University College Connection Spring 2015

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FACULTY AWARD WINNERS!

On May 1st University College held a reception to honor and recognize a few of our outstanding faculty members. Those receiving awards are:

- Michail Trivizadakis—Part Time Faculty Award
- Andrew Rosa—Research/Creativity Award
- Tucker Davis—Teaching Award
- Anne Heintzman—Student Advisement Award
- Julie Shadoan—Public Service Award (not pictured)
WELCOME MEREDITH WRIGHT!

Meredith Wright joins Western Kentucky University in the Adult Learner Services office as an Adult Learner Counselor. Previously, she worked at Ivy Tech Community College Southern Indiana for three years. Prior to that, she worked at Spalding University in downtown Louisville. At both institutions, she worked in admissions, recruiting adult and post-traditional students. She graduated with a BA in History from Oklahoma Christian University in 2007, where she studied World War II and enjoyed a semester studying abroad in Europe.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING STUDENTS

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships would like to congratulate the class of 2015 students.

(Featured in the photos left to right)

Jessica Bertram, Graduate Assistant with the WKU Hill House, Master of Social Work

Sarah Hagan, Graduate Assistant with WKU Bonner Leader program, Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling

Brian Harris, Communications and Marketing Assistant, Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Natalie Majors, Student Ambassadors of Service, Bachelor of Science in Biology

Alekhya Patagaria, Graduate Assistant with the WKU Hill House, Master of Healthcare Administration

McKinze Willard, Student Worker and Service Learning Program Assistant, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
BIG RED’S BLITZ—August 20, 2015

Every August, first-year students can start the semester early by participating in M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan activities the week before classes begin. M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan stands for "Making Academic and Social Transitions Educationally Rewarding" Plan. The M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan participants "blitz" Bowling Green, providing four hours of service to local nonprofit agencies during the campus' largest community service event, Big Red's Blitz!

Volunteers, known as "Blitzers," are sent out into the community in groups, as small as five to as large as 50, to work alongside Big Red, Western Leaders, and fellow classmates completing various service projects. Whether they are sorting items at the Salvation Army, cleaning up local parks and wooded areas with Bowling Green Public Works, pulling invasive species at Lost River Cave, organizing building materials with Habitat for Humanity, or painting picnic tables at Potter Children's Home, Blitzers are choosing to "get off the bench" and engage in their community!

Big Red's Blitz has been a partnership event between Housing & Residence Life and the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships since 2004. This year’s Big Red’s Blitz will take place on Thursday, August 20th.

PROJECT AFFECT—September 9, 2015

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and the WKU Student Activities' Leadership & Volunteerism sponsor an awareness event called Project Affect. Project Affect is a campus and community 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. Approximately 500 students participated last year. We look forward to an even greater turnout this year. Those interested in being involved or sponsoring the event can contact Aurelia Spaulding at Aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu.
Major in Diversity & Community Studies

DCS professors Dr. Kristi Branham and Dr. Tiara Na’puti with DCS student Destinee Greer, presenting the major at Focus on WKU, April 25, 2015.

One of the DCS Major’s Core Courses: Public Problem Solving Goes Public!

This spring Drs. Molly Kerby (Diversity & Community Studies) and Gayle Mallinger (Social Work) received a grant from the Kentucky Governor’s Commonwealth Garden Initiative to revitalize, expand, and enhance the community garden at the Bowling Green Housing Authority. The purpose of the grant initiative is to encourage healthy eating and increase access to locally grown foods in Kentucky communities. The project will receive assistance for one year including seed/transplants and one-on-one consultation on the planning and implementation of best practices in local gardening and production of food. The garden will also be used for community education and demonstration in conjunction with a similar project at the Boys & Girls club funded by a WKU iRCAP grant during 2014-15. In spring of 2015, both garden projects were infused into the curriculum of Dr. Kerby’s Public Problem Solving class.

