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CHHS November 2013 E-Newsletter

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Two CHHS Students Among Bonner Leadership Scholars

*Information courtesy of Aurelia Spaulding of the WKU Alive Center for Community Partnerships

Two CHHS Nursing students were among those named as Bonner Leadership Scholars for the fall 2013. Lejla Mehmedovic and Jillian Weston are students in the School of Nursing.

The Bonner Leadership Scholar program at WKU is a program designed to assist students who have experience serving in communities with their college education. WKU Bonner students dedicate ten hours a week (or 300 hours per academic year) to community service and training and enrichment. The Bonner students at WKU are selected based on their service experience and goals, as well as financial aid eligibility. In addition, Bonner students each participate in the Certificate in Citizenship & Social Responsibility.

This program is a Bonner Leader program part of a National Bonner Foundation network consisting of programs at more than 80 colleges and universities. The program at WKU is made possible through a partnership with WKU Enrollment Management and WKU Financial Assistance.



Photo Credit: Bria Granville, WKU Photojournalism Major

Institute for Rural Health to continue Allen dental program

**Original story from <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/09/23/irh-allen-grant/>*

WKU's [Institute for Rural Health](#) has received an \$8,000 grant to continue a dental services partnership with the Allen County Health Department.

The health department secured the funds through the Kentucky Department of Public Health. They will be used to support the Mobile Dental Unit, which will continue to provide preventative dental services primarily to second and seventh graders in Allen County in 2013-14.

“The funds will be used to purchase dental supplies for the MDU as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste and other home hygiene products for the children treated on the MDU,” said Bonny Petty, registered dental hygienist and principal investigator for the project.

Since the partnership began in 2004, the IRH has provided dental exams, sealants, dental referrals and oral health education to more than 2,000 children, she said.

“The IRH has accomplished this by engaging IRH staff and students from the WKU’s Dental Hygiene program,” Petty said. “This project gives the WKU students an opportunity to observe the unmet oral health needs in the community while giving them an opportunity to meet those needs.”

During the 2012-2013 school year, 87 dental exams were provided to the students at Allen County Primary Center and James Bazzell Middle School. Additionally, 182 dental sealants were placed and 142 cavities were detected. Referral letters were sent to the parent or legal guardian for all children who participated in the services offered.

Contact: Bonny Petty, (270) 745-8846.

MHA Students Attend State Long-Term Care Meeting

**Original story from <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/10/21/public-health-achca/>*

Darla Hayden and Urmila Tokekar, both seeking a Master of Health Administration (MHA) in Public Health at WKU, were the only students in attendance at the recent [American College of Health Care Administrators](#) (ACHCA) [Kentucky Chapter](#) meeting.

WKU students Urmila Tokekar and Darla Hayden attended the American College of Health Care Administrators Kentucky Chapter meeting in Louisville.

Excited to see interest in their group and profession by today's emerging healthcare leaders, the long-term care professionals in attendance extended a warm welcome to Hayden and Tokekar.

“Attending the ACHCA meeting allowed me to learn about current issues that long-term care facilities are facing, specifically the importance of tracking hospital readmission rates,” Hayden said. “This experience also allowed me to network with experienced long-term care professionals.”

The ACHCA group consisted of Chief Executive Officers, Regional Managers, Executive Directors and Administrators specializing in services across the long-term care continuum. While most of those present had experience specific to older adults, there were also representatives of long-term care services and communities for the developmentally disabled, pediatrics and rehabilitation.

ACHCA is a non-profit professional membership association that provides education, professional certification and development opportunities for long-term care leaders and student members. The students attended the Kentucky Chapter meeting in Louisville with two members of ACHCA, WKU MHA graduate Heather O'Banion and WKU graduate and Public Health Instructor Melanie Eaton.

Inspired by the students at their meeting, members of ACHCA are planning a special education track for current students, recent graduates and new leaders within the long-term care field at their regional meeting in 2014. Scheduled for March 5-6 in Rising Sun, Ind., the conference will be attended by professionals from Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Michigan.

Hayden and Tokekar, along with Advisors Eaton and Dr. Dana Burr Bradley with WKU's [Center for Gerontology](#), are planning to form a student group in the near future for those interested in careers in long-term care.

For information about the Long Term Care Certificate Program in Public Health or ACHCA's regional meeting, contact Melanie Eaton at melanie.eaton@wku.edu or visit www.wku.edu/publichealth/

Contact: Melanie Eaton, (270) 745-5854.



Urmila Tokekar and Darla Hayden at ACHCA meeting held at 21C Museum and Hotel

WKU Institute for Rural Health receives gift

**Original story from <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/wku-irh-gift/>*

WKU's [Institute for Rural Health](#) (IRH) has received a \$50,000 gift from the [Good Samaritan Foundation Inc.](#), a ministry of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

“The generous gift from the Good Samaritan Foundation Inc. will be used to purchase new equipment to replace ever-changing and obsolete equipment, and this will add to the educational experiences of WKU students,” IRH Director Matt Hunt said. “Students who have access to the newest and best tools of their trade will be better equipped when they enter the workforce. This is essential to continue to provide students in the [College of Health and Human Services](#) with the best educational experience and practical application.”

