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News

from Western Kentucky University

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

October 10, 1983

CONTACT: Sheila Conway, Editor

"ON CAMPUS"

They'll Be "Writing and Thinking" at the Lake

A number of faculty members are going to Lake Malone Thursday and Friday, Oct. 20 and 21, but it isn't fishing that's on their minds, unless it's fishing for new ideas.

Members of the Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum Task Force, headed by Dr. Jim Flynn, head of the English department, are getting their heads together with hopefully one representative from every department at Lake Malone, to talk about, and write about helping students improve their writing skills.

"We have felt for some time in the English department that we needed to offer students the opportunity to improve their writing beyond the level of freshman English," says Flynn.

A writing minor has been established, which can reach students in all disciplines, and the WATAC Task Force is helping to promote writing and thinking in all courses at the University, Flynn says.

Funds from the Wendy's 10K Classic last November are making the retreat to Lake Malone possible, and leaders will be Professors Burt Hatlen and Virginia Nees-Hatlen of the University of Maine. Both have written and published works in a variety of genres, and both have conducted previous workshops on writing and thinking.

"On Campus" will follow up on what happened at the workshop.

And A Related Event Thursday, Oct. 13:

Professor James Kinneavy of the University of Texas will launch the Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum program with a lecture at 8 p.m. Thursday in the College of Education Auditorium on the value of writing across the curriculum.

He's a well-known authority on the subject and his best known book is A Theory of Discourse published in 1971.

His talk is the first in a series sponsored by WATAC.

(Over)

WKU Meets Kentucky's Two New Presidents

"University Journal," which airs today on WKYU-FM, features Dr. Zacharias in conversation with Kentucky's two new presidents, Dr. Kala Stroup, president of Murray State University, and Dr. Leon Boothe, president of Northern Kentucky University.

In the taped program which will air on KET Oct. 31, Dr. Zacharias engages in lively discussion with his two new colleagues on their views about campus needs and about the state.

Dr. Boothe, who was vice president at Illinois State, says a strength in Kentucky is "instructional balance. In every part of the state there is access potential to secondary education," he says.

A weakness, he says, "is that a number of students don't pursue post-secondary opportunities. We have a challenge in higher education to erode this," he says.

Dr. Stroup, who was vice president at Emporia State, (and who wore a bright red suit for her TV taping) says Kentucky "is not overbuilt in higher education. There's a need to create an atmosphere where adults 45 to 60 feel free to go to college and get a degree," she says.

And there's much, much more, today at 12:20 p.m.

We're Having Guests This Weekend

Parents, high school juniors and seniors, and community college students will be on campus this weekend to be introduced to the University.

College Awareness Day for high school juniors and seniors and junior college students Saturday is sponsored by the Office of Admissions.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. in the Downing University Center lobby and sessions will last until Noon. Academic advisement, financial aid and scholarship information, and residence hall tours will be offered for students desiring to get a head start on making their college decision.

The Office of Admissions has a complete calendar of activities.

Saturday and Sunday have been designated as Parents' Weekend by the WKU Inter-Hall Council. Parents' Weekend is a chance for parents to visit their sons' or daughters' "homes away from home."

Participants of both events have been invited to attend Saturday's WKU-Tennessee Tech football game in L.T. Smith Stadium at 1 p.m.

(More)

About "Gigabits" and More

The Department of Administrative Office Systems and the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Pi Epsilon are sponsoring an Office Automation Conference in Garrett Conference Center Thursday and Friday, Oct. 20 and 21.

According to Dr. JoAnn Harrington, the two-day conference will feature lectures, seminars, a film series, hardware, software, and exhibits featuring all kinds of technology available.

Topics will be about both using and programming, and many of the speakers are from WKU.

Persons may sign up for the full conference, one day only, or Thursday evening's events on microcomputers, and may contact the department for arrangements.

Exhibits will be in the Ballroom and conference hours are Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Church Attendance Study Makes Headlines

Dr. Jerry D. Cardwell, head of the sociology, anthropology and social work department, made headlines everywhere over the summer when he did a study on why people don't go to church.

