Fall 2011

University College Connection Fall 2011

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University College Newsletter

From the Dean’s Office

Welcome!

Meredith McGrew Merkling joins University College as Office Associate. Meredith was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina and graduated from Clemson University (Go Tigers!) with a B.A. Writing and Publication Studies in 2009. Meredith met her husband, Jonathan, her senior year of college and in October they were married in her hometown. She is the eldest of three children and enjoys a good cup of coffee alongside a great book. Meredith is thankful to be a part of the UC family and she looks forward to working alongside everyone in their future endeavors.

** Regional Mail **

University College is responsible for getting mail from the Bowling Green campus to the regional campuses. If you have an item that needs to go to South Campus, Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, Radcliff, Glasgow or Owensboro campuses, you may call our office (745-3570) by 12:00 p.m. for same day pick-up. You may also drop off your mail at Tate Page Hall, Room 201. Please CLEARLY label the mail with the person’s name, campus, building name, and room number. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Where’s Big Red?
We are shaking things up a bit and making it more of a challenge!! The first one to respond with the number of times Big Red appears in the newsletter will win a University College travel mug. He can be on a shirt, a banner, a sign, etc. Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and tell us where you found him!

The newsletters are distributed in February, May, August and November. The deadline is the 11th of the month. However, feel free to submit items for the newsletter anytime. Email submissions to: wendi.kelley@wku.edu.

[Image]
Academic Support

On August 29 and August 30, the Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center (LAC), along with Big Red, had an open house to welcome new and returning students. The staff and tutors of the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) are dedicated to the success of the students taking courses at WKU’s South Campus. We offer assistance in a variety of academic areas including math, English, and chemistry. The service is free and no appointments are required.

Over the two days 112 door prizes were awarded. The LAC would like to thank the many sponsors who gave prizes, coupons and planners to the visiting students, supported the center and helped to make the event successful. They are:

- Lost River Cave
- Candy Craze
- Cato
- Smokey Bones
- Buckhead
- Wendy’s
- Star Bucks
- Big Lots
- Gigi’s
- WKU Store
- Cheddars
- University Textbook Store
- Barnes & Noble
- Linzies
- Dairy Queen
- Bruster’s
- Manpuku
- Smokey Bones
- WKU Store
- Bruster’s
- Manpuku

The Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center (ARLAC) is happy to welcome Nichole Sherrell as the Learning Assistance Specialist. Nichole is a WKU graduate who completed her M.A. E in Student Affairs in May 2011. Nichole has worked with the students at South Campus previously as tutor in the ARLAC and Graduate Assistant and we are excited to have her back working the students.

After a year of service, Associate Professor Bush of the Academic Support Department stepped down from his position as President of the Kentucky Association for Developmental Education (KADE) at the 2011 November KADE Conference. During his tenure in office, he represented Kentucky at the National Conference in Washington, D.C., where he presented tips on how to operate a successful list-serve, and he helped guide KADE through the red-tape to establish it officially as a non-profit/tax exempt entity. In 2012, he will chair the committee to host the 2012 KADE Conference here at Western Kentucky University. In the meantime, he will continue to serve on KADE’s Executive Board as the KADE web master.
President's Volunteer Service Award

Serving others is not a one-time action; it is a way of life. Recipients of the President’s Volunteer Service Award do not just do service, they live it. By integrating service into everyday life, recipients easily complete at least 100 hours of service within a calendar year, with most volunteers going above and beyond that amount.

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, as a certifying organization through the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation celebrates volunteers through the President’s Volunteer Service Award each year. The Center is looking for to recognize your students as volunteers.

In order to be considered for the award, hours and description of service must be submitted to the ALIVE Center by January 31st for service rendered during the 2011 year. Call 270-782-0082 or visit www.wku.edu/alive for more information.
Campus and Community Celebrate Hispanic GED Graduates

On Saturday November 5th, over 35 people gathered at the ALIVE CCP to celebrate the milestone that Edna Ochoa and Amilcar Ochoa achieved in recent weeks. They are the first two graduates of the Hispanic GED programs who passed the GED test in Spanish and have received their high school diplomas. Their approximately 20 fellow classmates from the Hispanic GED and ESL programs at the WKU ALIVE CCP, along with family members, program instructors, and representatives from WKU and KCTCS met to share food, gifts, praise, and encouragement. The students pulled funds together for gifts for the two graduates. They also presented appreciation gifts to Jim Berger, from the WKU Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research, who has been administering the program for three years, as well as Debbie Graven, from the Adult Education program at KCTCS, who the students profusely thanked for taking time on Saturdays to come test them. The graduates encouraged their fellow classmates to continue studying hard and improving themselves. The Hispanic GED and ESL program is a partnership between the WKU ALIVE CCP; the WKU Department of Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research; and Adult Education at KCTCS, and a number of community leaders and instructors. The program enjoys the support of many campus and community members, including students who volunteer to provide childcare while parents take classes. Over 20 students currently attend the ESL and GED classes in hopes of improving their future, integrating better into our society, and being able to contribute more to our community. Many of the students are employed in local factories, sometimes working the night shift and coming to morning class immediately after - while others attend evening or weekend classes. Some of them have been in the U.S. for more than 20 years and have raised families in Bowling Green. Some attend the ESL classes to improve their English skills even though they have limited literacy in their native Spanish. Some participants in the GED classes have a high school degree from their home country and are looking for equivalency, while others only received an elementary education. They are all dedicating valuable time and effort to improving their quality of life. As full participants in our society, their achievements improve our community as a whole. That is why we are here to support them, and want to thank all of those campus and community partners that support the program as well. A new group of students will be taking the GED in Spanish test on December 10th and we wish them all the best!

