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Ogden College of Science & Engineering Newsletter (Winter 2014)

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Ogden College of Science & Engineering

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Ogden College News

PROGRESS BEING MADE ON NORTH WING DEMOLITION

Over the past few weeks workmen removed the windows from the vacant Thompson Complex North Wing. This task was just one of many needed to prepare the North Wing for its demolition scheduled on December 17th. Construction of the replacement building is slated to begin in October of 2015.

Bowling Green City Police and Fire Departments took advantage of the empty structure and used the building for training exercises. Police along with other area agencies conducted an active shooter training exercise there last June. The Bowling Green Fire Department used the building earlier in the summer and again in late November for additional training of their crews.

BGFD crews gathered in front of the North Wing on Wednesday, November 19th to prepare for a training exercise.

Ogden College of Science & Engineering would like to wish you a joyous holiday season and best wishes for a happy, healthy 2015!
WKU WELL REPRESENTED AT KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING

Undergraduate and Graduate students from Ogden submitted a total of 67 posters and presentations at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science—the most representation of any school in Kentucky! Twenty-two students brought home awards. Results were as follows:

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<th>Student</th>
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<td>Victoria Gilkison</td>
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<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Abdulhameed Dawood</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Engineering—AMS</td>
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<td>Frankie Wallace</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Chemistry—Analytical/Physical</td>
<td>Jack Wassom</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Engineering—AMS</td>
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<td>Tse-Hong Chen</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Chemistry—Organic/Inorganic</td>
<td>Pegah Kakavand</td>
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<td>Engineering—AMS</td>
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<td>Xin Liu</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Chemistry—Organic/Inorganic</td>
<td>Ellen Barringer</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Bryan A. Knowles</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Computer &amp; Information Science</td>
<td>Kianoosh Ebrahimi</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Charlotte Hacker</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Ecology &amp; Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Brook Curry</td>
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<td>William Hamilton</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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<td>Lee Anne Bledsoe</td>
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<td>Jennifer Dumaine</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Hitesh Kumar Waghwani</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>Jared Walden</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
<td>Mary Spraggs</td>
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<td>Carson Price</td>
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<td>Tulsi Modi</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Physiology &amp; Biochemistry</td>
<td>Sarah Goodyear</td>
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<td>Zoology</td>
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WKU Hosts First Lego League Qualifier

The First Lego League Regional Qualifying Tournament, hosted by Western Kentucky University, was held Saturday, November 22nd at the Caroll Knicey Center Ballroom. Over 300 spectators watched the free event.

The theme for this year’s competition was “World Class Learning Unleashed.” Children ages 9 to 14 had a chance to explore a real world issue to gain an appreciation for and interest in science and technology. The kids work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program autonomous robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS. The teams were judged on core values, their project and their robot design. The students also had to demonstrate professionalism as well as friendly competition.

**Tournament Awards**

*Project Award:* Robo Cats Blue, Franklin Simpson Middle School  
*Robot Design Award:* Cleverbots, Louisville Robotics Institute  
*Robot Performance Award:* Wildcats Robotics, Franklin Simpson Middle School  
*Core Values Award:* K-Bomb, South Warren Middle School  
*Champions Award:* Wildcats Robotics, Franklin Simpson Middle School

**Advancing to the State Championship on 2/7/2015**

Wildcats Robotics, Franklin Simpson Middle School  
Cleverbots, Louisville Robotics Institute  
Cougarbots, Grayson County Middle School

*Photos by Clinton Lewis*
GREEN RIVER PRESERVE HOSTS 5th ANNUAL WOUNDED WARRIOR DEER HUNT

During the weekend of November 7th the Green River Preserve was honored to host wounded veterans for a fifth annual deer management hunt. This activity helps control the deer population. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and veterans who made this happen: Chuck Reed, Director of Kentucky Wounded Heroes, Garland Logsdon and the Horse Cave Volunteer Fire Department, WKU Biology Professor Dr. Mike Stokes, WKU biology students and many more.

As part of the wounded heroes weekend, a veterans memorial flagpole and stone tablet near the GRP entrance were dedicated. GRP Field Station Technician Curtis McDaniel envisioned and organized the memorial. All materials were donated; thanks to Modern Woodmen of America who donated a large portion of the project. For a full article in the Hart County News Herald, please click here.

CONSERVATION, RESEARCH & EDUCATION EFFORTS

A bat survey at the new Lawler Bend tract led by Zack Couch from the Department of Wildlife was featured on WKU PBS segment “Main Street.” To see the full eight minute segment, click here.

