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# News

from Western Kentucky University

Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

December 12, 1983

CONTACT: Sheila Conway, Editor

## "ON CAMPUS"

### Vice President Search Committee Is Named

The committee has been named to conduct the national search to find a new vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Elmer Gray, dean of the Graduate College, will chair the committee, and members are: Dr. Charles M. Anderson, associate dean, Academic Services and director, media services; Mary Dee Boemker, a graduate student from Louisville; Dr. Laurence J. Boucher, head of the chemistry dept.; Constance L. Foster, Library Technical Services; Jorge Alberto Garcia, a senior history major; Dr. Robert D. Hoyt, professor of biology; Dr. Peggy D. Keck, professor of administrative office systems; Dr. John E. Long, acting head, dept. of philosophy and religion; Dr. Daniel L. Roenker, associate professor of psychology; and Dr. Richard D. Weigel, professor of history.

The committee will conduct the national search and will recommend three candidates to President Zacharias in time for the new vice president to be on campus by July 1, 1984.

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### Looking For Ways to Fund Your Projects?

The Office of Sponsored Programs has invited representatives from the Kentucky Humanities Council to be available to faculty and staff interested in funding proposals Monday, Jan. 16.

Charlotte Baer, acting director, and Dr. Judith Jennings, program associate, will conduct a general session at 2 p.m. in the Executive Room of Garrett Conference Center.

Both will be available for individual conferences from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m.

Persons interested in individual conferences are asked to contact Charles L. Eison or Betty Seitz at 4652 for arrangements.

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(Over)

Writer Tells Us About "those fundamental things of life"

"I've been coming down with poems regularly since I bought my farm," Leon V. Driskell, a poet and fiction writer told faculty and students at a reading of his work on campus Nov. 30.

Driskell is a professor of English at the University of Louisville and he talked about his Owen County, Kentucky farm he and his family love, which was the inspiration for his latest book, "Passing Through: A Fiction."

Driskell read passages from his book, and the Athens, Ga. native said when he came to Kentucky he thought he would just be passing through.

Then moving to the country where he and his family go frequently when he's not teaching began to put him in touch with his origins - his boyhood--says the widely-published poet.

"I discovered that much of the wisdom I've gained didn't come from people who read books," he said, and explained the theme of his latest book is life, especially "those fundamental things about life."

"Poetry, fiction and drama all come from the same place," he said. "They are not separate entities." And Driskell says his book is not a novel, but rather a "fiction," because it is a collection of nine stories about a fictional Waters family of Owen County and its heroine, Mama Pearl.

"The book is about our pilgrimage through life," says its author.

Driskell and his family have lived for more than a decade on their 79-acre farm near Monterrey, Ky.

He was first cited for excellence for his "Best American Short Stories" in 1967, and the former newspaperman has been a member of U of L's faculty since 1964.

Driskell's visit to campus was sponsored by the English department.

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Looking For The Perfect Gift? How About a Dinner Theatre?

In the last issue of "On Campus," we told you about next summer's Dinner Theatre sponsored by the department of communication and theatre.

The department is currently offering gift certificates for Dinner Theatre at \$12.50 each, Whit Combs has announced.

If you want to purchase one or more, you can contact the department at 3296.

Dinner Theatre opens June 8 and closes Aug. 5, and the two shows selected are "The Boyfriend" and "Move Over Mrs. Markham," one a witty musical of the Jazz Age, and the other a slick frantic farce.

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Series Focuses on Educational Matters on Campus

The Department of Educational Leadership has inaugurated an educational leadership colloquium series which focuses on current educational issues of importance to students, faculty and administrators at WKU.

Each year for the next two years, the department plans to schedule two events.

President Zacharias was the first speaker last Monday and he spoke on research as a scholarly and professional activity at WKU.

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The Elves Were Working In the Residence Halls

It's hats off to WKU students who gathered nearly 7,000 non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army to help make Christmas merry for many families. The Inter-Hall Council and residence hall governments organized the annual drive, which was conducted through the month of November. Students delivered their truckloads of items to the Salvation Army Dec. 1 in plenty of time for the holidays.

