Fall 2014

Arts & Letters: The Magazine of Potter College at Western Kentucky University

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Potter College of Arts & Letters will celebrate its 50th anniversary in March of 2015 with a special anniversary issue of Arts & Letters. If you have any special memories or photos to share, please send those to arts.letters@wku.edu or mail to:

Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Western Kentucky University  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11029  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1029

Photos are courtesy of WKU Archives. Special thank you to Suelynn Lathrop, Tony Harkins and his students.
Greetings from the Dean

Welcome to the fall edition of Arts & Letters! This issue will give you a sense of some of the special opportunities that the College makes available to students. Potter College is keeping pace with the globalization of higher education by adding new majors in two languages—Chinese and Arabic. WKU is now the only university in the Commonwealth to offer students the opportunity to major in these languages. We’ve also added a Criminology major to complement our highly successful M.A. in Criminology. The enrollments in all three programs are climbing rapidly, clear evidence that our students want opportunities like these. Speaking of exciting new majors, you’ll also get a chance to visit the Sundance Film Festival along with 25 students in our new Film major. Founded by Robert Redford, Sundance has become a major force in the movie industry, and our students are right in the middle of it. We round out our report on the College with articles on the communication patterns of a WKU athletics team and on how our Art Education students are helping to build the reading skills of elementary school students.

As excited as we are about the future, we’re also using this issue to take backward glance at our past. The 2014-15 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Potter College. The Board of Regents approved the creation of Potter College of Liberal Arts on March 25, 1965, and we will celebrate that milestone throughout the year. To get us started, this issue includes some photographs from 1964-65, giving us a glimpse of how the campus has changed over the last five decades.

And by the way, don’t forget that you can read Arts & Letters online at wku.edu/go/arts-letters or you can download our app for your tablet device. There you’ll find more pictures and short videos with even more information about Potter College.
Contents

Greetings from the Dean ........................................... Left
David Lee

WKU at Sundance
Student Experiences at America’s Premier Film Festival ........ 4
Ted Hovet and Dawn Hall

Undergraduate Art Educators Create an
International Collage ........................................... 7
Miwon Choe and Angela Jones

FUSE Grants
Grants for Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement .......... 12

The View from Northern Ireland ................................... 16
Emma Collins

Potter College New Majors .......................................... 19

Communication and Sports
How a Hobby became a Research Agenda ......................... 20
Angela M. Jerome

Faculty Award Winners ............................................ 22

New Faculty and Staff ................................................ 24

Department Notes ..................................................... 28

Potter College Class Notes .......................................... 34
WKU at Sundance

Student Experiences at America’s Premier Film Festival

BY TED HOVET AND DAWN HALL

“Over the course of eight days, I attended 24 screenings of 23 films in 10 different categories. I sat in nine theatres that spanned the 11 square miles of Park City, Utah. I watched a looping, 61-minute New Frontier ‘experience’ titled ‘Street’ by James Nares, that slowed down a New York City street to the tempo of a Sonic Youth guitar track, romanticizing the discarded cigarette butts free-falling into grimy cement.” In this compelling description, Maggie Woodward (English/Gender and Women’s Studies) captures the immersive experience that she and 22 other PCAL students enjoyed at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. They traveled to Park City for a WKU winter term class—Film Festival Experience: Sundance—that allowed them to attend the nation’s premier film festival while earning three credit hours in Film, English, Popular Culture, or Gender and Women’s Studies.

The WKU film program has been running the Western Kentucky Film Festival (WKFF) on campus since 1995, and in recent years has also sent students to volunteer at the Louisville International Film Festival and the Nashville Film Festival. These festival experiences have greatly contributed to students’ understanding of film culture and the film business beyond the usual Hollywood theatrical releases. When the dates of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival fell within WKU’s winter term, it seemed a perfect opportunity to expand the festival opportunities for WKU students. Dr. Ted Hovet and Dr. Dawn Hall designed the course in the spring of 2013 with the help of the WKU Study Away Office, with the goal of giving students an academic experience that combined extensive research into the history of independent film and “behind the scenes” opportunities at a major festival.

In advance of spending ten days in Park City, the students completed an online portion of the course where they read and wrote about the history of American independent film with a particular focus on the influence of Sundance.

Brenna Sherrill (Popular Culture) expresses the delight shared by the entire group as it witnessed film premières in the very environment that they had just studied before arriving in Utah: “These past ten days I’ve spent in the snowy mountains of Park City have been nothing short of magical, exceeding every expectation I ever had about this experience. It’s been amazing to see such inspiring, creative projects from filmmakers of various levels of experience, and having the opportunity to attend some of the first screenings of these films has just been the icing on the cake.”

One of the most important goals of the course was to introduce students to the study and
practice of film festivals, including the analysis of independent films and the understanding of independent production and distribution. Students engaged with the films and filmmakers at Sundance firsthand through a series of screenings, panels, course lectures, and assignments that could not be recreated in the classroom alone.

Tyler McDowell (Film) speaks to the value of a study away experience: “I had never stepped foot inside an airport, let alone an airplane, but on that cold January morning I found myself breaking that 21-year record. That was an experience in itself, but I had a much bigger opportunity waiting for me and my classmates in Park City, Utah. Ever since I knew I wanted to be a filmmaker, I found myself drawn to independent cinema and at the heart of indie film is the Sundance Film Festival.”

Like Tyler, many of the students gained a deeper understanding of independent cinema and how it may apply to their future. Jacob Thorley (Film) commented, “As an aspiring filmmaker, the information is not lost as these films were made on smaller budgets, and seeing so many allows for great comparison on what you may or may not be able to accomplish.” Jayme Powell (Film) agrees: “Sundance has given me a great first-hand experience at how the industry operates, an opportunity that is essential to a student looking to go into producing. This is a marketplace, plain and simple.”

The course was designed to meet several specific learning outcomes, such as asking students to define and articulate the economics of film and the important of Sundance as a marketplace for independent cinema; to engage and converse first-hand with filmmakers, critics, and fans of independent film; and to articulate the role of independent film in political and social change. One student, Kaitlynn Smith (Broadcasting), used the course as a key component in her Honors Capstone Experience/Thesis project, “Will You Buy My Movie? A Study of the Films Purchased for Distribution at the Sundance Film Festival.” Kaitlynn especially appreciated her access to industry personnel in panels and other “behind-the-scenes” events: “These moments allowed me to interact with the filmmakers, cast members, editors, and producers. It’s given me a deeper appreciation for the process of filmmaking and the work that goes into getting a film to Sundance. The next time I see a movie in Kentucky, I’ll probably be sitting in the theater expecting someone to walk in and answer a bunch of questions.” In addition to her capstone project, Kaitlynn presented the research she conducted while attending the festival at the WKU Student Research Conference and was one of seven students to participate in the 2014 Western Kentucky Film Festival’s Sundance Experience panel. In a presentation at the 2014 Kentucky Study Away Symposium, Sundance students Jayme Powell (quoted above) and Nathan Gjersted (Film) noted that participating in Study Away generates interest in further educational travel and experiences. As Gjersted explained, “Even though I’ve been able to have such the experience the 10 days we were in Park City, there is always more that can be dreamt. Perhaps next is Cannes, or Toronto, or Berlin. Perhaps the next dream is simply to experience Sundance again, perhaps with my own film. Even if the dreams have nothing to do with the
independent film world—even if they are just a story—Sundance has given the hope to dream once more. I sometimes question why I am a Film major. What will I amount to? What will I do? I stop dreaming from time to time. I stop telling stories because I’m scared as to what life can bring to me. After Sundance, I have less fear. I can tell stories again. I can dream.”

Ryan Duvall (Film), who also participated in the WKFF Sundance Experience panel, was similarly enthusiastic about how his experiences at Sundance will enrich his college experience and beyond: “The WKU Sundance Study Away course is a dream come true. The knowledge and networking I gained in Park City, Utah, is great for anyone who dreams of being involved in the industry. Attending this event has reenergized my passion for filmmaking. I’ve learned a lot about the inner workings of the Hollywood industry and networked with some very big names. At Sundance, we get a glimpse of what it was like to create a movie. Being able to talk with fellow directors gave me hope that my dreams are more than just fantasy. I hope that other Western Film students will have the opportunity to try this unique Study Away experience and that it will continue for many years to come.”

“The knowledge and networking I gained in Park City, Utah, is great for anyone who dreams of being involved in the industry.”

The Film Festival Experience: Sundance Study Away course will be offered again in January 2015 during WKU’s Winter Term. For more information contact Dr. Ted Hovet (ted.hovet@wku.edu) or Dr. Dawn Hall (dawn.hall@wku.edu).

Ted Hovet is a professor of English and Film Studies at WKU, where he has taught since 1995. His research examines the relationship between the earliest days of cinema and current media platforms. He recently co-edited a series of articles on “Paratexts and Pedagogy” in the Teaching Media forum of Cinema Journal and presented in a workshop on Spreadable Media with PCAL alumnus Sam Ford at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. He regularly teaches film theory, film history, and world cinema as well as courses in writing and literature. He tweets on film and pedagogy at @THovet.