Cardwell has been studying sociology religion for 16 years and said he decided to do a study on why people don't attend church because "the more I study (sociology religion), the more questions I come up with.

"So often we study why people do things...but we generally neglect why they don't do things," he said.

Cardwell took a random sample of people from church registers from a variety of religions. He then sent out questionnaires asking such questions as:

- *do you make a financial contribution to your church;
- *what are your beliefs about God, life after death, repentance, etc;
- *how often do you attend church and your reasons for not going; and
- *do you feel it is possible to develop a well-rounded religious life apart from the church?

Cardwell said he also presents a list of reasons on his questionnaire for not attending church and asks the persons to rate these excuses as always acceptable, usually acceptable, seldom acceptable or never acceptable.

Cardwell said he expects the responses to his survey to yield only 40 percent of those registered at their churches to have a regular attendance record.

"Religious participation (in general) has been declining in our society," Cardwell said, and he attributes this decline to three things: one's sex, one's social class and one's degree of religious commitment related to his religious beliefs.

(Over)

Church Attendance (continued)

He said females tend to go to church more often than males and that females also tend to give reasons for not going which are seen as "more socially acceptable."

"I think I will find...a wide variety of reasons that people will use for not going to church," Cardwell said. "Most will be reasons other people won't find 'acceptable' for not going...such as 'I was too tired,' 'my spouse (or children) didn't want to go,' etc.

"Once we find out the reasons people aren't going to church...it may be possible for clergy to use this data to come to grips with the problem and do something about it," he added.

"On Campus" will follow-up on his results.

Students Learn From A Pro; We Get The Benefit Too

Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Death of A Salesman" will have nine performances in Russell Miller Theatre Saturday, Oct. 15 through Sunday, Oct. 23, starring Warren Hammack, artistic director of Horse Cave Theatre, as the aging traveling salesman, Willy Loman.

The play will have a longer than usual run to give WKU students the opportunity to work intensely with a professional guest artist, and to reach a wide audience, says Whit Combs.

"Warren has been extremely accommodating," Combs says. "He's already working at a higher level in rehearsal than the students can. He has a grasp of the character of Willy and a concept of the play, and hopefully his skill and his presence will get a performance from the students they'll be very proud of," says Combs.

Leading characters from the WKU cast in this American classic tragedy are Rhonda Ritchie of Georgetown, Ky., as Linda, Seth Blackburn as Biff, Chris Burmester of Louisville as Happy, and Jonathan Ellers of Georgetown as Charley.

"Death of A Salesman" will run evenings at 8 and the two Sunday performances will be at 3.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students and reservations may be made by contacting the communication and theatre department.

Study in London Between Semesters

The Cooperative Center for Study in Britain is offering between-semester study tours in London Dec. 27 through Jan. 9.

Study opportunities, for credit or non-credit, are offered in British theatre, international business and economics, and British health care.

Persons interested may contact the Office of International Programs before Nov. 11.

(More)

WKU's Jim Wayne Miller Gets More Acclaim

Appalachian Poet Jim Wayne Miller will receive Berea College's highest honor at its homecoming celebration next month when the 1958 graduate will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award and serve as principal speaker at the school's alumni banquet.

Miller, professor of German languages and literature, says "basically, I work in images. Then I find words to go with them.

"I want the writing to be so transparent that the reader forgets he's reading and is aware only that he's having an experience. He's suddenly plunged deeper than he expected and comes up shivering."

Miller's poetry has much wider appeal, however, than simply that of a regional poet. A critic in the Columbus, Ga. Dispatch once wrote, "No other poet in the South, save James Dickey, has wrapped up my mind and worked on it as profoundly as Miller has."

Miller has authored more than 20 short stories, 200 poems and numerous articles, and many of his poems appear in the five volumes he has so far published.