A thorough plant survey of the Lawler Bend tract has been completed by Dr. Julian Campbell. Removal of exotic plants continues.

Endangered black sandshell and pink mucket mussels grown out this summer at the MCNP mussel rearing facility, hosted at the Preserve, and reared under the guidance of Dr. Monte McGregor (KDFWR) were released into the Green River.

This fall has seen visits from WKU classes in environmental education, advanced ecology, entomology, wildlife management, aquatic ecology and vernacular architecture. An NKU geophysics class, a Lindsey Wilson College environmental science class and visits from Hart County High School were hosted by the Preserve. Thanks to every professor, teacher and student engaged in the process. You make the magic happen.

- Dr. Ouida Meier, Director, WKU Green River Preserve

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GRP

In January the GRP will be organizing a couple of stargazing trips to see winter constellations and the Milky Way.

Dr. Andrew Wulff’s field geology students will spend a couple of days mapping the geological layers of the GRP.

In spring, Dr. Bella Mukonyora will host a week-long retreat with an interfaith group of religion scholars focusing on responses to and connections to place.

Graduate student Nick Schaedig will teach a late-May course on field methods in historic preservation at the Gardner House.

Below: Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt participants pose at memorial flagpole and stone tablet
Right: Transportation was provided for those with disabilities

Photos by Darca Jobe, Hart County News Herald
Agriculture

AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY

Agriculture Career Day was held on Tuesday, October 28th in the second floor hallway of EST. There were a lot of potential employers in attendance from companies such as Agri-Chem, Southern States Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Crop Production Services (pictured below) and various divisions of the USDA. The event provided networking opportunities for students and was well attended.

Linda Cruz, horticulture junior from Carrollton, KY, received a $1000 scholarship from Davey Tree Care. Linda is in the Chinese Flagship program and hopes to work in sustainable horticulture in China after graduation.

WKU Floral demonstrated their flair for holiday decorating. The gorgeous tree pictured at left is located in the main living room of the Augenstein Alumni Center. Visit WKU Floral for all of your holiday decorating needs. For location and shop hours click here.

2014—2015 Agricultural Ambassadors

Pictured top left: Luke Headley, Rachel Schmitt, Molly Scott, Mikayla Grider, Tara Watkins, Lindsay Ratliff, Ashley Cottrell, Dylan Gipson

The Baker Arboretum

4801 Morgantown Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Open & Free to the public
Tuesday through Friday
11 AM to 4 PM
Saturdays 12 PM to 4 PM

A special collection of gardens and art
NEWS AND NOTES

Gifted and Talented students from South Warren Middle School visited the AMS lab on November 18th (see photo above). Dr. Greg Arbuckle and Shahnaz Aly are mentoring students at the school who are participating in the Future City Competition, a national project based learning experience where students imagine, design and build cities of the future.

Student Alexis Hickerson’s graphics work won the 2014 DCA Undergraduate Foundation Student Design Drawing Award and was displayed at the Design communication Conference in October at Southern Polytechnic University in Atlanta, GA. Alexis’ faculty sponsor is Shahnaz Aly.

Jennifer Gaiko, Brindley Hamilton and Kendra Whitaker have been invited to display their combined poster at the Posters At The Capitol event coming up in February 2015. Their faculty mentor is Shanaz Aly.

AMS STUDENTS WIN AT KAS CONFERENCE

Students from the Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences department won first prizes for undergraduate and graduate research competitions at the Kentucky Academy of Science Annual Conference held on Nov 14-16 in Lexington, KY. Jack Wassom, a Gatton Academy student, won 1st prize in UG Engineering section. The topic of his presentation was “Study on the die-sinking micro-electro-discharge machining of Ti-6Al-4V with focus on surface quality of micro features.”

Pegah Kakavand, graduate student, won 1st prize in Graduate Engineering section. Her presentation was titled “Investigating the machinability and challenges during micro scale electro-discharge machining of Titanium alloys.” Graduate student Abdulhameed Dawood won 3rd prize in the same category. The undergraduate and graduate students worked with mentor Dr. Muhammad Jahan on their projects.

2014 ATMAE CONFERENCE

Dr. Mark Doggett and Dr. Muhammad Jahan won the award for Best ATMAE 2014 Conference Proceedings Paper. The paper titled “Perceptions of Manufacturing Management and The Four Pillars” was selected in a blind paper review process by members of the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering at the conference held in St. Louis, MO on November 19-22.

