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CHHS February 2015 E-Newsletter

Dr. John Bonaguro, Dean
Western Kentucky University

VaShon S. Wells, editor
Western Kentucky University

College of Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University

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February CHHS E-Newsletter

FACS Student Travels to England to Study Abroad

**Original story available on Glasgow Daily Times. Please visit http://www.glasgowdailytimes.com/news/local-western-kentucky-university-students-study-abroad/article_02d414d2-9882-11e4-8c65-432963e39811.html to be taken directly to the story.*

BY GINA KINSLOW Glasgow Daily Times

Glasgow college students Brittany Allen and **Lisa Hawkins** can both cross “traveling to Europe” and “studying abroad” off their to-do lists.

The Western Kentucky University students recently returned from a fall semester at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England.

Allen and Hawkins studied at the college, which is north of London and is in a historic manor house built in the 1800s by Gregory Gregory.

“Living in the manor house was a big difference,” said **Hawkins, a nutrition dietetics major** who aspires to be a dietician. “That’s where we went to school. We lived there. The professors lived there. We ate there. Everything was in this one building.”

She and Allen were among nearly 200 students who spent the semester there. Because it was a small group of students, Allen said everyone got to know each other well.

“It was just a really good personal experience,” she said.

Allen did not know Hawkins before they spent the semester in England, but Allen’s mother, Feebie, was acquainted with Hawkin’s mother, Charlotte.

Hawkins took two business classes to fulfill a requirement for her business administration minor at Harlaxton, while Allen took classes toward fulfilling her general education requirements.

“Everybody there takes a British Studies class. That’s just about British history,” she said. “I also took biology and an environmental science class that I can use for my gen ed at Western.”

The students were in classes Mondays through Wednesdays and sometimes Thursdays. When they weren’t in class, they traveled to other countries.

“The school organized travel. You could go with them, or you could go on your own,” Allen said.

The students took three required field trips related to their British Studies class.

“One of them was to London,” Allen said. “One of them was to Lincoln, where we saw like a cathedral and we learned about the Roman invasion. It was really neat to go on those field trips and kind of see what we had been studying.”

In addition to traveling in and around England, Allen also visited Germany, Ireland, Scotland, France, Italy and Greece.

Hawkins also traveled to other countries while in Europe.

“I went to eight countries,” she said. “I went to England, Ireland, Spain, Amsterdam and The Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Italy and France.”

In Amsterdam she and her fellow classmates visited the Ann Frank Museum. In Greece, they went to the Parthenon. In Ireland, they went to Galway and did a tour of the Cliffs of Moher.

“In Barcelona, we did a seafood cooking class one night,” Hawkins said. “We went to the market and got food and cooked with a chef. They taught us how. That was really fun.”

In France, they visited the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum, where she saw Rembrandt’s famous painting, the “Mona Lisa.”

“It was a very small picture with a really big crowd around it,” she said. “It was really neat. You couldn’t get too close to it. You could stand there and look at it and (think), ‘Wow, I’m really here looking at this.’ “

She and her classmates also visited Disneyland while in France.

In Munich, Germany, they visited the World War II German concentration camp of Dachau.

“I think my favorite was Disneyland Paris, as sad as that is,” Hawkins said. “It was the most fun.”

She explained that during other travels while in Europe, they saw several historical monuments and museums. The trip to Disneyland was just a fun day, she said.

Both Allen and Hawkins say they want to go to Europe again someday.

“I would love to go back and travel again,” Allen said. “It was difficult being away from home that long, but it was definitely worth it. I would love to go back.”

Hawkins isn’t sure if she will revisit the same places she did this past semester.

“I would definitely like to see London again and go to all the countries I didn’t get to do this time,” she said.

The partnership between WKU and Harlaxton has, since 2007, provided Western students with a traditional study abroad experience.

“We send students in the fall and spring, and we also have a shorter faculty-led program that goes in the summer,” said Craig Cobane, director of WKU Honors College and chief international officer for the university. “I would say we probably had close to 70 students to go either in the fall or spring semesters and then over 50 in the summer.”

Most of the students who participate in the program have never traveled internationally.

“It’s a really great, easy one for the first time,” Cobane said. “It gives them the confidence that they can spend the semester abroad and that they can succeed and grow. The real goal is it is an academic experience and it’s a life-changing, growing-up experience for these students. I hear this from their parents and from their siblings.”

WKU Dental Hygiene student awarded ASAHP scholarship

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit*

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/12/05/chhs-asahp-scholarship/> to be taken directly to the story.

WKU senior **Allison McCutchen** of Nolensville, Tennessee, was awarded the Scholarship of Excellence at the [Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions](#) (ASAHP) conference.

The ASAHP Board of Directors created the ASAHP Scholarship of Excellence to recognize outstanding students in allied health programs who are achieving excellence in their academic pursuits and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in allied health.

McCutchen, a second-year Dental Hygiene student, was selected for the \$1,000 scholarship based on academic achievement, service to WKU and the community, leadership, diversity in activities, and evidence of strong communication skills.

The [Dental Hygiene program](#) is part of the [Department of Allied Health](#) in WKU’s [College of Health and Human Services](#).

The ASAHP conference was held Oct. 22-24 in Las Vegas.