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Don't Be The Goose This Christmas...

With Christmas coming, not only the goose will get fat -- unless we exercise will, or will exercise.

The department of physical education and recreation, in perfect timing, has designed a "Wellness" program for faculty and staff starting Jan. 16.

Through the Office of Independent Study, physical education 049, "Wellness," is offered for non-credit through the faculty-staff scholarship program.

Taught by Dr. John Jones, "Wellness" will be offered in two seven-week sessions beginning Jan. 16 and March 12.

Classes will meet from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the course consists of three segments, wellness information, aerobics and swimming for all ability levels.

More details can be obtained from Dr. Jones in physical education and recreation at 3347, and enrollment may be made through Independent Study in Van Meter, Room 212 (4158).

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### Faculty Tell How Christmas Is In Other Lands

Written by Pam Embry, a student newswriter in Public Information

'Tis the season to be jolly for everyone around the world, regardless of whether you say "Joyeux Noel," "Frohliche Weihnachten," or "Merry Christmas."

"Christmas in France is only for the children; they're the only ones who get gifts," recalls Mania Ritter, French professor.

"They put their shoes, not their stockings, over the fireplace and Pere Noel, or Santa Claus comes down the chimney and puts presents in the shoes," she says.

Mrs. Ritter lived for 35 years in France, and says she has observed that American Christmasses are "more colorful because there are many very colorful wrappings for the gifts.

"In France the present is much more important than the wrapping, so there isn't much color in the wrappings," she says.

Christmas caroling in France also differs from the American tradition, Mrs. Ritter says. "Christmas caroling is more for the church, although sometimes the American style of caroling door to door for the neighbors is found in the country."

And while Christmas is for the children in France, New Year's Day is for the adults, she says. "Anybody who works get a double check for Christmas and for the New Year. And there is the traditional partying at midnight."

In Germany, according to Dr. Georg Bluhm, professor of government, the traditional Christmas tree, "which we Germans made popular," isn't put up and lighted -- with real candles -- until Christmas Eve.

Presents are also exchanged on Christmas Eve, says Bluhm, a native of Berlin. "Even today, I still don't bring my family's tree in the house until Christmas Eve morning, and we decorate it and open our presents on Christmas Eve night," he says.

Many of the popular Christmas carols people sing today were written by German composers, and as a consequence "Christmas music is not played as commercial jingles in Germany, and when they are played they are usually confined to the Church on Christmas Eve," says Bluhm.

Since the German people exchange their gifts on Christmas Eve, then Santa Claus, or Saint Nickolaus as he is known in Germany, brings candy for the children Dec. 6, Bluhm says, as a "sneak preview" of Christmas events to come.

There is also a secularized version of Santa Claus in Germany, "Der Weihnachtsman" or the Christmas man, Bluhm adds.

The Christmas traditions celebrated in Germany are generally observed in Austria and Switzerland also, he says.

(More)



Christmas In Other Lands (continued)

Christmas in Argentina is a little warmer, says Sylvia Kersenbaum, professor of music, because it is summertime in December. "As a result we have dinner around 10 p.m. on the 24th, and it's usually some type of cold meats and the like," she says.

At midnight the Argentinians cheer and toast one another, and then the majority go to the Catholic midnight Mass. "From there they go to the parties," she adds.

Ms. Kersenbaum, who lived as a child in Argentina, says there is the traditional Christmas tree, but only recently has the tradition of giving gifts to children caught on, due to over-commercialization of the holiday season.

"Normally, parents will hide some sort of toy for the children in the house or yard around Jan. 5 or 6," she says. "But still the tradition of everyone buying everyone a gift hasn't begun."

Catherine Ward, professor of English, says that the Irish celebrate Christmas much the same as Americans, except that they place a candle in the window as a sign to strangers on the road at night that they are welcomed.

"It has a two-fold significance; that the stranger is a disguised Christ child and as a sign of Christian love," she says.

Mrs. Ward and her husband, Dr. Robert Ward, also of the English department, are experts on Irish literature.

There is one thing that all four professors agree on: Christmas is a time for rejoicing and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

"American Christmasses are getting so commercialized, everyone tends to forget its Christmas," Mrs. Ritter says. "You really don't regain that meaningful feeling until you have children.