The Hispanic GED & ESL program is currently seeking long-term external financial support. In the meantime, the ALIVE CCP is currently accepting donations to compensate instructors for the time they are currently donating in preparing the students for the December 10th testing. Please contact nadia.deleon@wku.edu if you have questions or are interested in donating, or bring a check made to the WKU Foundation with the words "ALIVE CCP - HISPANIC GED" in the memo to our offices at 1818 31W Bypass. Every bit helps, and the ALIVE CCP and this group of hardworking community members will greatly appreciate your support!
The Career Services Center offers walk-in service to students M-F from 8-4. Send students to see us if they have questions or would like to speak to a career counselor. We are located in Downing University Center, DUC A230.

**New career related field experience course for students!**

IDST 369 is a collaboration between the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Career Services Center and is available for students to earn credits through a supervised, career-related work experience (such as an internship, co-op, or field experience). It is a variable credit course (1-3 hours) depending on the number of hours a student works for the duration of the experience/semester and the percentage of the work that applies toward achieving the academic goals of the course. It is open only to juniors and seniors who have a declared major, and does not take the place of an internship course that is already provided in the major subject.

IDST 369 is an excellent option for students who:

- Are earning their Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) degree
- Do not have the opportunity to receive similar, work-related credits within their declared academic major
- Have not yet completed the pre-requisites for enrolling in their academic program's internship course
- Have completed the internship course in their major but are in a different work experience and/or have additional academic goals.

Anyone interested, please contact the Career Services Center (270-745-3095) or the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (270-745-7007) for more information.

Adrianne & Elizabeth

adriannebrowning@wku.edu
elizabeth.heller@wku.edu
Career Services Center, DUC A230
wku.edu/career
Saturday, September 24th, was the first annual Radcliff City Days Parade. The theme was “Radcliff: Past, Present and Future.” There were corn hole competitions, a farmers market, arts and crafts booths and live music. Big Red walked while Liza Ramirez, Office Associate, drove the truck accompanied by Melia Mattingly, Middle Grade Instructor.

Signing Agreement

WKU President Gary Ransdell and Elizabethtown Community and Technical College President Thelma White signed a joint admissions agreement between the schools on November 10th in the Regional Post-Secondary Center at ECTC. Four outstanding students who have smoothly made the transition from ECTC to WKU were recognized at the ceremony. ECTC is now one of seven Kentucky community college’s that has a joint admissions agreement with WKU. This expansion of the ECTC-WKU partnership is designed to eliminate barriers for students in attaining their educational goals, improve student success and degree completion, reduce the time and cost to the degree, expand student options for college services, and plan, develop and align instructional programs at the undergraduate level.

Dr. White and Dr. Ransdell signing ECTC & WKU joint agreement.

Pictured from top right: Lindsay McDowell (Family & Consumer Science), Erica Wilson (Elementary Education), Dr. Ronald Stephens (WKU Etown/Radcliff/Fort Knox Director), Jessica Darst (Elementary Education), Bridget Smith (Elementary Education), Dr. Ransdell, Dr. White

Big Red greeting a fan!

Big Red and Melia getting ready for Radcliff Days parade.
LT General Benjamin Freakley Visit
On Thursday, September 16th LT General Benjamin Freakley, Commanding General of Fort Knox and the Human Resources Command, visited the ECTC Campus and WKU Elizabethtown, and met with students, faculty, staff and administrators. General Freakley thanked Veterans and the colleges for their support of soldiers, dependents and veterans.

Academic Advisor Gail Smallwood, Student Support Gail Ledford, and Director Dr. Stephens pictured with their coins given to them from LT General Freakley thanking them for their service in the military.

Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Fort Knox New Librarian
Meet our new Librarian! Laura DeLancey joined the Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Fort Knox staff in August. She teaches library instruction sessions in a variety of disciplines, and offers research assistance for extended campus students and faculty. She is actively engaged in promoting the library’s current and forthcoming resources and services, and manages course reserve materials and the development of a reference collection. The new library will be open for student use later this year, providing reference materials, course reserves, and computer workstations.