Other presentations:

Dr. Mark Doggett and Bright Adu
The Technology Management Body of Knowledge: Most Frequently Cited Works

Dr. Muhammad Jahan and Abdulhameed Dawood
A Comparative Study on the Performance of Coated and Uncoated Tungsten Carbide Cutting Tool for Dry and Wet Machining of Titanium Alloy

Ms. Laura Leach and Ethan Atherton
Networking Alumni with Current Students to Create Unique Internship Opportunities
BIOLOGY STUDENTS INVITED TO PRESENT AT FEBRUARY STATE EVENT

Congratulations to WKU Owensboro biology students from Dr. Chandra Emani’s Genetics class. Pictured left to right above are Bethany Oakes, Aaron Hall, Joshua Castlen and Jennifer Campbell from the Phi Theta Kappa chapter advised by Dr. Timothy Dick at Owensboro Community and Technical College. These students presented their research at the “Conference for Student Research” held at Western KY Community College in Paducah. Out of 19 groups that participated they were one of five to be invited to the State Capitol in February to participate in “Posters At The Capitol,” an event that showcases research from all colleges and universities for the state legislature. This group of students will be continuing their research on using basil plant to treat polycystic kidney disease in a collaborative research with both Dr. Chandra Emani and Dr. Timothy Dick.

Congratulations also to two WKU pre-veterinary students, Brooke Barber (Agriculture major and Biology minor) and Whitney Walker (Biology major). The students worked with Dr. Michael Stokes on a new research project to explore the ecological role of rodents in South African savannas. In particular they examined the role rodents play as seed predators on tree species of conservation concern. They recently presented their research at the national annual conference of The Wildlife Society in Pittsburgh. These students also have been invited to present their research at the Posters at the Capitol event being held early next year in Frankfort, KY.

Karie Jeter, Biology major, was named a Scholar of Ogden College of Science and Engineering at the fall 2014 commencement ceremony held Saturday, December 13th.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Kerrie McDaniel is the newly elected Social and Behavioral Sciences Representative of the Kentucky Academy of Science

Congratulations to Dr. Rodney King of the Biology Department for receiving the Outstanding University Teacher Superlative Award at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science.
Mathematics

Jeremiah Jerome Stringer, a fourth year student majoring in mathematics and secondary education, was honored by the nationally competitive Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Program. The program offers study abroad scholarships to undergraduates receiving Pell grants. Jeremiah will be student teaching at Colegio Menor in Quito, Ecuador.

Fall 2014 Math Ambassadors, left to right: Ryan McKenna, Chase Cain, Samantha McKean

computer Science

STUDENT NEWS

Computer Science graduate student Bryan Knowles has been selected as editor for the Careers section of the XRDS magazine. XRDS (Crossroads) is the student magazine from the Association for Computing Machinery, the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society. Bryan previously edited a section devoted to Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships.

Three Computer Science students presented at the ACM Mid-Southeast Conference on November 14 and 15. Colton Ramos, Travis Brummett and David Beverly were accompanied by Dr. David Erbach and Dr. Michael Galloway. David Beverly won 3rd place in the student paper competition in the MS category.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Guangming Xing will be on sabbatical leave during the Spring 2015 semester. He will be collaborating with researchers in the Medical Informatics Division at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Need help with Math?

Free tutoring is available at the Math Help Lab located in College High Hall, Room 2124.
KY BLUEGRASS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS

The Department of Engineering conducted the 15th Annual Kentucky Bluegrass Robotics Competition on Saturday, November 8th. The competition provided secondary school students with a challenging engineering design experience and school teachers with guidance in teaching engineering topics. Fifteen teams from a dozen schools participated. Teams built a robot using construction materials provided by WKU (see photo above). The robots competed against each other and were designed to help in natural disaster scenarios in a competition called “Robots For Relief.” The team from Spencer County High School won the event with teams from Hart County and Barren County taking 2nd and 3rd place respectively. For a full article regarding the competition in the College Heights Herald, click here.

STEMSHOT! ROCKETRY COMPETITION

WKU hosted a new rocketry competition for students in grades 4-12. STEMshot! gave area students the opportunity to engage in a challenging real-world problem based activity designed to enhance their critical thinking skills. The competition began at the WKU Center for Research & Development and ended at the Aviation Heritage Park on Three Springs Road. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the WKU Department of Engineering and the SkyTeach program along with the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative.

Congratulations to the following winners:
- Rockfield Rocketeers, Rockfield Elem., Elementary Category
- Red Skulls, Franklin-Simpson, Middle School Category
- BT, Trigg County High, High School Category
- BT, Trigg County High, Overall Winner

Click Here for an article featured in the BG Daily News.

