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ARETTE

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



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VOL.5 ISSUE 4



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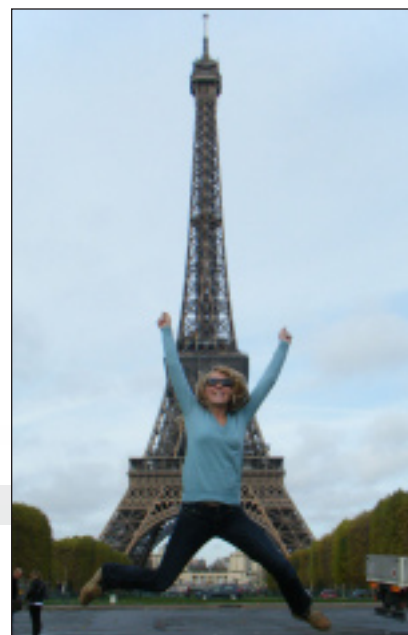
WKU HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MEMBERS GATHER NEXT TO ONE OF THE HOMES THEY WORKED ON. LEFT TO RIGHT FROM THE BACK: JASON BOSTON, NATHAN SALAZAR, JASON SELBY, HABITAT AFFILIATE LEADER ALLISON PATTEN, HANNAH CECIL, EMILY LINEBACH, JENNIFER DOOPER, DANIELLE MARSH, BRITTANY DANSBY, ANNE WALSH, CHASE McNULTY, EILEEN RYAN, MEG HARRIS
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TATE GOINS LEAPS IN FRONT OF THE EIFFEL TOWER.
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Reporting from India: World Newspaper Conference

COLLEEN STEWART

Areté guest writer

Words and pictures can't convey the elation of climbing a plush mountain of Indian cotton, nor can they portray the despair pungent in the one-room home of a widow and her two sons a month after their father swallowed the very pesticide that failed to save his crops.

My week in India was a whirlwind. My brain is still brimming with mental pictures of elaborate palaces and CEOs, starkly contrasted with Indian farmers who had nothing. The Honors College funded my trip to India last November to join WKU's student iMedia team in charge of covering the WAN/IFRA World Newspaper Conference. My professor, Sara Shipley Hiles, and I stayed a few days longer than the team, in order to do investigative reporting on farmer suicides and organic farming in India.

The following is an excerpt from our blog <http://kentuckytoindia.wordpress.com/>.

Dec. 5, 2009

We first pulled up to a small orange



PHOTO BY COLLEEN STEWART

brick house and were ushered in by a few men and women who surrounded the widow of a farmer and her two sons. Her husband, overwhelmed by debt and an unsuccessful harvest, committed suicide last month. The awful irony is that he, as so many farmers do, drank the pesticide in order to escape.

She was wearing a gold-embellished emerald green sari as she sat on the floor speaking to us through translation. The village gathered outside the door. We asked her what she would do without him. She sobbed, responding that she had no idea. A futile tear escaped my own eyes and the room felt suffocating, drenched in tragedy. She said that her

family didn't qualify for governmental aid allocated to help victims of farmer suicides because her husband had, four years ago, worked as a laborer in Dubai. She didn't know what to do next, but she said it wouldn't be farming. Her 17-year-old son brought us to their rented 10 acres of failing cotton.

That was one of three families affected by farmer suicides that we visited today. At the next house, the mother of a farmer who had committed suicide wept incoherently about how her son had selfishly spoiled everything, how he was supposed to take care of her. With no other relatives, she lives with people from her caste.

Before venturing to the next family, we stopped alongside the road to photograph women picking cotton. There was a young girl among them, and they were all draped in colorful and sequined cloth, beautiful amidst acres of cotton. They laughed at me as I stuck a cotton flower in my hair, and they waved bye to us from a distance...



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sara Shipley Hiles and Colleen Stewart relax after climbing a mountain of Indian cotton.

Growing Opinions on an Old Farm

KEVIN ALLEN

Areté guest writer

About 20 college students, barely alive in the morning blur, gathered in the parking lot near Cherry Hall to set off on a trip to a community we had read about in our American Studies class. This community was called The Farm, and was founded in the 1970s by Dr. Stephen Gaskin and a caravan of people who had followed him around the country until they bought land in rural Tennessee and started a hippie commune that lasts to this day.

Our class (which combines the perspectives of literature, history, and political science) was ready to see how the community worked, what the people were actually like. Our professors, Dr. Sandra Hughes, Dr. Roger Murphy, and Dr. Anthony Harkins, divided driving responsibilities. My “Honors-sense” tingling, I chose Dr. Murphy’s van. I was vindicated when Dr. Hughes’ van blew out its right front tire. Her driving skills are to be commended, because she calmly pulled the van to the side of the highway without any injuries or other damages.