DCS 300: Public Problem-solving, a core course in the Diversity & Community Studies major, investigates the development of collective power, capacities, and responsibilities using community-based research (CBR). The collaborative approach of CBR equitably involves all partners in the research process, recognizes the unique strengths that each brings, and integrates theory with practice. This semester students worked in groups at the Housing Authority, the Boys & Girls Club, WKU Food Pantry, and WKU Project Grow. All of the projects focused on the economic, sociocultural, and environmental aspects of food insecurity in the United States. The students spent the last part of the semester in “the field” working side by side with their community partners in an effort to formulate solutions to real-life problems identified by key stakeholders. As part of their final, the four groups of students competed for a fictitious $5,000 grant using data collected from the communities and applying the principles of community-based research. As one student said in reflection, “this is the first class I have had that actually let us apply what we learned to the outside world. I not only learned about community-based research but how people struggle in communities, how to communicate with people who don’t speak English, and even how to plant vegetables. Up until this point in my life, I had never seen a strawberry plant or squash seeds or anything like that. But I think the best part was working with the community to solve problems together. I learned that the real experts are the people who live the problem. It was a great learning experience!”

Project Grow students won the class competition.
DCS Student Attending Fulbright Summer Institute in Wales

Andrew Henderson, a WKU student from Olive Hill, will spend six weeks this summer studying in the US-UK Fulbright Summer Institute in Wales. He has a double major in Communication Studies and Diversity and Community Studies and is a student in the Honors College at WKU. His areas of interest include communication in communities of diversity and “the organizational communication involved in grassroots social justice movements and large social justice organizations.” Henderson is a features reporter for the College Heights Herald, WKU’s student newspaper, and a member of WKU Amnesty International, Student United Way and Dynamic Leadership Institute. He has participated in the Campus Activities Board’s Alternative Fall Break.

Melinda Grimsley-Smith, coordinator of international scholarships with the Office of Scholar Development, said Henderson is the third WKU student selected for the intensely competitive program.

“All Fulbright programs are about encouraging mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries,” she said. “The Fulbright UK Summer Institutes is special, though, for the opportunity it gives to freshmen and sophomores with little or no experience traveling abroad. A program that is designed around the idea of exploring connections between and distinguishing features of American and British identities is a great way to build an international perspective. I can’t wait to see what Andrew makes of his experience,” Henderson said he is very grateful for the resources provided by OSD. “They walked me through this difficult process from the beginning, to the edits, to the interview prepping and the very end,” he said.

The full article is at WKU News, https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/11/henderson-fulbright/
Drs. Saundra Curry Ardrey (Political Science) and Andrew McMichael (History) are part of the Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty Seminar on South Africa. After a semester of study on social, economic, agricultural and political issues, the two professors traveled to South Africa May 18 — June 5. While in country, Ardrey continued her research on the political behavior of women in the African diaspora. McMichael’s research focused on beer, sociability, and masculinity in South Africa. They also visited with faculty from the University of Limpopo, University of the Western Cape and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to discuss faculty research exchanges and student study abroad opportunities. In the fall, the two will spearhead and coordinate college activities for the Year of South Africa Program.
Profile: Hilary Harlan

Hilary Harlan, a 2014 graduate of English with a Gender & Women's Studies minor, has been awarded a partial graduate assistantship in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Over the next four years, she will studying both law and WGS to gain her Juris Doctor and a Master of Arts. She has been awarded notable tuition scholarships and extends her gratitude to both the English Department and the Gender & Women's Studies Program at WKU for guiding her on the path to success.

She says: “The Gender and Women's Studies Program at WKU has helped me so much, not just on an individual basis with my classes and mentoring from the professors and the office staff, but also by helping support all of the organizations that I was a part of in college, like the WKLT camp, Jail Book Club, and Hilltoppers 4 Choice to name a few. I also received funding from the GWS program to help me cover the costs of studying abroad. If it weren't for these opportunities, I wouldn't have had the knowledge, the experience, or the competitive resume that made me eligible for the benefits of funding at the graduate level.”