Construction has now begun on the new E-town Library. We will keep you posted on our progress.
GWS minor presents research at Honors Roundtable

Amy Bishop (Honors, GWS minor) presented her research at the fall Kentucky Honors Roundtable held at EKU Sept 30-Oct 1. This research is part of her Honors CE/T directed by Dr. Kristi Branham. The title is "Fighting Stranger Harassment on Campus: Finding the links between women’s self-objectification, views on harassment, and sex-role agreement."

Amy says, "I traveled with 6 other honors students to stay overnight in Richmond to present a summary of our Honors theses and projects. My presentation was in the ‘progressing toward a better tomorrow’ group. Here I was able to listen in on other really interesting topics, including a study on the green dot movement, as well as practice presenting my own research. Given the academic level of my audience, presenting was pretty intimidating at first, but I think it will prepare me well for defending my project in December."

Introducing our new Graduate Assistant Leigh Gaskin

Leigh graduated from WKU in August 2011 with a BA in psychology and sociology and a minor in women’s studies. She is currently seeking the M.A. in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities, with the graduate certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies. She is a founding and current board member of Students for Responsible Community Development. This organization is presently involved in the Gales Point Craft Cooperative, a sustainable, community based initiative that funds a school lunch and educational program in Gales Point, Belize. Her interests include women’s rights, pay equity, reproductive rights advocacy, and public policy in governmental assistance. She has a four-year old daughter, Teagan, who enjoys telling jokes and painting.
GWS Hosts Whitney Sanford and a Sustainability Conversation

On October 19, 2011 Gender & Women’s Studies sponsored (with Potter College of Arts and Letters) Whitney Sanford’s address was on her new book *Growing Stories from India: Religion and the Fate of Agriculture*. In Sanford’s talk she used a Hindu agricultural narrative to analyze the roles gender and religion play in how a specific area in northern India produces food and shapes cultural gatherings and celebrations. She suggested how these ties can be seen in other countries’ agricultural practices and the impact on how we produce and consume food. Major themes related to her talk were later discussed at a dinner that students and faculty of WKU from a variety of disciplines were invited to attend.

At the dinner seating charts were ensure that people from different disciplines sat together. Nancy Givens, sustainability coordinator of the Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability, directed the World Café model discussion by presenting everyone with questions related to the themes of Sanford’s talk. Each table had a brief time to discuss the question as a group; a recorder took notes, and the entire group of 100 shared highlights. Then they moved to the next question. On the third question everyone was asked to move to a new table, make brief introductions, then discuss answers to the next questions.

By the end of the night we had covered 5 major questions:

- What is your concept of sustainability? Has your understanding evolved over time, and if so, how?
- What is the role of religion in building a sustainability movement?
- How do concepts of sustainability vary by nationality? Why do these differences exist?
- How can we rethink food and agricultural production systems to support sustainability?
- What can we do, as university community members and as responsible citizens, to promote sustainability?

After the dinner we conducted a survey to see how participants rated their time spent at the event. Overwhelmingly, people reported that the night’s events increased their awareness of the interconnections of the various issues we discussed, and asked for more events like this one. We found that students and faculty enjoyed being able to network and discuss with others outside of their discipline and enjoyed the World Café model because it allowed them to meet more people and to share perspectives with them. We also found that participants want more opportunities to act on issues such as those Sanford presented—through service learning and organizing on campus—as well as more options in terms of curriculum in undergraduate as well as graduate study.

All in all, the event was a success and we hope to host another one on the theme of sustainability next year. Whitney Sanford’s book will be published in late November 2011.
Study Abroad this Summer in Ireland

Romancing the Blarney Stone:
Gender & Sustainability in Modern Ireland

July 9-July 24  3 Credit Hours
Credit may be earned for ICSR, Gender & Women’s Studies, or Social Sciences

Over the years, Irish society has been continually disrupted by violent conflict erupting from issues relating to economic, social, and political differences. Today, Ireland offers an example of the vast dimensions of transition from conflict to sustainable democracy. As we examine the historical, political, and religious roots of the conflicts in an Ireland which today is emerging as a leader in the global movement toward economic, political, and environmental sustainability, we will explore the role the dynamics of gender has played and continues to play in cities and villages alike in the rich history of Ireland’s social movements.

Application Deadline: February 24, 2012
Early Application Deadline: $100 Discount for applications received by February 10, 2012
Contact Molly Kerby (molly.kerby@wku.edu) for more information.
Welcome Aboard

WKU-Glasgow welcomes two new additions to our staff. They are Public Safety Officer Corporal Johnny Vance and Coordinator of Communication and Student Recruitment Rachel Walston.

