student workers have been hired for the School of University Studies and can be located in the main front office.

- Ahmad Alosaimi
- Alissa Doan

Katelyn Sadvary has held a student worker position within the department for one (1) year and has assumed the role of student worker preceptor. In addition to her normal student worker duties, she trains new student workers to be successful in their positions within the department.

We are very proud to have all three (3) student workers on our team!