SRSC

WKU was recognized April 9 in Frankfort as Kentucky’s first university-level nominee for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award. SRSC student Beth McGrew joined WKU Sustainability Coordinator Christian Ryan in Frankfort, meeting with Jane Beshear, Kentucky first lady, Elizabeth Schmitz, Kentucky Environmental Education Council executive director, and Len Peters, Energy and Environment Cabinet secretary.

https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/04/09/wku-green-ribbon/

Not only that, but WKU went on to win the national competition, becoming one of the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. The SRSC is proud to play a wee part in helping make this happen. Beth and Christian, joined by Dr. Molly Kerby, will also represent WKU in Washington, DC, at the national recognition ceremony in early June.

https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/04/22/green-ribbon-2015/
Trip to 2015 SEWSA (Southeastern Women’s Studies Association) Conference

All GWS student assistants and the DCS office coordinator attended the SEWSA conference in April. Here are their reflections:

**Katelyn Calhoun**
Attending the 2015 SEWSA Conference was an incredible experience and I am so thankful for the opportunity. The theme of this year’s conference was human trafficking, a topic on which I have previously researched and am interested in. I was most impacted by the plenary speech, “Human Trafficking: Understanding the Victim’s Perspective,” by Katarina Rosenblatt, in which she told of her experiences as a victim of human trafficking. This speech really affected me because I had never gotten to listen to someone’s experience first-hand, and listening to her story made me realize how easy and how real it is to be trafficked. The knowledge and insight I gained from this conference has infinitely influenced my perspective and awareness about human trafficking and other issues surrounding gender and women.

**Justin Crenshaw**
“Using Feminist Memoir to Teach Sociology of the Body” was my favorite session. As someone who hopes to teach sociology in the future I got a new perspective on how to engage students. I think personal narratives are important in sociology because it allows people to express themselves and put their lives into concrete, legitimate experiences. I am also enamored with how people relate and perform with their bodies. Feminist memoir in sociology has the potential I seek in a pedagogy that effectively educates while also promotes self-care and resilience.

**Erin Miller**
One of my favorite parts of SEWSA was hearing a discussion about the ‘selfie’ trend and what this trend means to young women in today’s society and to feminism as a whole. I think it’s incredibly important to look at the ongoing media trends and try to weigh the outcome. Selfies do empower women! They show the world that we are conscious of our identity and our autonomy and that we are not afraid to show it. I’m so grateful to Gender & Women’s Studies Program and University College for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference!
Trip to 2015 SEWSA (Southeastern Women’s Studies Association) Conference (cont.)

Renee Purdy
Attending the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association this spring was such a great opportunity to learn about human trafficking, which was the theme of the conference. I learned so much in these sessions, such as hearing the victim’s perspective in Katarina Rosenblatt’s session. It was very moving. I never realized there was human trafficking taking place right here in the United States, so it was eye-opening to say the least. I am so thankful for the contribution of Gender & Women’s Studies Program. I couldn’t have gone without their help!

Amber Neat
Not only did the conference expand my understanding of Human Trafficking, but the wide variety of topics included focusing on gender and sexuality helped me focus in on my specific area of study. With two panels in particular honing in on gender and sexuality in literature, the speakers in these panels furthered my understanding of how my Gender and Women’s Studies education can be incorporated into my work in English Literature. In particular, one paper called “Safe Word Red” challenged my idea of how feminism can be used to perform a deep textual analysis of books in modern popular culture. The author’s focus was how BDSM culture is represented in the Fifty Shades Trilogy. While I have always interpreted these novels as negative representations through a feminist lens, the author interpreted positivity by the novels giving a voice to an under-represented, oppressed sector of society. It was her hope that the novels will open up a space for the discussion of the issues represented in the novels. Overall, the SEWSA Conference was an experience that challenged my worldviews and expanding my understanding of a variety of issues in Gender and Women Studies and will impact my studies in the future.
Gender & Women's Studies 2015 Scholarship/Awards