Corporal Vance, a member of the WKU Police Department since 2008, is a Glasgow native and former Glasgow Police Department officer who joined the WKU-G family in October. The married father of two is also a current WKU student as well, working toward an undergraduate degree in history. He said he enjoys working at WKU-Glasgow, and we enjoy having him here to keep our campus safe and secure!

Rachel Walston is a former journalist who comes to us from the WKU Office of Admissions. The Pennsylvania native holds a master’s degree in communication from WKU as well as undergraduate degrees in journalism and German from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. She lives in Bowling Green, where she is active in Vette City Roller Derby as a skater, team captain, and board member. Her duties at WKU-G include campus/community communication, student recruitment, and event planning.

Convocation

The annual WKU Glasgow convocation was held in August with great attendance. The breakout sessions were Managing Student Issues with Debra Wilkins and The Bowling Green Connection which included Bowling Green Campus members Dr. Sylvia Dietrich, School of Teacher Education; Dr. Larry Snyder, Associate Dean, Potter College of Arts & Letters; Dr. Laura McGee, Department Head, Modern Languages; and Dr. Randy Capps, retired Department of Management. Dr. Dennis George, Dean, University College, told the local newspaper that he was “very encouraged by the sense of optimism of the group and by the possibilities that had been discussed.”

Welcoming breakfast
ACTFL Workshop Participants

Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo and Bonita Phelps, full-time Spanish instructors at WKU Glasgow, were congratulated by Dr. Ray for their participations in the ACT Foreign Language workshop.

WKU-Glasgow’s Rising Star

WKU-Glasgow’s own Kristie Guffey was named a 2011 Rising Star by the Glasgow Daily Times for her humanitarian work at home in Glasgow and abroad in Ecuador. The agriculture and leadership instructor, a member of the WKU-G family since 2005, and three other award recipients were honored with a reception at South Central Bank in Glasgow on November 1.

In the past four years, Guffey has taken a total of 53 WKU-G students to Ecuador for a study-abroad trip that combines service and learning as students deliver blankets and toys to expectant mothers and apply a dental bonding agent to impoverished students’ teeth to keep them from getting cavities. At home, Guffey and her husband volunteer at the clothing and food bank at Columbia Avenue Church of Christ and teach a financial course for people struggling with debt.

Other 2011 honorees include Joanne London, Barren County court clerk; Bo Matthews, superintendent of Barren County schools; and Neil Thornbury, chief of patient care at TJ Samson Community Hospital. The Rising Star awards are given every year to recognize Barren Countians who dedicate themselves to improving their community.

Peace Corps Volunteer Speaks to Spanish Class

On Tuesday, October 18, 2011, Ms. Laura Fonseca, RPCV, spoke via a video-conference with Bonita Phelps’ SPAN 101 class. Laura Fonseca is a Peace Corps Recruiter who currently works in the Peace Corps’ office in Louisville, KY. She is originally from Colombia, South America, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ukraine prior to assuming her current position. Ms. Fonseca had a conversation in English and Spanish with the SPAN 101 class. She described her current job and her experiences as a volunteer serving in the Ukraine. The students asked questions in both Spanish and English using the video conference link. These students were eager to speak with Ms. Fonseca because they are working on research projects regarding the mission of the Peace Corps and the service of Peace Corps volunteers. Ms. Fonseca has said she would be glad to set up another video-conference again in the future.
Freshman Assembly
WKU Glasgow held our first ever Freshman Assembly in October. The event brought President Ransdell, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Gordon Emslie, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Brian Meredith, Coordinator of Developmental Education Sharon Hunter, and Big Red to Glasgow. The event was held at Barren County High School and included WKU Glasgow students, Caitlin Belcher, Caroline Frankenberg and Heather Miller, who addressed the assembly. Drawings were held for an iPad, (2) $150 book vouchers, autographed basketballs and footballs and official WKU class of 2015 T-shirts. After the program, attendees were treated to pizza, Big Red’s Rumble ice cream, and a live band.

MATH Fundraiser
In May of 2011, Curtis Wilson, MATH student worker at WKU Glasgow, and his mother were in a very serious automobile accident. Curtis remained in the hospital in Nashville until just recently. To show support from Glasgow, members of the faculty and staff joined together and held a two day soup and sandwich sale which netted over $2,000. A great big “THANK YOU” to all those who cooked, served, and helped with the event. We all miss Curtis and look forward to his return.

Summit Awards
Curtis Boswell was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year for 2011. For years, from late October to early December, Curtis has volunteered to assist the WKU Glasgow Associated Student Body (ASB) construct one of their award-winning Christmas Parade floats. We are very proud of Curtis and very grateful to him for all he does to help the WKU Glasgow community.