Leaving Dr. Murphy and Dr. Harkins with the damaged van, we pressed on. Once at The Farm, we were led to a large, homey building that seemed to serve as the community dining area and meeting place. Douglas Stevenson, a long-time resident, gave a presentation about the history of The Farm. It was an amazing tale of charity and humanitarian work, combined

with real financial success.

After the talk and a brief question-and-answer session, we broke for a vegan lunch and “ice bean,” an extremely good ice cream that they make from soy milk. Then Dr. Stephen Gaskin himself arrived to speak to us directly about his life and experiences. He had an aura of calm, what could be described as Zen in many ways. There was a fly hovering around his face for most of the talk, but rather than make any show or try to shoo it away he simply let it be, accepting that they were going to share the same space for while. The fly never affected his speaking and really drove home the message that he practiced what he preached.

After another question-and-answer session, we took a tour of The Farm. All

of the buildings were refurbished trailers, or made from recycled materials, or were in some way reusing rather than buying new. The greatest example was the metallic skeleton of a large metal dome. All of the metal was taken from a warehouse that was being torn down, and they made it into a dome that has stood for decades. Needless to say, I was a bit apprehensive about posing for pictures under the metal dome that had been exposed to the elements for over a decade, but my fears were unfounded.

After seeing the dome, we said our goodbyes to The Farm. It was worth it, getting up early on a Saturday to go. That means a lot from a college student. I’ll never forget the atmosphere and people of The Farm; I don’t think any of us will really. It may not be a perfect society, but we could all take a lesson from those hippies out in rural Tennessee. I know I certainly did.

We could all take a lesson from those hippies out in rural Tennessee.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dr. Roger Murphy, Dr. Sandra Hughes, Katie Brandenburg, Kevin Allen, and Jonathan Williams were fortunate enough to find amusement in the unfortunate situation of a flat tire.

SCUSA: Future Leaders Thinking about US Policy in Africa

CHARLIE HARRIS

Areté guest writer

When college students from West Point, Kenya, Brooklyn, Miami, Gambia, Vancouver, California, Senegal, and Kentucky gather around a table, you know that the discussion will be interesting.

At the Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) in West Point such a scenario played out, and the result was a policy paper titled “The Challenges and Opportunities for the African Continent.”

The unique experiences that converged as we discussed our U.S. policy towards the African continent were incredible to experience, and the mutual learning for all of us was also incredible.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

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As future policy makers, a writer, a feminist, military cadets, and hopeful business leaders going back to Africa after college, we managed both to teach and to learn from each other. In the end we created a policy that we, the engaged youth looking build a better world, could say we were proud of.

Part of our proposal includes reforming our foreign assistance, an issue I brought to the table as a part of my work with The ONE Campaign and Americans for Informed Democracy

(AID) on campus and in our congressional district.

Once it is finished, the policy proposal will be going to AFRICOM, the U.S. military’s African Command, proving that our voices are already important in helping shape the world around us.

As future policy makers, a writer, a feminist, military cadets, and hopeful business leaders going back to Africa after college, we managed both to teach and to learn from each other.

The Northwestern Mutual Internship

MARY BOOTHE

Areté staff writer

Every year since 1967, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network has recruited an average of 2,500 interns. As one of the top internship programs in the country, Northwestern Mutual provide its interns with exciting opportunities to jumpstart their careers in the financial and business industry. Interns are given a broad range of experiences, including working with clients, training with specialists, and building up their own clientele. With

all the advantages of a full-time employee, Northwestern Mutual interns are building their careers. Statistically, one in three of their graduating interns will go on to become full-time members of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

Two Honors students, Corey Ogburn and Chris Drury are participating in this internship this spring. As with any internship, Honors students can gain Honors credit for the Northwestern Mutual internship.

An interview with senior Chris Drury reveals his excitement about the

internship. He decided to apply after a representative from Northwestern Mutual came to his fraternity meeting. Now he is working as a financial representative in risk management. He has his own set of clients, but he still has the benefit of receiving tips and advice from the more experienced members in the company. With this internship, Chris plans to work hard and eventually hopes to receive a job offer when he graduates from the Northwestern Mutual program.