Every year GWS offers two awards to the campus community and three scholarships. The Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award for a female student who has overcome legal, economic, or personal barriers to pursue an education went to Amy Smith, a nursing major. Dawn Hall, who nominated her, says, “Amy Smith has overcome abuse, economic hardships, and social difficulties, but her will and determination have given her the strength to empower herself.” Brittany Hawkins adds, “Amy and I quickly became close friends and have remained so through the years since our first meeting. Amy has a charismatic personality, a strong moral character, and a contagious zest for life, which are just a few of the qualities that draws people to her. I count myself fortunate to be one of the people who can call her a friend.”

The Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award went to Elizabeth Madariaga, director of sexual assault services. In her nomination, Jane Olmsted wrote, “Elizabeth is an outstanding advocate for women and for all people facing the trauma of sexual predation and victimhood. She is generous with her time, empowering of our students, and sound in her judgment and activism.” Peggy Crowe and Karl Laves wrote: “We can honestly say that in twenty plus years in higher education we have yet to see someone who can captivate the attention of a room full of people faster than Elizabeth. Whether the room is filled with fraternity members, university administrators, or the Board of Regents, Elizabeth’s genuine passion comes through her words; she owns the room and is remarkably persuasive while being utterly genuine. Her authenticity and passion are infectious; this is how she is able to have such an impact on our campus. She truly embodies the values of an egalitarian philosophy. She moves people without manipulating them. She sees past their politics and connects with them on a very basic and personal level.”
Gender & Women's Studies 2015 Scholarship/Awards (cont.)

Catherine Ward Coogan Feminist Action Award
Elizabeth Madariaga

Valere Scott Scholarship
Justin Crenshaw

Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award
Amy Smith

Creative Writing Awards - Undergraduate
Kyle Marshall

Creative Writing Awards - Graduate
Hannah Allen
International Guests Visit Age-Friendly Bowling Green

WKU Aging hosted eight international visitors this February to share in our successes with the Age-Friendly Bowling Green initiative. This delegation, led by our own Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald, included visitors Dr. Funmi Togonu-Bickersteth from Nigeria, Dr. Birgit Pianosi and Dr. Lynn McCleary from Canada, Dr. Jan Jukema, Dr. Tamara Mulders, Dr. Geraldine Visser, and Dr. Annelies Harps-Timmerman from the Netherlands. The visitors’ tour of Bowling Green included a meeting with Mayor Bruce Wilkerson and the Neighborhood Services Coordinator of the Age-Friendly Cities project, Karen Foley. The international visitors shared a meal with residents at Village Manor, a progressive local retirement community that excels in its awareness of age-friendly services, and ended the day with an international scholar’s reception. The reception allowed visitors the opportunity to meet with WKU students and staff to discuss the possibilities of future international partnerships. The visitors also enjoyed a tour of Western Kentucky University’s campus.

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)

Hannah Ruggles, an undergraduate Gerontology minor, presented at the Sigma Phi Omega Paper Session of the AGHE Conference in Nashville this February. The paper was titled, “Evaluating the Effectiveness of the ‘Teach Back’ Method in Achieving Geriatric Patients’ Understanding of their Discharge Instructions from an Acute Care Setting.” Molly Ray, an undergraduate Gerontology minor, interviewed several national and international gerontologists to gather information for her FUSE funded research project.
Southern Gerontological Society Conference
Sowmya Karamcheti, a graduate assistant of WKU Aging, attended the SGS conference in April to present a poster on her work to help establish a global online program directory including all members of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE).

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Conference – Europe in Dublin
Dr. Dana Bradley presented work on the Women in Gerontology Leadership (WIGL) project at IAGG-Europe in Dublin. The WIGL project studies first hand accounts of female gerontologists regarding their experiences within the field and how being a gerontologist has affects their individual aging experience.

Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement Awardees
WKU Aging is delighted to announce that undergraduate Gerontology minor, Molly Ray, has been awarded a FUSE Grant under the guidance of Dr. Dana Bradley. Molly has intentions of traveling to the Netherlands to compare a European model of person-centered care with one that exists in the United States.
WKU Aging Reception: Another Year of Success

WKU Aging completed another successful year with the recognition of the accomplishments of both students and local community partners. Students were recognized for both academic excellence and outstanding community engagement. Key supporters and partners of WKU Aging, including Mayor Bruce Wilkerson, the Dean and Associate Dean of University College Dr. George Dennis and Dr. Merrall Price, and Heather O’Banion and Dr. Keith Knapp from Christian Care Communities, were in attendance.


Congratulations to our outstanding graduate student in the field of aging, Sretta Clark.

Pictured are “Spirit of C.O.R.E.” award recipients, Brent Stephens and Riley Nelson. These students exhibit exemplary traits as members of the student organization, Companions of Respected Elders (C.O.R.E.).
On April 2, 2015, the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility (ICSR) concluded their annual Spring Speakers Series with a talk given by Dr. Alison Kafer, an assistant professor in the Feminist Studies Program at Southwestern University. Her talk, which garnered an audience that all but filled the Cupola Room in the Downing Student Union, was entitled “Crip Futures, Future Coalitions: Disability & Social Justice.” The talk was a provocative, engaging discussion of disability rights and their place within the larger social justice sphere.

In addition to the talk, Dr. Kafer gave a guest presentation in Dr. Judy Rohrer’s Intro to Social Justice course (ICSR 200). Rohrer commented, “Dr. Kafer really got us thinking. She had us do a series of interactive exercises that broadened our understandings of ableism as both mundane and systemic.”
U.S. Army’s 113th Band performing in Glasgow, KY
Saturday, June 6th:

You are cordially invited to attend a performance of the 113th Army Band
Saturday, June 6, 2015
3:30 pm

To be held at the Courthouse Lawn on the public square in Glasgow, KY
FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE!
Bring a blanket or chairs, and your entire family.

Army Musicians are some of the best professional musicians in the United States. Don’t miss this opportunity to see an outstanding FREE performance!

The 113th Army Band is proud of its long history as the second oldest active duty Army Band! The 113th Army Band’s history dates back to its formation on July 8, 1840 as the Band, First Regiment of Dragoons, earning the band’s official nickname “Dragoons.” The band has been awarded 25 campaign participation credits, ranging from the Indian Wars in 1855 to the end of World War II. Another historical moment for the band was a performance in President Lincoln’s second inaugural parade on March 4, 1865.

Today the 113th Army Band continues to serve Fort Knox and the surrounding communities throughout Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio under the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Knox.
Military Student Services — cont.

On March 20, 2015, WKU Military Student Services participated in Fort Campbell’s Outbound Symposium. The purpose was for soldiers who are PCSing (changing duty stations) or getting out of the Army to gain information about resources to educate them about relocation, transportation, housing, transfer educational classes, schools, storage units, pet moving, and other pertinent information. As part of our involvement, WKU donated a $500 scholarship to be given away at the event.

The lucky scholarship winner was Ai Guangyu, an active duty soldier currently serving in the U.S. Army.
CanDoo

WKU’s therapy dog, CanDoo, has been busy this semester spreading good cheer around campus and throughout the region. He recently visited soldiers and their families at Ft. Knox’s Sumner Warrior Battalion Complex. The Sumner Complex is a facility designed to allow wounded soldiers to recover from injuries sustained on active duty. The soldiers thoroughly enjoyed their visit with CanDoo.

South Warren High School juniors and seniors enjoyed a visit with CanDoo and a presentation on Military Working Dogs given by Tonya Archey and SSGT. Marnie Jacobowitz of the U.S. Army. SSGT. Jacobowitz is a current student at WKU majoring in Journalism and Broadcasting.