Dr. Gordon Baylis’ Visit
We were fortunate to have Dr. Gordon Baylis visit WKU Glasgow for a day filled with opportunities. Dr. Baylis took time to meet with full-time faculty and listened to comments and suggestions. He accompanied Dr. Ray to the Glasgow Rotary Club where he spoke and then returned to meet with community members. We were very glad that Dr. Baylis took time from his busy schedule to visit.
Floyd Collins Lecture
Some lecture topics seem to bring out the masses more than others. Such was the case for a recent lecture at WKU Glasgow. Dr. Jennifer Hanley arranged for Mammoth Cave Park Ranger Joe Duvall to speak about Floyd Collins’ experience as part of developing a working academic relationship with Mammoth Cave National Park. Faculty were mailed and students were encouraged to attend this swipeable event.

Remembering 9-11 on the 10th Anniversary
On the 10th anniversary of 9-11, a memorial wreath was placed in the rotunda of the WKU Glasgow Campus to honor all those who were lost on that tragic day.

Faculty Presentations
Faculty have been as busy as the students and staff at WKU Glasgow. Here are just a few of their many accomplishments.

Lisa Boswell, Sociology, presented “Innovations in Teaching” at the 2011 Association of Sociologists of Kentucky at Northern Kentucky University.

Bonita Phelps, Spanish, presented “Chasing Excellence” at the KCA/TCA Conference at Lake Barkley State Park Resort.

Melanie Asriel, Psychology, presented “Aging and Selective Attention in Casual Learning” at the annual international conference of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) in Washington D.C.

David Rogers, English, has had two poems published, “Among Strangers” and “Lake.”

Jennifer Hanley, History, was part of the SOKY reads tribute to Louisa May Alcott at WKU’s main campus. In addition she has presented “Benevolence Abroad: The American Colonization Society’s New Agenda, 1892-1964” at the American Historical Association.

Loretta Murrey presented “Mixing the Literary and the Culinary: Changing Food Customs in Kentucky Short Stories” at the KPA conference and received the Kentucky prize.

Joey Powell, Art, chaired a juried art show at Bowling Green’s Historic House Museum, Riverview at Hobson Grove.

Kath Pennavaria, LME and English, writes a quarterly column in the journal Kentucky Libraries called, “Genealogy Gems.”
**Chili & Cheese Homecoming Event**

WKU Glasgow held our 1st annual Chili Cheese Luncheon which was sponsored by the WKU Barren County Alumni Chapter, WKU Glasgow Campus, Country Oven Bakery, Southern Foods, Wendy’s, Pepsi Cola, Houchens Industries, Kern’s Bread, Service One Credit Union and BB&T Bank with all proceeds benefiting Junior Achievement. Our emcee for the event was Director of Special Events Jeff Younglove; other guests included WKU Football Coach Willie Taggart and several Hilltopper football players.

**Donuts with the Director**

Students were welcomed the first week of class with an opportunity to have donuts with the director. This gave students an opportunity to meet Dr. Sally Ray, Campus Director and enjoy some refreshments before class.

**HODA**

A completely new experience for us was the opportunity to help sponsor this year’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni (H.O.D.A) Luncheon.

Community members were invited to attend and were very pleased with the event.

**Student Services**

Many services for students this semester have been provided onsite by Career Services, Study Away Information sessions, Cultural Diversity Film Series by Folk Studies instructor Barry Kaufkins and Spanish/Latin American Film series by Spanish instructor Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo. Our Advising staff and the Recruitment team have been busily visiting high schools, offering FASFA workshops, registering and advising students for the coming winter and spring terms, coordinating blood drives, and attending numerous department and campus meetings.

**Upcoming Events**

We are very excited to announce the first December Graduand Recognition ceremony to be held at the Plaza Theatre in Glasgow. (And no, it’s not a typo---just ask Dr. Emslie).

Look for upcoming campus building and landscaping changes. One of the most dramatic is the introduction of the Smarts Think Tank Café. Once again, students will be able to purchase nutritional food on campus.

Dr. Ray is currently working on a WKU Glasgow version of a wall honoring the Distinguished Alumni from the Glasgow area.

Look for more exciting events coming your way from the WKU Glasgow Campus.
Dr Ken Kuehn entered into Transitional Retirement on July 1, making the 2010-11 academic year his last as a full-time faculty member with the Department of Geography and Geology. His new assignment is a half-time position as Head of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies within University College. Interdisciplinary Studies is the fifth largest major on the WKU campus as well as one of its fastest growing.

Ken came to WKU in 1984 after holding professional positions with Penn State, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, and Shell Oil. He reports that his 27 years with the Department of Geography and Geology were very satisfying. The Geology programs have grown both in quality and quantity and are highly respected throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. WKU has shown continued leadership in the Geology profession through its engagement with the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists (KSPG) among many others organizations.

Ken served the University in a number of capacities during his career at WKU, including Geology Programs Coordinator (7 years), Assistant to the Dean for Planning (1 year), Interim Associate Dean (1 year), Faculty Associate with the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching (3.5 years), Faculty Fellow with Women’s Studies (1 year) and Interim Department Head with Interdisciplinary Studies (1 year).

