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## CHHS January 2013 E-Newsletter

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### CHHS Spotlight- Stakeholder Julie Hinson



**Julie A. Harris Hinson** is President and CEO of Advanced Lifeline Services, Inc. (ALS) headquartered in Louisville, KY. She has been with the Company for 20 years starting as the Director of Marketing in 1989. In 2005, Julie was named President by the owners of the Company. The announcement was made during a Company-wide meeting without a prior discussion with her. When she asked the owners about the promotion she was told that since she had been bossing them around since 1989, she might as well have the title and the pay. Julie agreed. In 2010, the company became 100% employee owned and she was named President and CEO of the Advanced Lifeline Services, Inc. ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan).

Advanced Lifeline Services is the leading provider of ventilator care services to long term care facilities in the US. There are twelve states that have Medicaid exceptional care rates for the care of ventilator and trach dependent patients. ALS has 16 locations in 7 of those states and is in a structured growth mode.

A native of Owensboro, KY, Julie earned a B.A. in Public Relations and a minor in Business, in 1990. She also claims Glasgow and Bowling Green as secondary home towns because of family connections and the influences each have had in formative periods of her life. Julie is thrilled to be involved with WKU after so many years. She is on the WKU National Alumni Board, stakeholder on the CHHS Advisory Board and a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood. She is also involved with the AOII Alumni in Bowling Green.

Early this spring, she spoke at the WKU LeaderShape Institute with fellow Alumni. Current student leaders are involved with the program. During the evening, Julie found the questions from the students were well thought out as well as thought provoking. She believes she learned as much from them as they did from her. For Julie, it was a very rewarding experience to interact with such an exceptional group of student leaders and something she has not forgotten.

Julie and her husband, Mike, are currently renovating a home in Prospect, KY with their 4 four-legged children (3 dogs and a cat). Mike predicted that the renovation would take three months. Fourteen months into the project an end is in sight, Julie and Mike plan to move in during January, 2013.

### **CHHS Professor selected as Phi Alpha Honor Society National Advisor of the Year**

Dr. Jay Gabbard, Associate Professor of Social Work at WKU, was selected as the 2012 Phi Alpha Honor Society National Advisor of the Year. Dr. Paul Baggett, Executive Director of Phi Alpha, presented Dr. Gabbard with the award at the organization's annual business meeting, held at the Washington (DC) Hilton Hotel on November 11, 2012. In his remarks, Gabbard credited the support of his students, officers, and department head as primary reasons for the success of Delta Mu Chapter at WKU.

Phi Alpha, founded in 1960 at Michigan State University, is the honor society for undergraduate and graduate social work students in the U.S., with over 380 chapters nationwide. In addition to recognizing scholastic excellence, the organization also awards scholarships for social work students, supports chapter service projects, and supports high standards in social work education.



**Dr. Paul Baggett and Dr. Jay Gabbard**

### **KRS Faculty Member Mary Cobb Receives KAHPERD Award**

**Mary Cobb, part-time faculty member in KRS**, was awarded the KAHPERD (Kentucky Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Life Member Award at the KAHPERD State Convention held in Louisville last month. Mary has taught at Western Kentucky University her entire career. She came to Kentucky from England in 1977 and remained. She has been an active member of KAHPERD participating in a variety of ways. In 1987, she did a presentation at KAHPERD with the WKU students to “showcase” their program, and then took it to Southern District in Spring, 1988. In 1993, Mary did a presentation with a colleague at the International Conference in Atlanta, on the development and use of COI (classroom observation instrument). In years to follow, she continued to present on topics such as English Country Dance and Educational Gymnastics.

Mary also was involved with the WKU PE Majors Club, as well as supervising block students.

Even in her retirement, you will still find Mary teaching a class in P.E.

Congratulations Mary on receiving the Life Member Award!



**Mary Cobb and Jenny Dearden, President of KAHPERD**

## **Communication Disorders Attend ASHA**

Western Kentucky University's Department of Communication Disorders was well represented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention held in Atlanta, GA this year. Marci Heist, on-campus graduate student, served as an official ASHA Student Volunteer. Faculty members Dr. Richard Dressler, Dr. Jo Shackelford, and Kimberly Green presented a poster titled *Internationalization: Conducting a Study Abroad Course for Speech Language Pathology Students*. Jan Sandidge, Distance Learning Program Coordinator, along with WKU alum Heather Hetler, and current graduate students Jennifer Goble, Wanda Bowser, and Eve Welte presented a poster titled *Student Perspectives on Distance Learning in Communication Disorders*. Both poster sessions were well attended!