CanDoo’s other appearances included PAWS for Stress Relief, Valleypalooza, and several WKU classroom visits. If you would like a classroom visit on campus, or at a local high school, please contact our office.

On March 9, 2015, Coach Brohm presented Textbooks For Troops Coordinator, Joshua Smith with a $1,007.50 check. The check came from the auction of four specially made footballs that were used in the November 15, 2014, WKU vs. Army game.

It is because of this kind of support that we can continue helping our military students and dependents with their textbook needs.
On the weekend of April 10th, Dr. John Baker, Augustine Amonge, and Kelsey Burton ventured to Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, to attend the McDonough Leadership conference. After months of preparation, all three WKU representatives of Organizational Leadership presented their research topics at the conference.

Several institutions and universities were present at the conference and most represented leadership programs that are centered around undergraduate students. Dr. Baker conducted a forum to shed light on the continuous growth and success of WKU’s Organizational Leadership master’s program. After he discussed the program’s design, focus, and recruitment strategies, several professors who attended the session were highly interested in the inner workings of the program. The discussion after the presentation provided constructive feedback and suggestions to help improve the program. This allowed Dr. Baker to gain a new perspective and insight from professionals within his academic area of study on ways to improve WKU’s program.

Augustine Amonge and Kelsey Burton were speakers on a panel that discussed topics regarding the leader-followership relationship. Amonge presented his research, “Building Relationships Through Goldratts Thinking Process.” His presentation was insightful for participants in regards to building leadership coaching relationships and developing a road map for success. Burton spoke about her research that examines women mentors and leadership. Her research found a trend that highlights negative leaders and negative role models. After her presentation, there was a discussion and several questions that provided constructive feedback and avenues to further her research. Both Amonge and Burton were approached after their presentations by scholars who were interested in their research.

While attending the conference, Dr. Baker, Amonge, and Burton all participated in different sessions and listened to different speakers. These sessions provided valuable insight into different topics and approaches to Leadership Studies, and aided them to further develop their understanding and awareness. Through the educational journey and building their network connection, Dr. Baker, Augustine, and Kelsey found that their time spent at the conference exceeded their expectations and was extremely rewarding.
The Outstanding Student Event was held again this year in the historic Faculty House on the evening of May 1st. Light hors d’oeuvres were served and Ms. Beverley Fulkerson provided the music. Winners of the Outstanding Student Awards were chosen by the faculty in each of their areas of concentration.

**School of Professional Studies Outstanding Student Award Winners**

- Business - Ms. Morgan Atwell, Ms. Amy Hendrix
- IDST – Ms. Mary “Catie” Yates
- Leadership - Ms. Masako Barnaby
- Paralegal - Ms. Tomica Downey

**School of Professional Studies Scholarship Winners**

- Gloria Young Hovious Memorial - Ms. Allison Lincoln
- Clyde B. Cates - Ms. Morgan McWhorter
- B G Chap. Inter. Assoc. Admin. Prof. - Ms. Haley Rinehart
Mr. Jim Fulkerson hosted a “Meet and Greet” meeting with his Peer Mentor group and the faculty members the peer mentors will be working with. It gave the opportunity to become better acquainted with each other so that they are able to serve the students better. It was a great turn out and they are excited to participate in the program.

The Peer Mentors are: George Craven, Rebekah Thompson, Chloe Lawson, Trevor Stacey, Kayla Pendleton, Kyle Denkohoff, Jim Fulkerson, Logan Casey, Lexi Galvon, Joseph Hall, Audrey Brown, McCauley Dotson, Kelsey Willett. Peer Mentors not pictured are: Lucas Martin, Damon Milby, and Cierra Snyder

Augustine Amonge and Kelsey Burton, graduate assistants in the School of Professional Studies and accompanied by Dr. John Baker, presented at the McDonough Leadership Conference in Marietta, Ohio earlier this spring.

Augustine will complete his MA in Organizational Leadership this semester, and will be officially sworn in as a 2nd Lieutenant in Logistics at the Swearing-In Ceremony Friday, May 15th. Augustine is also the recipient of the Distinguished Military Graduate award which was presented to him in early April and the George C. Marshall Award given to the Outstanding ROTC graduate. After his additional training, he will be stationed at Ft. Campbell.
WKU students receive undergraduate library research awards

Western Kentucky University students Logan Secrest (Buffalo, Ohio) and Wesley Osborne (Owensboro, Kentucky) received undergraduate research awards at a recognition ceremony in Cravens Library on Monday May 4, 2015. WKU Libraries and WKU University Experience faculty offer the awards in an effort to recognize the important role of good undergraduate research in college academic success.

“We look forward to honoring students for these research awards each semester,” said Sara McCaslin, University Experience Coordinator. “It’s a pleasure to spotlight students who have shown exceptional information literacy and research skills through their class projects. This critical skills set will aid them throughout their college careers as well as in life.”

Secrest is finishing his first year at WKU, after transferring from the University of Great Falls in Great Falls, Montana. He received his award for his annotated bibliography on a Ted Talk analysis with Shawn Achor’s The happy secret to better work. His instructor was Cort Basham from the main campus University Experience class.

Osborne, a first-year student interested in Technology Management, received his award for the best career essay titled “Industrial Production Management.” His instructor was Anne Heintzman from the South Campus University Experience class.

Students received a monetary gift along with a plaque honoring their achievements. The winning documents, along with those of past recipients, are posted on TopSCHOLAR—WKU’s research and creative database—at digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award/. For more information, contact Amanda Drost, chair of awards committee, at 270-745-2962.

Pictured from left to right: WKU Libraries Dean Connie Foster, Logan Secrest, Wesley Osborne, and University Experience Coordinator Sara McCaslin.
The School of Professional Studies and University Experience offered the first dual credit UC 175 course during the spring 2015 semester. This pilot program at South Warren High School featured a course team-taught by the School of Professional Studies and University Experience graduate assistants Dominique Walker and Kelcie Dixon. Dominique and Kelcie examined the UC 175 curriculum and enhanced the coursework to provide South Warren students a course that would prepare them for the rigors of academic and social life at Western Kentucky University. Students explored critical thinking, information literacy, academic and career planning as well as strategies for academic success. The students enjoyed a WKU campus visit on April 23, 2015. During this visit, the students experienced a Spirit Master guided tour of campus, lunch at Fresh Food, Inc., and a surprise visit from Big Red and President Gary Ransdell. Mr. Dale Brown from Enrollment Management and Ms. Laura Heidel from WKU Admissions also spoke with the students. The School of Professional Studies and University Experience are working with DELO representatives to offer dual credit UC 175 courses in the future.

(Photo by Clinton Lewis)
The School of Professional Studies and University Experience would like to offer a fond farewell to Graduate Assistants Kelcie Dixon and Dominque Walker. Dominique and Kelcie began working with SPS/UE in August 2013. Their primary duties were to assist with the Library Skill/Information Literacy Component of the University Experience course. Dominique and Kelcie have excelled in their responsibilities and commitment to SPS/UE. Both completed the Best Practices in Mentoring and College Teaching (BPMCT) during the spring 2014 semester. In the fall 2014 semester, Dominique and Kelcie each taught a section of UC 175 – University Experience. In addition, Dominique and Kelcie played a major role in the creation of the first UC 175 dual credit course offered at South Warren High School. They team taught this course while completing their final semester of classes at WKU. Dominique, a Public Health graduate student, will complete her course work and internship this summer. She will graduate in December 2015. Kelcie, a Student Affairs graduate student, will participate in commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 15th. Best wishes to Kelcie and Dominique!
The University annually recognizes outstanding contributions by faculty members in the areas of Teaching, Research/Creativity, Public Service, and Student Advisement. Two of these were SUS faculty.

**Mr. Tucker Davis (School of University Students) Teaching Award**

Dr. Andrew Rosa (Diversity & Community Studies) Research/Creativity Award

Ms. Julie F. Shadoan (School of Professional Studies) Public Service Award

**Dr. Anne Heintzman (School of University Studies) Student Advisement Award**

**2015 Hats off to Women Awards**

March was Women’s History Month and is a time to celebrate the achievement of women nationally and locally. The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has been seeking nominations for our, “Hats Off to Women,” awards to celebrate the accomplishments of women at Western and the community. Our Coordinator of Academic Advising & Student Services at South Campus, Cynthia Hunter, was selected as one of this year’s recipients of our Unsung Heroines awards for her commitment to WKU, Bowling Green, and our society as a whole.

Well done, Cyndi!

Recipients include (L-R): Michelle Clark-Heard, Eppiphanie Benton, Alyn Bloecher, Cynthia Hunter, Janet Tassell, Holly Ditmore, Peggy Crowe
The Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center would like to say thank you to Amani Liaqat for her wonderful work on the center’s web page. Amani was our first GA in the center. She is originally from Pakistan and moved here from Saudi Arabia to attend WKU, where she is majoring in Computer Science. It has been a pleasure working with Amani, and we wish her continued success in her academic endeavors.

Be sure to check out our new webpage at http://www.wku.edu/lac/
Our very own Carlous Yates won the Outstanding Higher Education award from at the Black Excellence Award ceremony that took place April 21, 2015 at the ALIVE Center. We are thrilled that all of his hard work and dedication to the students at Western Kentucky University is not going by unnoticed! One of our peer mentors, Kristina Downing with Student Support Programs, also was presented with the Outstanding Black Student award! We would like to congratulate them both on their success!

SUS’s Kelvin Byers and Josclynn Brandon moved the crowd with his powerful portrayal of domestic abuse that took place on Western Kentucky University’s campus. This was one of the many events held through the university’s Domestic Violence Week to raise awareness to all of our students.
Student Support Program Staff presented at the Kentucky Association for Blacks in Higher Education’s 32nd Annual Conference that was held in Louisville, KY on April 10 - 12, 2015. Carlous Yates, Kelvin Byers, DeLeon Lott and Carlos Stallworth represented Western Kentucky University, presenting Basket Weaving 101. The presentation focused on Student Support Programs and how the program strives to provide the support required to meet needs of the underprepared in their freshman and sophomore years as they transition from high school to college life. The program takes a holistic approach in retention efforts by encouraging and guiding students to excel academically and personally in order to be masters of their own success.

The Summer Early Entry (S.E.E.) is experiencing new changes. The program is now geared to incorporate with the DLI (Dynamic Leadership Institute) and $100 Solution program with the ALIVE Center.
CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATING PEER MENTORS!

We truly appreciate all of your hard work to show support to our students both in and outside of work. We would like to take the time and wish you much success in your future endeavors and there will always be a home here for you all at Student Support Programs. GO TOPS!!

**Kristina Downing**
B.S. in Family and Consumer Science
Concentration: Child Studies
Minor: Social Work
President, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Omega Delta Chapter
Secretary, Western Kentucky University National Panhellenic Council
1st Generation Graduate

**Justin Rodriguez**
B.A. in Psychology
Minor: Political Science
Member, WKU’s National Award Winning Forensics Team
Member, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
1st Generation Graduate

**Kelsie Price**
B.I.S. with Emphasis in Health
Former President & Current Member, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Omega Delta Chapter
Chair for Survivor Committee for Relay for Life
Alumna of WKU Leader-Shape Institute
1st Generation Graduate
2015 Navitas Outstanding Faculty Award

Michelle Jackson was selected to receive the 2015 Navitas Outstanding Faculty Award. This is a student nominated and driven award. It was presented to her during the Navitas graduation ceremony that was held on May 14, 2015. Congratulations Michelle!!