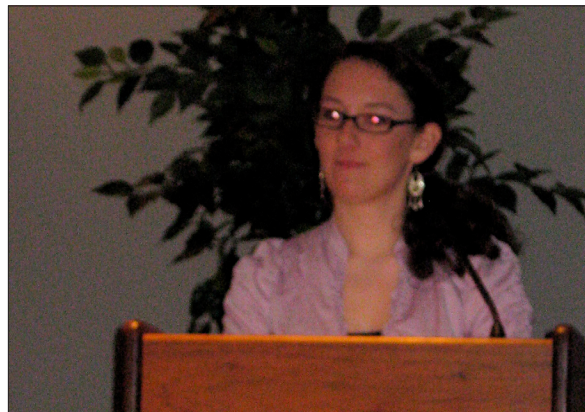
"This experience has taught me a lot about myself," Drury said.

Honors Students Present at 40th Annual WKU Student Research Conference

PHOTOS BY DR. ANGELA JONES



Maggie Roe concludes her presentation in mixed research methods with a frail population.



Kaitlen Osburn prepares to answer questions after her presentation on Milton.



Academy students Stephen King (left) and James Forshee (right) introduce their presentation on time for travel through different media.

Hammering in the Delta

Honors students Jennifer Dooper, Megan Harris, Chase McNulty, Eileen Ryan, Nathan Salazar, and Anne Walsh volunteered with Habitat for Humanity over Winter Break

MEGAN HARRIS

Areté guest writer

As we stood in the amber glow of evening between two freshly-finished Habitat projects, our boots steeped in Mississippi mud, I witnessed pride welling from within the families that now call those houses “home.”

After singing “Amazing Grace,” coordinator Allison Patten, 22, gifted the families with a blue hammer, a Bible, and at last their keys.

“I can’t wait ‘till my first electric bill,” shouted new-homeowner Danielle Ellis, while shaking her keys in the air triumphantly.

Her family of six had anticipated this day for years.

“I am so grateful for everyone who helped work on this house,” Ellis said. “God bless Habitat for Humanity for giving me and my family a safe place to live and a place we can take pride in.”

Her 10-year-old daughter abruptly ran over to me during the service.

She hugged me, and pulled on my shirt-sleeve to whisper, “Thank you for giving me my own room.”

This was worth every second of my last week of Winter Break.

This was worth every sheet of drywall I meticulously measured for a closet ceiling and having mismarked, had to measure again.

This was worth every screw I spackled over, noticed it was bulging out, screwed in, and spackled over again.

The dedication of houses 32 and 33 of the Tallahatchie Habitat for Humanity chapter was the culmination of our week-long stay in the small town of Tutwiler, Mississippi.

Although we spent the majority of our



PHOTO BY EILEEN RYAN

Aries Ellis, 10, of Tutwiler, Miss., thanks Habitat for Humanity volunteer Meg Harris, 20, Bowling Green, during the home dedication ceremony. Ellis’ parents had just received the keys to their new house.

time on house 34, we were fortunate enough to tie up the loose ends on the other two and attach a face to the final product.

This is a rare occasion for most Habitat volunteers because on average it takes five groups each working one week to complete a house.

Although Tutwiler may not have offered much in the ways of entertainment, we became a close-knit group because of it.

We could be caught dancing on the job, puzzling over our last “peel” in Bananagrams, frantically shouting random objects in a round of Guesstures, or unwrapping our third oatmeal cream pie for the day.

If someone had cabin fever, we would make a trip to the Double Qwik, a convenience store up the road.

We took a break from cooking one

night and ventured out to Morgan Freeman’s blues club, Ground Zero, in a town just 30 minutes north of us.

The catfish melted in my mouth as the live delta blues carried me away on soulful guitar solos.

We ended up dancing until they closed. Who says Kentuckians can’t cut a rug?

Working and living together made it incredibly hard to leave the mud behind. We exchanged numbers and made plans to hang out after the first week of classes.

When I signed up for the trip, I expected to help build a house. When I came back from the trip, I realized that we did much more than that. We poured a foundation of hope for families to have a better life. And that is the mud that will forever cling to my boots.

Honors Club Bowls for Kids' Sake

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

Erin O'Flaherty says she does it to give back to the community. Jake Ryle says it's a great experience and a worthy cause. Kate Masterson says she likes meeting new people that share her interests. O'Flaherty, Ryle, and Masterson are just three of the 20 Honors students who volunteered during the 27th Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake, sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Cen-

tral Kentucky. The fundraising event, which was held this year on Feb. 27 and 28 at Southern Lanes, was a huge success for the organization.

The volunteers were assigned to various lanes to assist teams in any way they could, and more importantly, to enter the team members into a raffle when the headpin was orange and a strike was bowled. Screams of joy could be heard over the chaos when a bowler was lucky enough to triumph over this challeng-

ing feat. This also gave the volunteers a chance to talk to the teams as they filled out their tickets to be entered into the prize drawing.