"That's what Christmas is all about," she says.

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'ON CAMPUS' WISHES YOU A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS.

ABOUT YOU

GLEN CONNER, DR. NICK CRAWFORD, DR. NOLAND FIELDS JR. AND DR. MICHAEL TRAPASSO advanced to full membership in the Society of Sigma Xi, national scientific honorary, at the organization's meeting in Toronto, Canada. WKU has 50 campus members in Sigma Xi.

DR. THAD CREWS, associate professor of physical education and recreation, is president-elect of the Kentucky Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He attended the state convention recently with Charles Crume and Dr. William Meadors, who received merit awards at the meeting.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY had the largest representation recently at the Kentucky Academy of Science annual meeting at the University of Louisville. Presentations were made by Dr. Resa Ahsan, Glen Conner, Dr. Ron Dilamarter, Dr. Mark Lowrey and Dr. L. Michael Trapasso. Two students, Mark Simpson and Cliff Hardin, also presented papers.

LYSBETH WALLACE, professor of art, has a showing of "New Works IX," weavings at the Ervin G. Houchens Gallery of the Capitol Arts Center through Dec. 22. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eight members of the DEPARTMENT of HOME ECONOMICS and FAMILY LIVING participated in a computer workshop last month, sponsored by the American Home Economics Association. Dr. Joyce Rasdall managed the seminar, attended by, from WKU, Dr. Virginia Atkins, Shelia Baille, Dr. Lou Ehrcke, Dr. Shirley Gibbs, Dr. Delbert Hayden, Dr. Martha Jenkins, and Dr. Violet Moore.

Some recent achievements by English department faculty:

DR. DOROTHY McMAHON'S article, "Joyce and Minippus," appeared in the Fall 1983 issue of Classical and Modern Literature.

DR. CHARMAINE MOSBY presented a paper at the Louisiana Association for Post-Secondary Arts.

DR. KAREN PELZ conducted a workshop for the English department at Lakeland Community College in Mentor, Ohio.

DR. ROBERT WARD chaired a seminar on editing manuscripts at the Midwestern Eighteenth Century American Society.

DR. CATHERINE WARD read a paper on the team approach to editing at the Midwestern Eighteenth Century American Society.

ROBERT AND CATHERINE WARD will present papers at the Centennial Convention of the Modern Language Association of America this month.

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FROM YOU

Dr. Ron Eckard of the English dept, on a Fulbright teaching in Ankara, Turkey, shares some of his thoughts in a recent (dated Nov. 13) letter to a colleague:

..."I have been very successful in combating culture shock. It's all a psychological matter. I've learned that if you go into a new situation with an open mind and a positive attitude, you probably won't be disappointed. Although many services and facilities are not as modern and sometimes not as efficient as they are in the States, I was pleasantly suprised to find Ankara to be quite modern and cosmopolitan. But more importantly, it is safe. That's a concern that many of my friends and family members expressed before I left and have mentioned recently in letters. Yes, there was a great deal of anarchy and terrorism in the late seventies, but those times are over...

The problem was that there were so many different political factions, and they were in a real sense at war with one another. Interesting enough, the hot-bed of revolt was centered at my university (Middle East Technical University). The warring factions held political rallys and disrupted classes for three years.

Anarchy came to an abrupt end Sept. 12, 1980 when five Turkish military generals declared a coup d'etat, arrested the ringleaders, declared martial law, and restored security to the country.

Although the country is still nominally under martial law, last Sunday (Nov. 6) democratic elections were held for president, prime minister, and parliament. The military saw to it that the elections were conducted without violence. I'm sure it's the martial law that makes me feel secure. Guards with submachine guns are posted in front of every embassy, bank, international company office (including airline offices), and of course in front of every government building; and there are plenty of those in Ankara. In addition, traffic policemen are posted at every major intersection in the city 24 hours a day, usually provided with little gazeboes where they can get out of the weather. My local traffic policeman now recognizes me, and tips his hat when I walk by... Also, because Ankara is the capital...there are always scores of military men--army, navy, air force--on the streets. All of this is to say that the military presence is quite evident--and reassuring. Turks have a high regard for the military. It's a bit different from the situation in the States. One of the highest aspirations a man can have in Turkey is to become an officer, or rather, an officer and a gentleman, the two being synonymous.

