Teenagers Discover Newest Stars

Like most teenagers, Kaitlin Lewis and Vince Ingram spent last summer watching the newest stars. Lewis and Ingram; however, didn’t watch out-of-this-world performances by Britney Spears, ‘N Sync or Christina Aguilera. Their focus was on the stars light years away from Earth.

The students, participating in a summer astronomy program at Western, discovered an eclipsing binary, or two stars that orbit one another. And they rediscovered another eclipsing binary that hasn’t been studied since the early 1970s.

“This was unique, especially working with the age group we’re working with,” said Dr. Charles McGruder, head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. But he said the discoveries affirm Western’s growing reputation in astronomy and the University’s efforts to get more young people interested in the sciences.

“My interest is definitely up,” said Ingram, a 17-year-old student at the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville, S.C. “The discovery was pretty exciting and was something you don’t do every day.”

Lewis agreed. “We can definitely leave here saying we accomplished something,” said Lewis, a 16-year-old student at the Advanced Academy of Georgia in Carrollton.

That’s the point of the NASA-funded summer project, which attracted students from six states, Dr. McGruder said. “Students become an integral part of our research team for nine weeks in the summer,” he said. “It’s real research, not just for fun.”

The discoveries by Lewis and Ingram came while the student group was analyzing data and images collected over the past 10 years by robotic telescopes. Using a computer program to analyze images of the stars, the students could see variations of light and made their discoveries.

“I think what we’re doing here in astronomy at WKU is extremely exciting and fundamental,” Dr. McGruder said. “We are trying to make major contributions to various fields of astronomy.”

STARBASE Network Leads WKU Beyond Horizon

A refurbished telescope at the Bell Astrophysical Observatory gives Western astronomers not only a vision of the universe’s most distant objects but a vision of Kentucky’s educational future.

“We hope to do is interest students and educate students in science and technology,” said Dr. Charles McGruder, head of Western’s Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The 24-inch telescope, refurbished through $2 million in federal funding over two years secured by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, is a key part of a program called STARBASE (Students Training for Achievement in Research Based on Analytical Space-Science Experiments).

McConnell commended Western for “looking beyond the horizon” in seeking the funds for STARBASE and the telescope project.

“We want to do in STARBASE is to attract, to inspire and to train capable high school students toward careers in science, technology and education,” Dr. McGruder said. “We’re going to involve motivated high school students and college students in original research.”

The STARBASE network includes remote, robotic telescopes at Western’s observatory and at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. The program includes astronomers at Georgia State, Tennessee State and South Carolina State universities, the Planetary Science Institute in California and the University of California at Berkeley.

The two major projects involving the telescope will be the study of active galactic nuclei, which are powered by super black holes, and the search for extrasolar planets, which revolve around other stars.

Students from Western and high schools across Kentucky will be actively involved in STARBASE. They will make observations, acquire data, analyze data and report their findings.
briefly noted

Western received an allocation of $15 million in 2000 from the Kentucky General Assembly to begin Phase I of the renovation of its Science Complex, according to Dr. Stephen Thomson, director of the project. The construction replacement space for classes currently being taught in Science and Technology Hall and formerly taught in Snell Hall.

WWI has completed a five-year plan to relocate its campus residence halls. The $60 million project is being designed to provide more on-campus housing for students and to enhance housing options in smaller residence halls.

WWI students are currently interviewing, surveying and plotting the campus of Kentucky and Thompson Springs. The 700-acre tract in Monticello is being marketed to great response from the Pluribus Project and funded by Harvard University.

WWI’s public broadcasting service, was awarded the first

The College Heights Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards. The Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards. The Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards. The Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards. The Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards. The Herald has won three consecutive Pacemaker awards.

The School of Journalism and Broadcasting has won numerous national awards, including the Hearst competition. The College Heights Herald has also won the Pacemaker and Gold Crown awards.

**TOP TEN LISTS FROM THE 2000-2001 HEARST INTERCOLLEGIATE JOURNALISM COMPETITION**

- **Heart Overall Intercollegiate Scores**
  1. Western Kentucky University
  2. University of North Carolina
  3. University of Florida
  4. Northwestern University
  5. University of Missouri
  6. University of Montana
  7. Syracuse University
  8. Indiana University
  9. University of Alabama
  10. University of Nebraska

- **Heart Intercollegiate Broadcasting Scores**
  1. Western Kentucky University
  2. Syracuse University
  3. University of Alabama
  4. University of Florida
  5. University of Utah
  6. Northwestern University
  7. University of North Carolina
  8. University of Montana
  9. Ohio University
  10. Arizona State University