**Jennifer Goble, Heather Hetler, Eve Welte, Jan Sandidge, and Wanda Bowser**

## **Communication Disorders Faculty Member has Article Published in Academic Journal**

**Jo Shackelford, Faculty member in the Department of Communication Disorders,** had an article published in the International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL).

### **Sense of community in graduate online education: Contribution of learner to learner interaction**

*Jo L. Shackelford, Marge Maxwell*

#### **Abstract**

Distance learning technologies offer a multitude of ways to build interaction into online courses to support learning. Based on social constructivism theory, this study explored which types of interaction are most predictive of students' sense of community in online graduate courses at a regional comprehensive university. Surveys were used to measure sense of community and the frequency and importance of nine learner–learner interactions.

Interactions that were most predictive of sense of community were introductions, collaborative group projects, sharing personal experiences, entire class discussions, and exchanging resources. The interaction that offered the highest payoff to instructors was exchanging resources. The article discusses implications for online course design.

Please click [here](#) to read the entire article.



**Dr. Jo Shackelford**

### **Fashion Merchandising Students Travel to Las Vegas for MAGIC Tradeshow**

From August 20-24, 2012, **Dr. Devona L. Dixon** traveled with seven Interior Design and Fashion Merchandising (IDFM) students to Las Vegas to experience MAGIC, which is the fashion industry's premier tradeshow. The students were enrolled in DMT 426 Market Trends, a hybrid online course and study tour coordinated by WKU Study Away office.

The course experience and study tour proved to be a great learning and networking opportunity. Students studied and were exposed to current market trends in apparel, buying, and global sourcing. Each assignment completed prior to attending the event prepared them for the three day "buying experience". They assumed the role of apparel buyer while attending MAGIC tradeshow and prepared for the event by creating a schedule, identifying vendors to visits, familiarizing themselves with current trade, manufacturing and sourcing issues related to retailing and apparel.

Once there, the group visited vendors representing brands including Jessica Simpson, Steve Madden, Betsy Johnson, Vera Wang, Michael Kors, and lesser known designer Lanvand. Representatives from True Religion and Fergie Shoes educated the group on their brands and company in through informal personal group session. The groups' schedule also included seminars on topics including using social media to reach male consumers, the future of retailing global and domestic, starting your own business, and spring and fall 2013 trends. All seminars were presented by professionals in the industry. The group also attended the WWD fashion show and observed several fashion photo shoots.

One student had this to say about the study tour. *"I would recommend this class to anyone. It was an awesome experience that most people would never get. It was not only a great way to experience the industry, but it also allows you to make connections and get your name out there a little bit. Overall, this trip was a great time. I want to thank you, Ms. Dixon."*

MAGIC is the largest men's, women's, and children's apparel and accessory tradeshow in the United States that brings together buyers, over 3,500 vendors, and numerous global sourcing agents from around the world. The event is held in February and August each year.



**Johanna Studzinski, Kristyn Bastin, Ashton Neibel, Kaitlyn O'Reilly, Mallory Trinh, Dr. Devona Dixon and Tara Hackett pose outside of Project for menswear at the Mandalay Convention Center.**

### **New Publication from the School of Nursing**

Comparing Empathy Levels in Students at the Beginning and End of a Nursing Program.

Lovan, Sherry R. ; Wilson, Maribeth

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International Journal for Human Caring (INT J HUM CARING), 2012; 16(3): 28-33 (37 ref)

Researchers of a mid-size regional university in the United States used a survey to compare and measure the empathy levels of first semester baccalaureate undergraduate nursing students with students at the end of the same nursing program using the Jefferson Scale of empathy (nursing Student Version). They found nursing students graduating at the end of their baccalaureate undergraduate nursing program do not have significantly different empathy levels when compared to nursing students at the beginning of the program. Implications for nursing educators include incorporating teaching strategies to improve nurses' empathy.