Partly because of the ever-present military and partly because of the historic nature of the Turkish people, the Turks are very quiet, well-mannered, and sometimes almost dour. They line up obediently and silently to wait for the city buses. On the extremely crowded free buses that take us to the university daily, the students whisper or talk quietly, never shouting and almost never laughing. Oh, they smile, but their behavior is more subdued than anything you would find among that age group in America.

Outside my apartment right now some children are playing. I have a window open, but I can hardly hear these 8 to 12-year-old boys at play.

In the Americas, in Italy, in most countries perhaps, boys of that age would be kicking up a ruckus. I looked out a few minutes ago and the oldest one had the others lined up so that he could teach them some karate moves. They were obediently following his orders. That picture of children at play is a cameo of the Turkish people. They are willing--even anxious--to follow a strong leader. They thrive on a structured life. Unfortunately, they haven't had a dynamic, charismatic leader since Ataturk died in 1937. But Ataturk is far

(Over)



from forgotten. His name, his portraits and statues proliferate the country. Two weeks ago on Republic day (the 60th anniversary of the date when Ataturk rescued the country from the sultan and forever separated the government from the stronghold of Islam), Turkish flags blanketed the city. On the high-rise bank buildings and department stores, huge 200-foot colored posters of him with his blazing blue eyes could be seen for miles. The current governmental leaders have complete authority; therefore, the people are obedient to them. Everyone much prefers the current stability to the former chaos, but still the people long for a dominant leader with style, class, and charisma. It's somewhat like the way many Americans look back on the Camelot years of Kennedy, but the comparison would be more accurate if JFK had lived longer and had been able to make some truly lasting contributions to American society. Ataturk served as a virtual dictator, albeit a benign one, for 14 years, and made substantial reforms in many aspects of Turkish life; gave women equal status with men (something the Arab countries still don't have), westernized fashions, changed the alphabet from Arabic script to Latin script, established a democratic system of government, even though he maintained strict control over it until he died, and championed the cause of education, among other reforms....

There is no chance of internal strife at this point. As for external problems, although our neighbors to the south and east are Syria, Iran, and Iraq, those countries are completely embroiled in their own insecurities. To the north and east we have the USSR, but the Russians have their hands full with Afghanistan and the Soviet bloc countries. However, the Turkish leaders are wise to keep a mild good-neighbor policy with the Russians, even though Turkey is a NATO nation. The Russian embassy is the largest one in Ankara, and Aeroflot flies daily from Ankara to Moscow."

Note:

Dr. Eckard is teaching two courses in the Department of Foreign Language Education at METU, general linguistics, a sophomore level course which is an elective for engineering majors and others, and linguistics for English teachers, a graduate course.

His campus is six miles from Ankara, and faculty and staff at WKU will be interested to note that there are parking problems on his campus too--everyone rides buses to school--provided free by the university.

Student enrollment is 12,000, and 3,000 live on campus.

Eckard is serving as thesis adviser to graduate students and is organizing seminars for teachers. He's been asked to advise a special English as a Second Language program contracted with the Ministry of Education to take 200 specially-chosen graduate students for training to go to the U.S. and Britain for graduate studies next fall on government scholarships.

If anyone hears from our other two Fulbrights, Joe Survant, English, and James Baker, history, "On Campus" will be happy to print all or parts of their correspondence.

COMING UP

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| Tuesday, Dec. 13   | 7 a.m. Women's Alliance Informal Breakfast Meeting. "How to Have Your Holiday Cake and Eat It Too," Auxiliary Dining Room, DUC. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 14 | Continuing Education Workshop for Nurses. "Diabetes Mellitus: Advances in Control and Management." Grise Hall.                  |
| Dec. 17 - Jan. 8   | Holiday break. Classes not in session.  |
| Monday, Jan. 9     | Diddle Arena registration for spring semester 1984.   |