- **Heart Intercollegiate Photographic Scores**
  1. University of Florida
  2. Western Kentucky University
  3. University of Montana
  4. University of Missouri
  5. San Jose State University
  6. Ohio University
  7. Ball State University
  8. University of North Carolina
  9. San Francisco State University
  10. Kansas State University

- **Heart Intercollegiate Writing Scores**
  1. Northwestern University
  2. University of North Carolina
  3. University of Nebraska
  4. Indiana University
  5. University of Missouri
  6. San Jose State University
  7. Kent State University
  8. Western Kentucky University
  9. Pennsylvania State University
  10. Florida A&M University

**Kentucky Broadcasters Association Golden Tassel Award is the best radio station in Kentucky for news and public service.**

**The Institute of Rural Health Development and Research has been established as a collaborative effort between the Public Health Nursing and Rural Health and Human Services departments.**

- **Western’s report card shows that it has a solid teacher education program.**
  - Dr. Evans, associate dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said Western is doing a little better than the report shows, he said.
  - Programs with fewer than 10 students taking assessment tests are not reported on the Title II form. Dr. Evans said, If those students are counted, Western’s pass rate would climb to 97.01 percent.
  - "The Praxis II is supposed to assess what we need to be teaching," he said. "We want to make sure the students get what they need to be successful in the classroom.

**WESBERN’S THERMAL ANALYSIS LAB SELECTED FOR DEPT. OF DEFENSE NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH**

Western is one of 16 universities selected for nanotechnology research by the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Defense.

The Thermal Analysis Laboratory in the Materials Characterization and Evaluation Center has been awarded a $119,000.000 for "Acquisition of an X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD) for Nanotechnology Research."

Recently the XRD has become an indispensable analytical technique for in situ polymerization studies, according to Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, professor in Western’s Department of Chemistry. X-Ray diffraction can precisely measure atomic distances, spacings between clay layers, large-scale structure and long range order, and particle size and shape.

The XRD will be used to study the Materials Characterization Center’s capabilities in undergraduate and graduate education and fundamental research in nanoscience. Dr. Pan said.

- Other universities receiving grants were Harvard, Kansas State, Lehigh, Penn State, Illinois, Rico, Arizona State, Colorado, Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey and University of California at Santa Barbara.

**COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD WINS NATIONAL PACEMAKER**

For the third consecutive year, the College Heights Herald has been recognized as one of the nation’s best student newspapers.

The Herald received a Pacemaker award from the Associated Collegiate Press and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation. The award, considered to be the collegiate equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, was the eighth National Pacemaker won by the Herald and marks the first time the Herald has won three consecutive Pacemakers.


**WWI STUDENT NEWSPAPER WINS TWO GOLD CROWN AWARDS**

The College Heights Herald has completed a third consecutive sweep of college newspaper’s top awards by winning not one but two coveted Gold Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Western Kentucky University’s student newspaper won Gold Crown Awards for the fall 1999 semester and the spring 2000 semester.

Western was one of four schools that were honored with Gold Crowns for both semesters. The others were Kansas State University, Indiana University and University of Oklahoma.

The Herald won one Gold Crown in each of the previous two years.

**COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD WINS AWARDS IN KIPA CONTEST**

The College Heights Herald won nine first-place awards in the annual Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association newspaper contest.

Overall, six staff members of Western’s student newspaper received first-place awards in the annual competition. Students receiving awards included:

- Jerry Breuer, a May graduate from Paducah, first in personality profile, sports feature and sports column.
- Rich Mach, a junior from Sterling, Va., first in best original illustration and sports photo.
- Dave Albers, a junior from Montgomery City, Mo., second in feature photo.
- Erica Walsh, a sophomore from Lexington, first in feature story.
- Krystal Kraman, a December graduate from Louisville, first in photo essay.

**focus on journalism & broadcasting**

**THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND BROADCASTING HAS WON NUMEROUS NATIONAL AWARDS, INCLUDING THE HEARST COMPETITION. THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD HAS ALSO WON THE PACEMAKER AND GOLD CROWN AWARDS.**

- The Herald received a Pacemaker award from the Associated Collegiate Press and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation. The award, considered to be the collegiate equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, was the eighth National Pacemaker won by the Herald and marks the first time the Herald has won three consecutive Pacemakers. Previously, the Herald won National Pacemakers in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1998 and 1999.

- The Herald won one Gold Crown in each of the previous two years.

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CENTER ADDS TO ITS INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

With more students and more programs, the International Center at Western is enriching its international flavor.

"We're sprucing up the International Center to make it more functional for activities and make it look and feel more international," said Dr. Larry Calloway, director of International Programs.

Inside, photographs of scenes from students' home countries have been enlarged and used to decorate the center and outdoor signs from the 25 nations with the most international students at Western. "The building looks somewhat like an embassy," he said.