"Everyone was so nice and so enthusiastic to help out a great cause," Masterson said. "You really get to see the community coming together." Masterson added she had such a great experience that she will hopefully be lining the lanes with the Honors Club to help out again next year.

Honors Students "Honor" Their Talents

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

The Honors College hosted its first annual talent show on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Faculty House. "Follow your dreams, Honor your talent" was the theme, and the purpose was to raise money for the Honors Up 'Til Dawn team. Up 'Til Dawn is an annual fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Students paid \$2 for admission and received free coffee and pastries. Auditions were held a few weeks before the event, and 10 acts were performed, from jump-roping, to singing, to poetry. About 50 students and Honors faculty came to support the event. Honors Club President Allie Kerns announced that there will be another talent show next year.



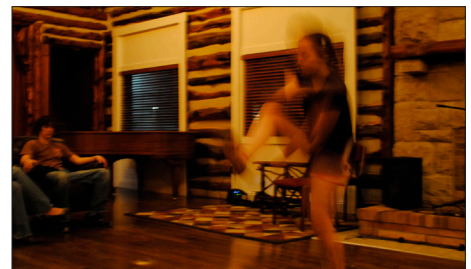
"We were excited about the number of people who came out to listen and all the other performers."

-Ramona Sudbeck



PHOTOS BY LINDSEY PAXTON
Above: The band Three People (from left to right: Austin Warren, Ramona Sudbeck, Clay Graham) perform their songs "Cling to Me," "Let's Start Over," and "Saplings."
Right: Suzanne Spalding sings while Ashley McCloughan plays guitar on "When I Look to the Sky" by Train.

Below: Telia Butler shows off her jump roping skills.



An Evening in China Honors College Hosts China Night

AMANDA LOVIZA

Areté editor

While eating with chopsticks may have been a struggle, all who attended China Night on Feb. 17 received a taste of true Chinese culture. Jointly hosted by the Global Encounters Series, the Chinese Flagship Program, and the Honors College, the event provided information about China as well as fun games to give a different perspective on Chinese culture. Guests included faculty, international students and

students from the Honors College. Over 60 people attended the event.

Students and faculty enjoyed a buffet cooked by Aramark, which the Academic Director of the Flagship Program, Dr. Liping Chen, said was quite authentic. Chinese trivia and instructions for using chopsticks entertained the guests during dinner.

Students from the Chinese Flagship Program, which is an intensive Chinese language program that provides bi-annual study abroad opportunities, showed a slideshow of pictures from their

***“The Flagship program as a whole just opens so many opportunities.”
-Rachel Reetzke***

most recent trip to China. Afterwards, a group of Flagship students sang “Beijing Welcomes You” in Chinese. More music followed, with songs by Chinese students and professors.

Rachel Reetzke, a senior from Franklin, Ky., joined the Flagship Program last semester. Reetzke said she was pleased with the diversity of the people who attended the event, and she made new friends at China Night.

If you can discipline yourself enough to take the time to learn Chinese, it really helps connect you to others, Reetzke said. She hopes to incorporate her passion for autism studies into future work in China.

“The Flagship program as a whole just opens so many opportunities, I can’t stress that enough,” she said.



PHOTO BY AMANDA LOVIZA

Flagship students sing “Beijing Welcomes You.” From left to right: Ballard Metcalfe, Academy student from Eminence, Ky., Will Meredith, sophomore from Bowling Green, Ky., Rachel Reetzke, senior from Franklin, Ky., and Samuel Firkins, Academy student from Taylorsville, Ky.

Life Lessons: Home is Where the Heart Is

TATE GOINS

Areté staff writer

Last semester was a whirlwind adventure I will never forget. I lived, learned, and played in a magnificent English mansion, Harlaxton Manor, which is tucked away in the quaint English town of Grantham. Most weekends were spent traipsing across Europe—to Paris, Rome, and Athens, just to name a few. While my study-abroad experience was certainly life-changing, it was not so in the way I expected.

Sure, I fell in love with London, and I now start to tear up when I hear “God Save the Queen” (not “My Country, ‘tis of Thee”), but I also gained a deeper love of my own home. Many of my friends from Harlaxton talk about how much they miss England, how badly they want to go back, and

how much being home is boring, but not me. I am thankful every day for the opportunities the Honors College at WKU has provided me with and I know that life on the hill can be just as incredible as life abroad.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tate Goins poses in front of the Louvre in Paris, France.