He also received numerous awards and recognitions from the University and beyond, including Outstanding Teaching, Ogden College, 1990; Distinguished Service Award, Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists (KSPG), 1997; Outstanding Public Service, Ogden College, 1999; University Distinguished Professor, 2002 to present; Distinguished Service Award, The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), 2004; and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) in 2009.

Ken continues to serve as a member-at-large for ASBOG, a group that regulates the testing, ethics, and practice of professional geology in the United States. On campus, he is co-chair of the Education for Sustainability Steering Committee, which addresses the academic dimensions of sustainability initiatives at WKU.

This past year Ken participated in the annual meetings of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists and the Kentucky Academy of Science. He completed two multi-year research projects with the National Park Service and was busy with significant professional development activities including travel to Canada, New York, Colorado and Scotland. On a personal note, Ken traveled to Hawaii over the term break where he was married to Valerie Brown on January 1, 2011. He always looks forward to hearing from you and getting caught up on your latest news so stay in touch! You can continue to contact him through his WKU email or new phone, 270-745-7007.

- taken from Geography and Geology’s newsletter.
ICSR to Publish Civic Health Index on Commonwealth of Kentucky

The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at Western Kentucky University was created in 2009 to promote good citizenship and foster democratic skills and capacities in our students and throughout our campus community and in the region. It has pursued this mission through curricular and co-curricular initiatives.

The ICSR also was created as a space where students and faculty could come together to think rigorously and critically about the most important issues facing our communities and democracy and how responsible citizens could address those issues. Thus, ICSR staff enthusiastically seized the opportunity to partner with the National Conference on Citizenship to produce the first-ever Civic Health Index Report for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. At the beginning of the process, the ICSR found two other partners who have provided critical financial support: The McConnell Center at the University of Louisville and Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education. The ICSR also was fortunate in receiving support from Dr. Gordon Emslie, Provost of Western Kentucky University, and Dr. Gordon Baylis, Vice President for Research at Western Kentucky University.

The hope is that the report sparks discussions throughout the Commonwealth and motivates Kentuckians to strengthen their democracy and their communities.

The ICSR staff working on the report are the three Co-Directors, Dr. Saundra Ardrey, Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo, and Dr. Paul Markham, and Assistant Professor Dr. Courte Vorhees. The report is expected to be published in early 2012.

Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities

The new Master’s program offered its first core courses to a cohort of 22 students who come from a wide range of backgrounds. ICSR 510 Perspectives on Social Justice and ICSR 520 Community-based Research are the first of six courses students take together. The next four core courses are:

ICSR 540 Community-Building for Sustainability: Direct participation and research in a topic related to sustainable community-building.
LEAD 500 Effective Leadership Studies: An in-depth investigation of the basics of effective leadership including current and historical leadership theories. Assessment of leadership styles will be a key component.
ECON 530 Economic Policy: Survey Course designed to study the moral, social, and economic effects of current and changing government policies regarding the operation of markets.
ICSR 590 Sustainability Symposium: Culminating residency requirement for students seeking the Master’s in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities. Includes group site evaluations and concluding symposium.

The remaining hours (for a total of 33) are devoted to electives and a thesis option.
Pursuit of Happiness Day

Courte Voorhees
Assistant Professor of Citizenship and Social Responsibility

Friday, April 15 is the first national Pursuit of Happiness Day and WKU will be among the college campuses across the United States that are celebrating this landmark event! Named after Thomas Jefferson’s line in our Declaration of Independence, Pursuit of Happiness Day blends research, action, and celebration to move our thinking beyond mere money as an indicator of personal well-being. At the core of this event, students will be collecting data on WKU student well-being and presenting the results to the campus community. The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (ICSR) will be coordinating university-wide activities for students, faculty, and staff. We welcome any ideas, collaboration, and participation to make this day a success. If you would like to know more about the national Pursuit of Happiness Day, please visit the website of Sustainable Seattle (http://www.sustainableseattle.org/sahi/260). If you are interested in Pursuit of Happiness Day at Western Kentucky University, please contact Courte Voorhees in the ICSR (Courte.Voorhees@WKU.edu).

Although we welcome collaboration with any individuals or organization on campus, students may directly get involved by enrolling in ICSR 301 - 010, The Pursuit of Happiness. This one-credit course will provide structure for students interested in planning the event, gathering and analyzing data, and learning more about happiness and well-being as valid indicators of personal and collective success. Of course, this class also counts towards the ICSR Certificate in Citizenship & Social Responsibility. We see The Pursuit of Happiness Day as a great opportunity to understand and celebrate well-being at WKU. We hope to see you there!
Brandi Button is the first Graduate Assistant for the SRSC Master’s. She prepared this statement:

I graduated from Western Kentucky University in May of 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in sociology and a minor in women’s studies. I am very excited to be one of the first students to go through the new master’s program. It has always been a passion of mine to advocate for social justice in my private and public life and over the past few years I have tried to incorporate sustainability as a part of my daily life.