In 2000-01, Western had 315 international students from 50 countries compared with 257 from 57 countries last year. China and India have the most international students at Western, "but we have a pretty good world representation," he said. In Europe, the Community College Regional Science Resource Center to increase interest in science, import the science curriculum, and sciences were an underutilized tool, improve venture education programs in science and increase interest in postsecondary education.

A WKU student group won national honors for its 2000 Safe Spring Symposium. The symposium, sponsored by the Kentucky Transportation Department and the Kentucky Highway Association, was sponsored by the Regionalize the Achievement Award from the Kentucky Transportation Commission. The symposium was second place in the competition sponsored by the RACER and GAMA Peer Education Network.

Dr. Byron Slough, agriculture, was named Emerging Scientist of the Year by the American Forestry and Grassland Council.

Kimberly Perry, editor of The Campus, received the 2000 Personal Achievement Award from the Kentucky Journalism Association and the Vocational Achievement Award from the Kentucky Department of the Blind.

Sheila Eima, former editor of The Campus, received the Partnership of the Year Award, awarded to individuals who contribute to the mission of the Kentucky Department for the Blind by hiring an individual with a visual impairment.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING REMAINS FOCUS OF WKU ENGINEERING PROGRAM AS JOINT DEGREES OFFERED As Western Kentucky University enters joint programs to offer bachelor's degrees in engineering, the focus on hands-on experience for students won't change.

"Project-based learning is the heart and soul of what we do," said Dr. John Russell, head of Western's Engineering Department.

Beginning this fall Western will work with the University of Kentucky to offer joint degrees in civil and mechanical engineering and with the University of Louisville to offer a joint degree in electrical engineering.

The WKU Department of Engineering's mission is to produce graduates who are competent engineering practitioners with a foundation of basic science, math and engineering knowledge combined with practical experience.

"This engineering program is different from most other engineering programs," said Matthew Dettman, associate professor of civil engineering. "We're undergraduate only and focus on teaching the practice of engineering.

The department emphasizes "practicing what you preach," Dettman said. "Our approach is to have practicing engineers teaching students the art and science of engineering," he said.

That approach and the changes in the engineering program have extensive support from businesses and industry leaders in Bowling Green and southwest Kentucky.

By expanding the engineering degrees to Western and other comprehensive universities and lifting restrictions on professional certification, Kentucky will reduce its shortage of engineering practitioners, will keep engineering students in the state and will improve its economic development opportunities.

With 30 years of experience in engineering technology programs, Western has accumulated the experience and resources to support the modification to a bachelor's engineering degree.

HOONORARY DEGREES AWARDED TO WILCUTT, JONES Astronaut Terry Wilcutt received an honorary doctor of science degree at Western's Fall 2000 Commencement Ceremony.

Col. Wilcutt, a 1974 Western graduate and Logan County native, was commander of a space shuttle mission to the International Space Station in 2000. The mission marked Wilcutt's fourth journey into space.

WKU also awarded an honorary doctorate in human letters to the Res. Larry Jones, a former Bowling Green student who formerly worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Western hosted the 2001 Spring Commencement ceremony. Jones and the Oklahoma City-based international relief agency have received numerous awards for their humanitarian efforts in areas affected by war, famine or disaster.

WKU FORENSICS TEAM WINS INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND STATE TITLE For the third consecutive year, Western's forensics team is the best in the world.

The William E. Binn Forensic Science won the International Forensic Association Title in Prague, Czech Republic.

Three Western students also won international championships in individual events. Winning international titles were Amy Jones, a Morehead senior, persuasive speaking; Dacia Valecich, a Louisville junior, impromptu speaking and Drew Allen, a freshman from Brentwood, Tenn., poetry.

Western also won by its largest margin, 28 points over second-place Mount San Antonio College of Walnut, Calif. Ohio State University was third.

Western Kentucky University's forensics team won the National Lincoln Douglas Debate Championship and finished second in individual events sweepstakes at the Delta Sigma Rho National Tournament.

Two members of the William E. Binn Forensic Society won national championships. Dacia Wilkins, a Bardstown junior, won the Lincoln Douglas debate championship and Phillip Winninger, a Bowling Green junior, won the national championship in rhetorical criticism.


Amy Jones, a senior from Morehead, and co-captain of the Western team, finished first in all five events she entered to win the individual sweepstakes award and received the Harlen Hamm Award as the outstanding student.

Judy Woodring, director of the WKU forensics program, received the Margaret Greynolds Award as outstanding coach.

Ten Kentucky colleges and universities competed in 11 individual events and the Western team took the top six spots in individual sweepstakes.
FOOTBALL

MEN’S BASKETBALL

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

SUN BELT

WOMEN’S BASEBALL

WOMEN’S SOCCER

CROSS COUNTRY

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD