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CHHS December 2014 E-Newsletter

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FACS Alum Named Executive Director of Phi Upsilon Omicron

Melissa Essenpreis Martin, alum of the FACS Department, was named National Executive Director of Phi Upsilon Omicron (Phi U) at the 2014 Conclave held in Boise, ID. She assumed her duties on November 1, 2014. Melissa replaces Susan Rickards who has served Phi U in this capacity for the past 38 years. Melissa is a 2006 graduate of the Textile and Apparel Merchandising program at WKU, she graduated Suma Cum Laude with a 4.0 and was named Scholar of the College of Health and Human Services. She attend the Phi U Conclave as the collegiate delegate in 2006. As an undergraduate, she was a very active member, was named most active initiate in 2004, as she served as the 1st Vice-President in charge of directing the professional project. She also received the Service Award and the Leadership Award for the chapter. Under Melissa's leadership, the Beta Delta Chapter won the National Professional Project Award for two consecutive years.

Melissa stated, "Through Phi U membership, I have learned lifelong lessons, gained invaluable friendships and mentors, and acquired a heart for service. Now, as an alumni and professional, I am eager for the opportunity to play a bigger role in helping others realize their potential by serving and supporting the honor society."



Melissa Essenpreis Martin

School of KRS Graduate Student Awarded Scholarship at AORE Conference

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/12/02/phaneuf-award/> to be taken directly to the story.*

WKU graduate student **Ben Phaneuf** of St. Paul, Minnesota, was awarded a \$750 scholarship to attend an American Alpine Institute *Alpine Mountaineering and Technical Leadership* Course at the [2014 AORE Annual Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon.

Phaneuf is studying outdoor leadership in WKU's [School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport](#) and is a graduate assistant of outdoor recreation and adventure for the [Department of Intramural-Recreational Sports](#).

The [Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education](#) (AORE) conference was held Nov. 12-14.

Contact: Steve Rey, (270) 745-6060.



Ben Phaneuf

Public Health Students Make an Impact in the Community

The Institute for Rural Health (IRH) considers it a privilege to work with such a high caliber of students each semester from the various disciplines within the College of Health and Human Services. This fall, the IRH provided internships for Nhu “Amy” Ngoc Truong and Christy Rutter. Amy and Christy are undergraduate public health students. Maulik Gandhi served as a graduate assistant and is also a public health student. The students worked together as a health promotion team to research, design, deliver, and evaluate their health education programs. They developed programming in the areas of breast cancer awareness, prostate cancer awareness, oral health, physical activity, and healthy eating. As a team, they provided health education to approximately 270 people in the community or worksite. The team provided health education sessions at the Owensboro Boys and Girls Club, Allen County YMCA, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, and the JM Smucker Plant.



Pictured above (left to right): Maulik Gandhi, Nhu “Amy” Ngoc Truong, and Christy Rutter providing health education for children at the Owensboro Boys and Girls Club.



Pictured above: Maulik Gandhi providing health education for adults at the JM Smucker Plant.



Pictured above: Nhu “Amy” Ngoc Truong providing health education for adults at the JM Smucker Plant.

Student Chapter of KPHA Present at 2014 American Public Health National Conference

WKU's Student Chapter of the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) was chosen to present at the American Public Health Association's 2014 National Conference in New Orleans in October. The student chapter's president, Mackenzie Perkins, an MPH (Health Education) student in the Department of Public Health, presented the chapter's leadership structure and discussed the activities that has led this chapter to be awarded "best student chapter in Kentucky" for the past 6 years.



Mackenzie Perkins Speaking at National Conference

Interior Design Student Wins Award from PAVE

Krystal Steele, a FACS Interior Design student, received an award from the Planning and Visual Education Partnership (PAVE). \$20,000 in financial assistance was awarded to eight students through its 2014 student aid program benefiting college students. The students represent six different schools throughout the U.S. in programs ranging from interior design to industrial design to visual communications. This is the second year that a WKU FACS student has won an award from P.A.V.E. Last year, Jade Boyle, an Interior Design graduate, received the \$2500 award for placing 2nd in the 2012-2013 design challenge. Krystal is also the treasurer in three WKU Student Organizations: International Interior Design Association (IIDA), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and WKU National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA).

FACS Alumni Launch Design Collaboration

Interior Design alum, **Dani Harris** and **Kristin Wallace**, are excited to announce the launch of Knot and Company, an interior design collaborative. Knot and Company is located in Louisville, Ky. and provides Residential, Commercial, and Consulting services. For more information, please see their website: <http://www.knotandcompany.com/services> You can also find them on Pinterest at: pinterest.com/knotandcompany.



Knot & Company Co-Founders, Kristin Jordan & Dani Harris