Hunt said the gift would also be used to purchase medical and dental supplies to serve the community.

Continued success of the IRH means that more WKU students have experienced real fieldwork and that more members of rural communities have received health care and health education, an essential component and cornerstone of the IRH mission. The IRH believes that students learn from every patient, Hunt said, and the more patients that the IRH is able to see and treat, the more knowledge and real-world experiences the students of the CHHS receive as part of their education.

Contact: Matt Hunt, (270) 745-4138.

Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport Co-host Golf Expo

**Original story from <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/10/17/golfexpo-2013/>*

WKU's [Department of Kinesiology Recreation and Sport](#) partnered with the [Collegiate Golf Alliance](#) (CGA) and Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) to host an on campus golf expo for the PGA's [Play Golf America University Program](#) and CGA's National Collegiate Golf Championship program.

WKU's golf expo was held Oct. 9 on the South Lawn. (WKU photo by Bryan Lemon)

The expo, held Oct. 9 on WKU's South Lawn, brought 215 students out for a chance to win prizes, test their skills on the challenge courses and learn how they could qualify to win a free trip to the CGA's [National Collegiate Golf \(NCGC\) Championship](#) in Las Vegas.

Collegiate Golf Alliance and the PGA are partners in helping to further promote golf on college campuses. Together they have helped more than 750 universities, 50-80 local qualifiers and campus expos and host the largest collegiate golf event in the world. As a way to gain maximum exposure for the PGAU/NCGC program, both on a campus and nationally, participating schools will conduct an on Campus Golf Expo.

"We are excited to be able to bring golf to the center of campuses. Our CGA/PGAU Golf Expo is a free interactive expo that promotes golf to players of all levels. Our goal is to stimulate interest in the university golf club, lesson programs, and recreational/competitive tournaments," stated CGA President and CEO Mike Munson.

The NCGA Local Qualifier Two-Person Scramble will be held April 19. Course location is TBD. All college students are welcome to participate, with the WKU winning team receiving a free trip to the national tournament held in Las Vegas on June 30-July 2, 2014.

For information about the WKU expo and tournament, contact WKU CGA/PGAU Intern Dawn Wientjes at (618) 638-5682 or dawn.wientjes919@topper.wku.edu.

About the CGA: CGA was formed by a group of recreational professionals from two major universities on the West Coast with an extensive background and passion for golf. The purpose of the CGA is to provide the resources and services for the development of golf programs primarily on college campus. Tools and resources are available to help develop golf programs, affiliate golf interest clubs, lessons, clinics, fundraising tournaments, non-competitive outings, and social functions in your community. For information, contact info@cgagolfinks.com, call (413) 332-6038 or visit www.cgagolfinks.com.

About PGAU: Play Golf America University, formerly GOLF: For Business & Life, is a PGA of America college and university golf program, designed to teach and engage students in the game of golf through PGA Professional instruction and other golf programs. Since being launched, The PGA of America has distributed \$7.3 million to 76 participating colleges and universities throughout the United States, including \$6.1 million on behalf of members of U.S.

Ryder Cup Teams as a means to support this initiative. Through 2008, PGA Professionals have provided instruction to more than 27,000 college students through Play Golf America University. WKU students have benefited from Hall of Famer Kenny Perry's 2008 Ryder Cup experience donation of \$90,000. The donation was part of the 2008 Ryder Cup Outreach Program, used to launch a Play Golf America University program at WKU. Perry said he was honored to use his Ryder Cup participation to benefit his alma mater. Perry, who played golf at WKU from 1979-82, was inducted into the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 2007, WKU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame in 2004. For information about PGAU, contact playgolfamerica@pgahq.com or visit <http://www.playgolfamerica.com/pgau/>.

Contact: Dawn Wientjes, (618) 638-5682 or dawn.wientjes919@topper.wku.edu.



WKU's golf expo was held Oct. 9 on the South Lawn.

(WKU photo by Bryan Lemon)

WKU's Institute for Rural Health receives grant for collaborative project

**Original story from <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/10/01/irh-uofl-grant/>*

WKU's [Institute for Rural Health](#) and researchers at the University of Louisville are collaborating on a project funded through a [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) grant.

Through the collaboration with U of L, the IRH receives \$53,000 annually for each of the project's five years. Dr. Daniel Carter, IRH Dental Director, is entering into his fifth year as the principal investigator for this project dealing with bio-banking genetic material for research purposes.

The goals of the project are: 1) to institute a pilot project to determine the degree to which rural communities in south central Kentucky would be receptive to the idea of participating in a DNA bio-banking effort, and 2) to establish a process for collecting, de-identifying, shipping and storing DNA samples for analysis, Dr. Carter said.