The 1980 Thomas Wolfe Literary Award winner has worked in Poet-in-the-Schools programs and has directed poetry workshops and served as consultant to Appalachian Studies Programs in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

Ed.'s note: He's without a doubt one of the best.

BOOKMARKS

Drs. James Flynn and Joseph Glaser of the English department didn't let a small thing like an oversaturated market of freshman English textbooks stop them from blazing through the 1500 or so books on the market and coming up with their own Writer's Handbook.

"We did it because we felt that even with so many books on the market, they aren't as good as they could be," says Glaser. "We felt there is a definite need to be more explicit for students since there are so many who haven't had optimal preparation," says Glaser, who says putting the book together was "actually fun."

Flynn wholeheartedly agrees. "In looking at previous texts, we found there's a steady deterioration in good explanations for items. Publishers seem to be interested in achieving a handbook-size text, and then chop away some more of the content."

Their new text, which will be marketed next fall, focuses on mechanics with a section they are especially proud of dealing with the research paper.

"We avoid general rhetoric because most people adopt a separate rhetoric book anyway," says Glaser, adding Writer's Handbook could be adopted by a wide range of teachers, not just English teachers.

(Over)

BOOKMARKS (continued)

The Writer's Handbook, published by Macmillan, can be a good library reference for anyone, because it is comprehensive.

"Students need more help than is given to them by most handbooks," Glaser repeated.

"Hopefully students can use the book long after they've left school."

"A Professors' Guide to Perpetuating Poor Writing Among Students"

Since this issue's lead story is all about writing, it's most appropriate to share the Chronicle's Sept. 28 "Point of View," especially since the Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum Task Force has also issued reprints of John Keenan's article to members.

Keenan is chairman of English and communication arts at La Salle College and author of Feel Free to Write: A Guide for Business and Professional People.

"Although students in past years have received generous help from their instructors in maintaining and developing poor writing habits, the current clamor for 'writing across the curriculum' threatens to make poor writing passe'," he writes.

Keenan gives suggestions for "professors interested in maintaining the current level of student literacy:"

*Assign 20-page papers.

"There is nothing like the long paper for developing students' skills in padding and plagiarizing."

*Keep the assignment or examination question as general as possible.

"If you let students know the purpose of the assignment, they will not have the opportunity to let their imaginations soar."

*Forbid first-person pronouns.

"By not allowing the use of "I" or "we," you will also be maintaining the pillars of poor writing: the passive voice."

*Don't show them; tell them.

*Encourage polysyllabic prose.

"Let your students know right from the first day that the use of big words is a mark of intelligence."

*Never review a draft of a paper in progress.

"It violates the proper relationship between student and teacher...Students must figure out complex assignments on their own. You did. Why shouldn't they?"

*Do not make comments on student papers unless absolutely necessary.

"If you must write something, keep it suitably vague (a scrawled 'awkward' is fine).

(More)

*Ignore errors in spelling and punctuation.

"Take the paper right to the nearest English teacher and let him or her know how you feel with a suitable barb like 'Don't you teach these students anything?'"

*Criticize anything that is clear as "simplistic."

"After all, college is not grade school, and the ability to generate sentences of 64 to 100 words is the mark of a potential scholar."

*If you can avoid returning papers to students, do so.

"The students will never know whether their words have been read by even one reader.

"What better preparation for 'real world' writing could we offer?"

Fall Enrollment is 12,666

Total enrollment for the fall semester at Western Kentucky University is 12,666, according to figures released today by the Office of the Registrar.

This year's student population is down only 1½ percent from last fall's total of 12,855, and according to Registrar Stephen House "is a very favorable report in a time of declining enrollments nationwide."

House said the decrease of 189 students from last year's figures can be attributed to three major factors: the Council on Higher Education's 15 percent increase in tuition for all students, higher admissions standards adopted by WKU this fall, and Western's elimination last year of tuition waivers for non-Kentucky students.

"It is interesting that our out-of-state student decrease this fall is 193, and 135 of those are from the two Tennessee and four Indiana counties that previously could enter under the tuition waiver program," House said.