In January of 2010 I purchased a 5.5 acre farm (Farmio Terrifico) in Barren County, KY and have been developing the property with my partner. We have developed a sustainable, all-natural garden that encompasses 12 raised beds and 8 ground beds. Along with using reclaimed materials for our garden beds, we have utilized such practices as sheet mulching, natural pest control, composting, and rainwater collection. We have a small wooded area where we harvest wild blackberries and black raspberries as well as mulberries and walnuts. With the use of recycled materials like old windows and screens we are able to use our raised beds as cold frames and continue gardening into the fall. We use heirloom seeds from Seeds of Change and started collecting our own seeds from what we have grown. We have a rooster and four laying hens that provide us with eggs, and a black lab named Banjo, who helps watch over the place.

The house is 855 square feet and we do not have central heat or air conditioning; we have installed a wood stove for heat and use ceiling fans in the summer. We recycle religiously and reuse whatever we can. The light bulbs in the house are all CFL and stay turned off most of the daylight hours. If an appliance is not in use it does not stay plugged in. Most of the clothes, shoes and household appliances I have are hand-me-downs or come from consignment shops and goodwill, because I am a firm believer in reuse of any and everything that can be. We do not have cable and try to get most of our entertainment from playing music, reading, and listening to NPR when we are not outside.

It is important to me to know I am doing my part in any and every way possible to reduce the impact that I have on nature. I have worked as a seasonal employee for the National Park Service for seven years, and after experiencing Mammoth Cave and Yellowstone I have an avid appreciation for the environment and what it supplies for the mind, body, and soul.

This past summer I started an internship with Sustainable Glasgow Inc., a non-profit grass roots organization in the town that I attended high school, in order to promote sustainability efforts in my local community. I have grown to love and appreciate the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual healing that comes from a sustainable lifestyle and I hope to use the new MA in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities to share that healing with the community that I hold so dear to my heart.
Associate Dean Dr. Merrall Price helped staff the Leadership Studies display at the Bowling Open House. These student recruiting events are sponsored by the Office of Admissions and help showcase opportunities available to prospective students. Leadership Studies was able to attend the events held in Nashville, Elizabethtown, Owensboro, Louisville, and Lexington, as well as Bowling Green this year.

Leadership Studies hosted a reception on September 28th to honor the visiting Mr. Vu, former Secretary to the Minister of Transportation in Vietnam. Phuong Vu, his daughter, is a WKU student.

Jerry Hatcher (shown here with his wife Judy Hatcher) was honored as the Leadership Studies Volunteer of the Year at the Annual WKU Summit Awards Dinner on October 20.

An Open House On October 20th recognized the successful completion of the WKU Ed.D. Program by John Baker and Cindy Ehresman.
The WKU Rotaract Club is hosting a series of speakers from the local Rotary International Club at their meetings this semester. All interested students are invited to attend meetings and learn more about the club’s activities on the first and third Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., TPH Room 214.

Upcoming endeavors by club members include a reception where graduating members will receive their graduation cords, preparation of Thanksgiving Food Baskets for needy families in Bowling Green, and bell ringing for The Salvation Army at the Campbell Lane Wal-Mart.

A record 127 undergraduate and graduate students completed a situational judgment test this semester. The assessment is designed to evaluate student leadership knowledge and competency in eight areas: Organizing/Planning/Visioning, Consideration/Team Skills, Problem Solving/Innovation, Influencing Others, Communication, Drive/Results Orientation, Tolerance for Stress, and Integrity/Ethics. Individualized feedback reports are provided to students after completion of the online assessment. Students enrolled in LEAD 200 and LEAD 500 receive the opportunity to participate in this student leadership development activity.
The Fall 2011 semester has certainly been one of exciting activity at WKU South Campus! I have been given the opportunity to attend WKU Office of Admissions Open Houses in Nashville, Elizabethtown, Owensboro, Bowling Green, Louisville, and Lexington. I have enjoyed talking to so many high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors and their parents about South Campus, the A.I.S. and Professional Studies programs offered. What has been most unique about my conversations has been the interest of parents who also wish to return to college and complete a degree in the AIS program or a degree or certificate in the Professional Studies area.

With the use of the iPad, I was able to feature a Keynote presentation about each program offered. As you can imagine, the visual imagery of the degree program presentations on the iPad drew a great number of potential students and their parents to our area to see and ask questions about our program offerings at South Campus. Many thanks to Ron Mitchell and Haley Smith for use of the iPads to feature the presentations at each open house; and a special thanks to the Professional Studies faculty for designing the presentations from their area for each iPad. Also, thank you to Robert Hall and University Textbook Supply for supplying our academic planners that were given to students at each event.