STUDENT NEWS

Robert Choate, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, mentors two students who have had their submissions for the 2015 Posters At the Capitol Event accepted. Richard Arnold and Caitlyn Clark will be presenting a poster titled “Building Envelope Integrity Assessments.”

Additionally, Caitlyn has had two papers and associated presentations accepted. “Energy Efficiency from Two Different Perspectives” will be presented at the 2015 ASEE SE Conference hosted by the University of Florida in April 2015. “IR Air Visualization Tool for Energy Assessment of Kitchen Ventilation Hood” will be presented at the InfraMation Conference 2015 hosted by FLIR Systems in Nashville, TN. Caitlyn received additional sponsorship by Halton Company in Scottsville, KY for the latter work.

Richard Arnold will be presenting at the 2015 ASEE SE Conference his work titled “Laboratory Methodology of Moisture Assessment of Common Construction Materials.”

STEMSHOT! Event
Photos by Lee Ann Smith
Dr. Chris Groves Presents at United Nations Water Conference

WKU University Distinguished Professor of Hydrogeology Chris Groves delivered a keynote talk in late October in Guilin, China, at the International Conference on Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources in Developing Countries, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Dr. Groves’ presentation to the group focused on Water Resource Management Efforts in the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, and was co-authored with his colleague Geary Schindel of the Edwards Aquifer Authority in San Antonio.

Dr. Groves has been actively engaged in related, international scientific efforts under the auspices of UNESCO for almost 20 years, and currently serves in his fourth year as co-leader of the UNESCO project IGCP598, Environmental Change and Sustainability in Karst Systems.

“The conference was especially useful in developing synergy and prospects for future collaborations between scientists from a range of developing countries who had never met one another before,” he said, “especially African scientists and water managers who face a range of difficulties providing safe and adequate drinking water supplies for growing populations.”

The trip marked more than 30 that Dr. Groves has made to China over the past 19 years, many with his wife, Deana, of WKU’s Department of Library Technical Services, working with Chinese and other international partners to undertake both basic and applied research in hydrogeology, geochemistry and water resources development in China.

Department Head Completes 8th World Tour

Dr. David Keeling, Distinguished University Professor of Geography and head of WKU’s Department of Geography and Geology, returned recently from his eighth circumnavigation of the planet, completing a three-week around-the-world tour of the South Pacific, Asia, Africa and Europe. Dr. Keeling represented the American Geographical Society and covered 36,000 miles as part of its geographic educational outreach program.

The educational tour began in Maui, Hawaii, with discussions about global volcanic hotspots and the social-economic challenges faced by communities affected by tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Dr. Keeling made stops in the Fiji Islands; Sydney, Australia; Bali, Indonesia; Chiang Mai, Thailand; Dubai; and Cape Town, South Africa. The expedition ended in Spain on the last day of October.

“One of the benefits for WKU,” Dr. Keeling stated, “is that the university’s growing international reputation is further enhanced through its participation in these educational tours.” Students also benefit from the knowledge gained from these experiences and subsequently shared in the classroom and through research projects and study abroad programs.

“The conference was especially useful in developing synergy and prospects for future collaborations between scientists from a range of developing countries who had never met one another before”

- Dr. Chris Groves
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Students and faculty from WKU attended the 81st Annual meeting of the American Physical Society Southeastern Section in Columbia, SC. This is the premiere science event for sharing fundamental research results in physics and astronomy covering all fields of study. Dr. Eric Steinfelds attended with graduate students Armin Smallhodzic and Grace Egbujor, undergraduate students Mitchel Harmon, and Gatton Academy students Ben Guthrie and Ben Riley. They presented research work on the chemical abundances in planetary nebulae, using differential equations to model Twitter reactions, an application of topological deformation, on quantum mechanics and Einstein’s gravitational equations, and the surface microstructure of special metals. This research was carried out at the research centers on campus including the NOVA Center for non-destructive analysis, the Applied Physics Institute, the Institute for Astrophysics and Space Science and the High Performance Computing Center and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING

Physics & Astronomy students presented at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science in Lexington on November 14-16. Pictured in the photo above left are: Carson Price, Benjamin McDonald, Professor Sanju Gupta, Mayme VanMeveren and Jared Walden. Missing from the photo is Eli Heintzman who also presented. Congratulations to both Jared Walden (below left) who won 2nd place and Carson Price (below right) who won 3rd place for their poster presentations.