[REDCap](#), a web-based data management system, has been a key resource in effectively meeting these objectives, and it is because of this project that REDCap is now available to faculty and staff in WKU's [College of Health and Human Services](#). To address the question of whether the rural community will be receptive to the idea of participating in a DNA bio-banking effort, willing patients seen on the mobile units respond to a questionnaire directly into REDCap via an iPad.

DNA samples are collected from patients seen on the mobile units by buccal (cheek) swabs, and that patient's health information is entered into a file in REDCap. The patient's file is associated with a randomly generated ID number that is written on the DNA sample. The sample is then shipped to a researcher at U of L. Once received, the researcher logs the DNA sample into REDCap and uses the ID number on the sample to find the patient's health information.

The database allows the user at WKU to limit what parts of the patient's file the user at U of L is able to see, therefore all HIPAA protected identifiers are not available to the user at U of L, Dr. Carter said. The intention being that once this protocol has been proven successful, other institutions could utilize it to create their own database linking genetic material to physical health traits.

Contact: Daniel Carter, (270) 745-2633.

School of Nursing Featured in the Daily News

**Original story from http://www.bgdailynews.com/features/learning/filling-the-need/article_58688db5-1e2e-5d3d-8542-9d662b03f270.html*

Jen Gannott of Louisville went on a mission trip to Jamaica and saw what nurses can do.

She's ready to help.

"I want to show them God's love through nursing," said Gannott, a senior in the Western Kentucky University School of Nursing.

Gannott has visited an elementary school to see what a school nurse does. Through her studies, she gets to see various types of nursing. "It gives you a little taste of everything a nurse can do," she said.

Gannott, who plans to work on a medical-surgical floor in a hospital after graduation, is just one student among a greatly expanded WKU's School of Nursing.

Director Mary Bennett said with the new facility leased from The Medical Center, the four-year bachelor's program has doubled from 40 students a semester to 80. When the program was housed in the university's Academic Complex, there wasn't room for more students.

"We were roughly throwing away about half of a class each year," Bennett said. "There were 100 qualified candidates, and we were only able to seat 40. We said, 'How can we fix this?'"

Constructing a financial model where The Medical Center built the building and WKU leased parts of it, the School of Nursing was able to spread out this year.

Bennett will travel to Indianapolis next month to present a paper before Sigma Theta Tau International, a nurses honorary society, to let other administrators know how to structure similar expansions. The push to educate nurses is fueled by a national nursing shortage.

Bennett said hospitals want nurses with four-year degrees. In a 2010 report, the Institute of Medicine called on states to bring the number of their nurses with bachelor's degrees up to 80 percent from about 50 percent by 2020.

In Kentucky, the number of nurses with bachelor's degrees hovers around 25 percent to 30 percent, Bennett said, and an increase to 50 percent by 2020 might be an obtainable goal.

Bennett said the extra two years of instruction can make a difference. Research, public health, psychology, leadership and management are curriculums that add to each nurse's capabilities. A survey of local hospitals across Kentucky shows the hospitals seek and retain nurses with four-year degrees. In fact, some of the programs in Kentucky offering associate's degrees in nursing have actually started to cut back admissions based on their graduates not being able to find jobs, she said.

Bennett sits on the Kentucky Nursing Capacity Consortium, which is studying strategies to bring Kentucky's nurses with four-year degrees up to 50 percent by 2020. One thing that is being studied is agreement on what courses a student can take as prerequisites before taking the nursing courses.

WKU has increased to 60 slots the number of students online taking the RN (registered nurse) to BSN (bachelor of science in nursing) upgrade. There also has been the introduction of a doctorate of nursing program. "We are going gangbusters at all levels," Bennett said.

Exploration of nursing is a career change for Crystal Coleman of Park City, a first-semester junior at WKU. She was a retail manager for five years. "I like the people interaction. I've always been drawn to the medical field. You can grow with it, and things are always changing."

Macey Cornwell and Brittany Gunter, both first-semester juniors from Scottsville, said nursing as a career came to them through different paths. Cornwell was majoring in business but saw the

nursing profession up close when she spent a great deal of time at Vanderbilt University Medical Center when her mother was ill. “I want to work in the children’s hospital at Vanderbilt,” she said, adding that she’d also like to pursue a nurse anesthetist degree.

Gunter said she’s always had a passion for people and especially wants to work with children.

After Gunter obtains her degree from the WKU School of Nursing, she wants to go back and become a nurse practitioner, specializing in pediatrics.

“I enjoy the new facility,” Cornwell said. “We can work with computers at every bedside. The mannequins can do many procedures. We can set their vital signs. It helps. You’re not so nervous when you get in a real-life situation.”

— *Chuck Mason covers education. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/bgdnschools or visit bgdailynews.com.*



Western Kentucky University nursing students Andrea Reid (left) of Loretto and Kathryn Brown of Richmond practice CPR on a dummy at the WKU Medical Center Health Science Complex. Photo by Alex Slitz/Daily News