In light of those factors, House said Western's report "is very positive."

COMING UP:

- Oct. 9 - Nov. 22 2:30 p.m. on Sundays and 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. NASA "Explorations" presented at Hardin Planetarium.
- Monday, Oct. 10 12:20 p.m. "University Journal" on WKYU-FM. President Zacharias' guests are Dr. Leon Boothe, president of Northern Kentucky University and Dr. Kala Stroup, president of Murray State University.
- 5:30 p.m. "Employee Motivation or Human Behavior in Organization." Mondays. Four sessions at 2 hours each. \$25 fee. For more information, call 4158. F/S.
- 5:30 p.m. University Center Board presents Barbara Bailey Hutchison, folk singer. DUC cafeteria.
- 8 p.m. "Night of Unusual Music" presented by Delta Omicron. Recital Hall of the Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts.
- Tuesday, Oct. 11 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mammoth Cave 4-H Council Meeting. Agriculture Exposition Center.
- "The Bride Wore Blue: Wedding Costumes and Customs from Kentucky." Gallery E of the Kentucky Building. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m. "Contemporary Bridal Fashions with Historical Touches." Gallery L of the Kentucky Building.
- Wednesday, Oct. 12 6:30 p.m. "Estates and Estate Planning." Wednesdays. Five sessions at 2 hours each. \$20 fee. For more information, call 4158. F/S.
- 6:30 p.m. Western Women Annual Potluck. Auxiliary Dining Room.
- 7:30 p.m. Jacques Brel, a French composer. Van Meter Auditorium Sponsored by University Center Board.
- Thursday, Oct. 13 6:30 p.m. Annual School Administrators' Banquet. DUC.
- 8 p.m. Lecture by University of Texas Professor James Kinneavy on the value of writing across the curriculum. Sponsored by Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum Task Force.
- Friday, Oct. 14 4 p.m. Children's theatre presents "Aesop's Fables" in Theatre 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall.
- Saturday, Oct. 15 College Awareness Day. High school juniors and seniors and community college students arrive on campus. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 2551.
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Teacher workshop on family history. Lecture Hall of the Kentucky Building. Pre-registration is necessary. Call 2592.

(More)

- Saturday, Oct. 15 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open House for the Speech and Communication Disorders Clinic. Speech clinic area of CEB.
- 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Children's theatre presents "Aesop's Falables" in Theatre 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall.
- Oct. 15 - 16 Parents' Weekend. For WKU students and their visiting parents. Sponsored by Interhall Council.
- Oct. 15 - 23 "Death of A Salesman" presented in Russell Miller Theatre. Weekdays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 16 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. "Aesop's Falables" in Theatre 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall.
- 3 p.m. Fall Choral Concert presented in Van Meter Auditorium.
- 7 p.m. "Alabama" concert in Diddle Arena.
- Oct. 17 - 21 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. FMC Corporation. VIP room of the Agriculture Exposition Center
- Tuesday, Oct. 18 6:45 p.m. "Rose Growing Made Easy." Tuesdays. Two sessions at 2 hours each. \$15 fee. For more information, call 4158.
- Oct. 18 - 20 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. American Private Enterprises. Agriculture Exposition Center.
- Wednesday, Oct. 19 Coal Lab Technician Training. DUC.
- Continuing Education Workshop for Nurses. Public Library in Glasgow. Registration is from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Animal Health Clinic. Agriculture Exposition Center.
- Thursday, Oct. 20 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Financial Aid Workshop in DUC.
- Third Region Kentucky School Boards Association Meeting. DUC. David Webb, superintendent of Edmonson County schools, is in charge.
- Oct. 20 - 21 Office Automation Seminar. GCC Ballroom. Call Dr. Peggy Keck at 3097 for more information.
- Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum Task Force workshop at Lake Malone.
- Oct. 20 - 23 Kentucky Theatre Association meeting. Sponsored by communication and theatre department.
- Saturday, Oct. 22 Fashion Career Day at DUC theatre. Call 4352 for more information.