As I readjust to walking to class, living in the dorms, and driving a car on the right side of the road, I try my hardest to stay focused on the most important lesson I learned last semester. I’ll give you a hint: it has nothing to do with Henry

VIII! I learned to appreciate my circumstances at any given time, because home seems like the best place in the world when you miss it. It’s very easy to live life to the fullest when you’re standing under the Eiffel Tower or eating gelato in Venice, but it’s just as important to do the same here. I definitely encourage everyone to utilize WKU’s Honors College and go study abroad, but always remember to appreciate where you are right now. Take it from me: Bowling Green can be just as incredible as anywhere else, as long as you live life to the fullest.

Learning a Culture, Living a Dream

ROSE VAN RYCKEGHEM

Areté guest writer

I dreamed of traveling around the world as a child. The myriad cultures, languages, and countries have always fascinated me and fueled my desire to become a Spanish major. When I realized that I had the opportunity to study abroad in Quito, Ecuador, last fall, I knew that I couldn’t pass it up! I spent four months in the beautiful country, taking classes during the week and traveling on the weekends. I was deeply immersed in the Latin American culture and Spanish language, not only from the unique classes I took but also from experiences with my Ecuadorian host family and my time spent traveling. Every day in Ecuador was an adventure, whether I was trying to find a place to buy shampoo or

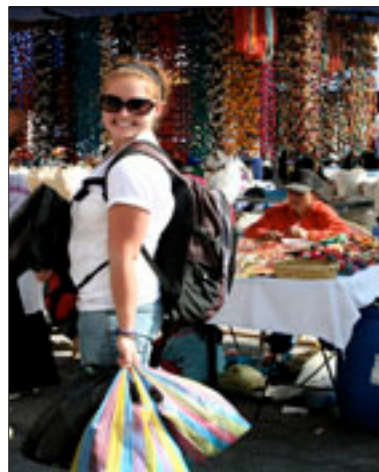


PHOTO BY AMANDA LOVISA

Rose Van Ryckeghem shops at the famous Otavalo market in Ecuador.

catching a ride to the beach in a banana truck.

Now that I’m back on campus at WKU, the adventure and excitement of being in a foreign country has disappeared. After speaking a second language, living in a huge Latin American city, and picking up a guidebook to find a new travel destination every weekend, simply going to class and grabbing dinner at Fresh Foods can seem monotonous. I am glad to be with my friends again, and I’m happy for the normalcy and routine of my daily life, but sometimes, I close my eyes and imagine I’m in the middle of an adventure once again. My time in South America drastically broadened my perspective on the world, and I can’t help but apply that new awareness to my life.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Although there are times when life seems dull compared to the exotic excitement of Ecuador, my time abroad ignited a desire to reach out in my own community here in Bowling Green. I am readjusting to looking at my old world with new eyes and am ready to get involved in the huge international community we have right here in Warren County. I want to use what I learned in Ecuador to make a difference in other people's lives. I believe that every student at WKU has the opportunity and ability to reach out to others, and I want to be a part of this cultural awareness and outreach.

Super Bowl, Honors Style

CRISTEN FRIDDELL

Areté staff writer

Honors football fans mingled in the Mass Media and Technology Hall Auditorium on Feb. 7 to watch the biggest game of the year on an equally big screen. The Super Bowl Party is hosted annually by the Honors College. Pizza, soda, and sweets were served at the event. The favorite snack was the cupcakes with icing tinted to match the jerseys of the teams competing. New Orleans Saints fans enjoyed chocolate cupcakes with yellow and black

icing, while Indianapolis Colts fans munched on yellow cakes with blue and white icing. A total of 48 students turned out for the party. Even Dr. Craig T. Cobane stopped in for a while to chat with the students and enjoy the game.

"I love that the Honors College offered this event," freshman Kelsey Quiambao said. "It would have been difficult watching the game with all my friends in the dorm room on a small TV."

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MARCH 26
-PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS
-BEFORE BROADWAY SERIES: *LIKE YOU LIKE IT*
- MARCH 27
-SCAVENGER HUNT SPONSORED BY SGA
- MARCH 28
-CHANEY'S EASTER EGG HUNT
- MARCH 29
-HONORS CLUB MEETING
- APRIL 12
-HONORS CLUB MEETING
- APRIL 24
-HONORS CLUB FORMAL AT THE CORVETTE MUSEUM
- APRIL 26
-HONORS CLUB MEETING



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Newsletter Staff:

*Elizabeth Beilman
Mary Boothe
Cameron Franey
Cristen Friddell
Tate Goins
Sara Kuhl
Amanda Loviza*
Kali O'Rourke
Lindsey Paxton
Caitlin Pike
Bethany Riggs
Jake Ryle
Ashton Skates
Ramona Sudbeck*

Advisor:

Dr. Angela Jones

Honors Executive Director:

Dr. Craig T. Cobane

*editor

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