— Submitted by Jennifer Dietzel
President Ransdell visited Owensboro on November 3rd to speak at the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Rooster Booster Breakfast. He highlighted the success of WKU-O and WKU’s initiative of international reach. He later attended the WKU-Owensboro Advisory Council meeting where he met and updated advisory council members on WKU current issues.

On October 6, 250 Daviess County Middle School students visited the WKU-O building as we hosted for JA for a day. The trip was continued on November 11 as 300 Burns Middle School students visited for the day. Junior Achievement is a program designed to educate students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. This is WKU-O’s third semester hosting the JA program and middle school students.

WKU-Owensboro hosted a spot at the local Ghosts and Goblins Halloween event. An estimated 5,000 children lined up at a local park to receive goodies and treats from local Owensboro businesses and organizations. Big Red and staff gave out thousands of Smarties, promoting "College is SUPER!"

There was successful turnout at the Owensboro meeting for the Doctor of Nurse Practice. Three students hope to apply to the program next fall. Dr. Kelly Morris, WKU-Owensboro Nursing advisor and faculty, has made tremendous strides in recruiting nurses for all levels of nursing degrees. She is growing our program in Owensboro rapidly and will make a full report in the next newsletter edition!
WKU Owensboro hosted a spot at the local Ghosts and Goblins Halloween event. An estimated 5,000 children lined up at a local park to receive goodies and treats from local Owensboro businesses and organizations. Big Red and staff gave out thousands of Smarties, promoting “College is SUPER!”

Our staff held a friendly door-decorating contest within our classroom building. Six groups competed, with the ultimate prize being a gift certificate to the WKU Store. Faculty members Pam Janoski, Patti Bertke and Kelly Morris won the competition with an overwhelming 103 votes! Congrats!

On October 3rd, we had nothing more than an idea, a few empty cardboard boxes and an insane dream that we might bring in 3000 items. On November 16th, we are delivering 3527 items to the Boulware Center.

A very sincere thank you to everyone that donated items, helped promote the food drive in any way and encouraged others to bring in items. Each item is a blessing to someone in need and we have really achieved something great with this effort!

For more information about the Boulware Mission, please view their website - http://www.boulwaremission.org/. 
Chinese Business Etiquette Dinner

On November 10th the Dean of University College, twenty students and five faculty from the Professional Studies Department attended the Confucius Institute Business Etiquette Dinner at the Carroll Knicely Center.

Prior to the dinner everyone attended a panel discussion about conducting business in China. The panelists were Mr. James Layne, Chairman and CEO of Spartech, Mr. Theodore Nixon, CEO of DD Williamson, and Mr. James Ullum, Managing Partner and COO of Source International. The moderator was Dr. Jeffery Katz, Dean of Gordon Ford School College of Business.

After the panel discussion everyone was instructed on the proper etiquette for a Chinese dinner then everyone enjoyed a traditional Chinese meal. This introduction to conducting business in China and proper etiquette at meals was very informative and beneficial to the students and faculty.

The Professional Studies Department co-sponsored this event.

Visit to South Campus by author Craig Stull

Craig Stull visited the South Campus on Thursday, September 29th and provided a very enlightening presentation about "Getting Tuned In".

Craig Stull is the Founder and CEO of Pragmatic Marketing and the creator of the framework that the company uses to provide training and consulting services for creating tuned-in businesses. He has more than two decades of experience in the Strategic Role of Product Management, specializing in new product launch, turnarounds, positioning, naming, and potential client needs identification. Prior to starting Pragmatic Marketing, Craig was Vice President of Marketing at three large software companies, Legent, Viasoft, and UCCel. In addition to his fifteen years of experience with Pragmatic Marketing, his career was equally divided between product marketing, sales and technology roles. This unique combination of skills gives him sensitivity to the full life-cycle of building winning products and services. Tuned In is his first book. Craig is a graduate of Roger Williams College with a BS in Business Administration. He lives in Scottsdale, AZ with his wife Karen and their daughter, Olivia.

The Professional Studies Department sponsored this event.

Dr. Kontos attends Conference

Dr. George Kontos of the Professional Studies Department, University College, attended a two-day conference (2011 Innovative Professor Conference, November 7-8) at Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN) where he also made a presentation focusing on one of the conference themes, innovative techniques for the use of technology to enhance student engagement.
WKU REAL celebrated the opening of the Adult Learner Study Room with an Open House on October 25th and 26th. The room is the culmination of several years of planning to aid in the development of a sense of community among the nearly 4000 adult learners served by WKU. Acknowledgement goes out to Chonda White, Leisha Carr, and Todd Noffsinger for their involvement and most importantly, sincere thanks for the hard work of Rebekah Phillips in seeing this endeavor through to fruition.

The study room offers a place for adult learners to sit, study, and network with other adults. It is located in Tate Page Hall, Room 215, and open from 7:00am - 4:30pm daily.