HARDIN PLANETARIUM PRESENTS CELEBRATIONS FOR A LONG WINTER’S NIGHT

The long, cold winter nights of December are well suited for celebrations. Join the Hardin Planetarium for a bright and festive show that illuminates the meaning of the winter solstice, shares some history behind out holiday customs and suggests possible explanations of the Christmas star.

Admission is free; shows begin on time with no late admittance. “Celebrations” will run until December 30th. Show times are 7:00 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 PM Sundays. The planetarium is closed on Christmas.

KIDS BUILD WACKY MACHINES DURING FALL SCIENCE CUROSITY INVESTIGATION CAMP

Wacky Engineering was the theme for the camp held at the Hardin Planetarium during fall break. Nineteen third through sixth graders attended and learned about physics and engineering concepts. By the end of the week the students built a machine known as a Rube Goldberg machine that accomplished a goal. Brant Beverly, 10, described it best as “an over-the-top, crazy invention for something simple.” Ben Davenport, 8, is pictured above with his Rube Goldberg device he created.

To view a full BG Daily News article, click [here](#).
PSYCHONOMIC SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

A large group of faculty, graduate students and undergraduates (some pictured above) from the Department of Psychological Sciences presented their research at the 55th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, California in November. The annual meeting, with over 2,500 attendees from around the world, promotes basic research in memory, learning, problem solving, action planning, language and perception.

Psychological Sciences faculty members Sharon Mutter, Farley Norman, and Brandy Tiernan attended along with graduate students Jessica Arnold, Danielle Lowry, Jacob Cheeseman, Taylor Blaetz, Meagan Luttrell, and Berenice Anaya. Shelby Adams and Josie Resner, undergraduate students majoring in Psychological Sciences also attended. Shelby Adams said of the conference, “This experience was unique for me as an undergraduate and I am extremely grateful....”

Shelby Adams, Student

Together, the Psychological Sciences group presented a total of five posters and gave three talks including an invited talk by Dr. Farley Norman on Haptic Solid Shape Perception. Presentations covered a wide variety of research topics including the acquisition of informal language, neural correlates of discrimination learning, and the integration of emotion and cognitive control. Danielle Lowry noted that, “I had an enjoyable, successful experience at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society where I was able to consume all of the latest research in my field, as well as present my own research.”

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Farley Norman and former student Charles Crabtree published an article in PLOS ONE titled, “Short-term visual deprivation, tactile acuity, and haptic solid shape discrimination.”


In October, Betsy Shoenfelt gave a presentation at the Annual Conference of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology in Las Vegas, NV titled, “Values-Based Accountability: An Intervention with an Intercolligate Volleyball Team.”

Dr. Andy Mienaltowski and his colleagues published a paper in Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience titled, “Age differences in early frontocentral enhanced event-related positivity elicited by emotional faces.”

Congratulations to the first Psychological Sciences Department Graduates:

Anastasia M. Doyle
Shandi M. Littlefield
Catherine L. McKee
JoAnn R. Resner
Kandice C. Short

Congratulations to Dr. Stephen O’Connor for receiving a WKU Office of Research Young Investigator Award!
TOP SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED AT FALL 2014 COMMENCEMENT

At the 176th commencement held Saturday, December 13th, WKU recognized 13 students as Scholars of the College. The Ogden College of Science and Engineering student honorees are as follows:

Kathryn Briggs of Lexington, a Middle School Science major and an Honors College graduate. Briggs also was a scholar of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences with a major in Science and Math Education. She is the daughter of Paul and Anne Briggs.

Karie Jeter of Edmonton, a Biology major. She is the daughter of Chris and Teresa Jeter.

Congratulations!
Blaine Ferrell, Associate VP for Research, will be serving as the next KY EPSCoR Statewide Committee Chair starting January 1, 2015.

Engineering News

STUDENTS SHOWCASE WORK AT ENGINEERING EXPO

Balsawood Bridge Busting, Wobblers Wobbling and Tic Tac Toe Launching were just some of the fun, exciting events happening at the Engineering Expo on Wednesday, December 10th. Courses from Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were represented during the all day expo.

Students had a chance to showcase their work as well as compete with each other throughout the day during the various activities held in the Engineering & Biological Sciences and College High Hall buildings.

Left: a student checks his ball launching apparatus during Tic Tac Toe launching (photo by Monica Bean)

Upper right: students check out a device on display (photo by Clinton Lewis)

Lower right: wobbler assemblies on display at the McConnell Lab (photo by Monica Bean)