Contact: Stacey Adkisson Forsythe, (270) 745-7003.



Allison McCutchen

FACS Graduate Begins Peace Corps Service in South Africa

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/01/15/peacecorps-wellington/> to be taken directly to the story.*

Katie Wellington, a WKU graduate from Indianapolis, has been accepted into the [Peace Corps](#) and will depart for South Africa on Jan. 20 to begin training as a health volunteer. Wellington will live and work at the community level to make a difference raising awareness about the need for education. She will organize projects dedicated to issues such as maternal and child health, basic nutrition, sanitation, oral re-hydration therapy, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

“As a registered dietitian, I will be working with the people of South Africa as a health volunteer with our primary goal to combat malnutrition and the HIV/AIDS endemic that plagues the country’s people,” Wellington said.

Wellington, 27, is a 2005 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and she earned a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management nutrition and dietetics in 2009 from WKU. She also completed a dietetic internship in 2010 at Ball State University and a pediatric nutrition fellowship in 2012 at Indiana University Purdue University – Indianapolis. Prior to Peace Corps, Wellington worked as a registered dietitian.

During the first three months of her service, Wellington will live with a host family in South Africa to learn the local language and integrate into the local culture. After acquiring the language and cultural skills that will help her make a lasting difference, Wellington will be sworn into service and assigned to a community in South Africa where she will serve for two years.

Wellington will work in cooperation with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in South Africa and help Wellington develop leadership, technical and cross-cultural skills

that will give her a competitive edge when she returns home. Peace Corps volunteers return from service as global citizens well-positioned for professional opportunities in today's global job market.

There has never been a better time to apply to Peace Corps, and reforms have made the process simpler, faster, and more personalized than ever before. In 2014, applications reached a 22-year high for the agency, with more than 17,000 Americans taking the first step toward international service. Through a one-hour online application, applicants can now choose the countries and programs they'd like to be considered for. Browse available volunteer positions at www.peacecorps.gov/openings.

About Peace Corps/South Africa: There are 127 volunteers in South Africa working with their communities on projects in education and health. During their service in South Africa, volunteers learn to speak local languages, including: Afrikaans, isiNdebele, isiZulu, Northern Sotho, Sepedi, Setswana, siSwati, Venda, XiTsongo, and Xhosa. More than 1,285 Peace Corps volunteers have served in South Africa since the program was established in 1997.

About the Peace Corps: The Peace Corps sends the best and brightest Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their service, volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, nearly 220,000 Americans of all ages have served in 140 countries worldwide. For information, visit www.peacecorps.gov.

Contact: Heather Mangan, (312) 353-1126 or hmangan@peacecorps.gov



Katie Wellington (right), a 2009 WKU graduate, will be working in South Africa as volunteer for the Peace Corps.

CSD senior receives Library Student Assistant Scholarship

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/12/16/library-student-scholarship/> to be taken directly to the story.*

WKU senior **Katherine “Katie” DeCoursey** of Hopkinsville was recognized last week as the recipient of the inaugural WKU Library Student Assistant Scholarship.

DeCoursey has worked for the [WKU Libraries](#) for three years and will be graduating in May 2015 with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

“Katie has embraced a professional demeanor and work ethic from the beginning of her academic career,” said Doug Wiles, library security coordinator and DeCoursey’s supervisor. “She has maintained exemplary academic performance in a rigorous Communication Disorders program (while working) and has engaged in numerous extracurricular and professional engagement activities in her chosen field.”

Her library duties include working as a Circulation Assistant and as a Stacks Management Assistant, cross-training for library security functions and assisting with complex projects, such as implementing StackMap (digital search software), installing compact shelving, shifting entire floors of main collections and relocating Circulation Services during a remodeling project.

DeCoursey was hired the second semester of her freshman year, working winter and summer breaks in addition to the regular academic school year. “I am very proud of my job. The Library has supplied an environment that has helped me grow as a student through my college experience,” DeCoursey said.

The scholarship is sponsored through funding from the [Friends of WKU Libraries](#). For information on the Friends program, go to www.wku.edu/library and click on “Support Us.”

Contact: Jennifer Wilson, jennifer.wilson@wku.edu



WKU Libraries Dean Connie Foster (left) presented the inaugural WKU Library Student Assistant Scholarship to Katherine “Katie” DeCoursey.

CHHS Institute for Rural Health Releases 2012-14 Service Report

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit*

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/02/03/irh-report-2015/> to be taken directly to the story.

The [Institute for Rural Health](#) at WKU has released its [biennial service report](#) for 2012-14.

“The Institute for Rural Health (IRH) takes its mission of improving the health of rural communities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to heart,” Director Matt Hunt said. “Over the past two years, the IRH staff and students within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) have journeyed countless miles offering health and dental services in the community. We have enjoyed visiting the small towns, viewing the countryside scenery that rural Kentucky has to offer, and developing new partnerships to improve the health status of rural Kentucky.”

During 2012-14, IRH recorded more than 8,000 patient encounters through the Mobile Dental Unit and the Mobile Health and Wellness Unit. That provided students

experience with more than 5,000 student engagement hours. Staff and students also performed more than 15,500 health and dental procedures.

Contact: Matt Hunt, (270) 745-7073