Dawn Hall is an associate professor of English in the department of Academic Support in the School of University Studies. Her dissertation focused on the challenges and opportunities experienced by American independent female filmmakers with a focus on Kelly Reichardt. She teaches film, writing, yoga, and literature at Western Kentucky University, where she served as interim director of the Gender and Women’s Studies Department in 2009-10.

Professors Dawn Hall and Ted Hovet discuss Film Festival Experience: Sundance.

More video interviews available on WKU Potter College of Arts & Letters YouTube Channel.
Undergraduate Art Educators Create an International Collage

BY MIWON CHOE AND ANGELA JONES

When artists create collages, they juxtapose materials that are not usually associated with each other. These unexpected combinations of materials, in turn, provide a new way of looking at the component parts. When Miwon Choe, Associate Professor of Art and Coordinator of the Art Education Program, creates an educational collage experience, she juxtaposes cultures and media as WKU students collaborate with students at local high schools and art programs in Cuba and Ghana. How all the collage’s components fit together is a story that spans over a decade and has resulted in students’ improved understanding of the connections between visual and language learning.

Reaching out to local art teachers has been part of Choe’s repertoire since she joined WKU in 2001 and began building the Art Education program by creating new classes and emphasizing the fieldwork that students complete. Recent years, though, have seen art students’ reach extend far beyond WKU’s campus and Warren County, Ky., to Cuba and Ghana—and back again.

Warren Central High School: Art and Literacy

The foundational collage pieces for the Cuba and Ghana projects started much closer to home, at Warren Central High School. In fall 2013, Choe’s Art 413 class, the third class in the Art Education methods sequence, partnered with an Art 1 class at Warren Central. Each of Choe’s WKU students, all of whom were pre-service art teachers, was paired with one or two art students in a class taught by Sandra Carter, an art specialist who received her Art Education A.B. in 1981 and her M.A.E. in 1988, both from WKU. Choe and her class visited Warren Central regularly for 12 weeks to work with Carter’s students on their art. For the first half of the semester, the visits occurred twice a week, and in the second half of the semester, they were weekly. In reflecting on a painting project inspired by the Maya Angelou poem “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me,” one of Choe’s pre-service...
teachers called it “an awesome project to be part of,” and the two students with whom she worked called it “a joy to work on and to complete” and “one of the most amazing things I got to help do.”

As a concluding experience, the WKU students facilitated a project where Carter’s students wrote about their own art to students enrolled in the Crearte (create art) project in Cuba. This project helped enhance the students’ ownership of their art and establish new friendships across cultures.

Two of Choe’s students found the semester-long pilot project so powerful that they applied for and received Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) grants to continue their outreach efforts with Warren Central. To complete their research, Amy Wallace and Brandy Young will return to Warren Central High School in the 2014-15 academic year. Wallace will collaborate with Jonathan Vanderpool, an ESL teacher, to complete her project, A Comparative Study of the Benefits of Integrating Music and Arts in Education, while Young will continue to collaborate with Carter on her project, Art and Literacy Infused: Enhancing Literacy through the Arts. They will share the results of their research at academic conferences and have submitted proposals to the 2015 National Art Education Association conference in New Orleans.

Cuba: Crearte, Crecer con las Artes (Grow with the Arts)

The Cuban pieces of this collage are plentiful, and Choe has been painstakingly assembling them for a decade. Supported by a WKU Junior Faculty Grant, “The Use of Visual and Cultural Metaphor in Cuban Folk Art,” Choe made her first trip to Cuba in 2004 and began to explore the possibilities of collaborating with teachers there. Through repeated trips and several presentations to fellow art educators, she built a network of colleagues. Then, in February-March 2013 and supported by a Potter College Faculty Research Grant, Choe and Carter visited many P-12 schools and universities in three Cuban communities: Pinar del Río, Cienfuego, and Havana.

That 2013 trip established a relationship with Juan Silvio Cabrera, Coordinator of the Crearte project in Pinar del Río. Choe presented the
Hello Danielle:

My name is Jose Luis, but I like that my friends call me Luisiño. Because I like languages a lot, especially English and Portuguese, in fact I speak to these a little, because some day I would like to visit several countries of the world and know their customs and culture. I am 22 years old and study in the University of Pinar del Rio, I am studying the first year of the career of Socio-cultural Studies, are incredible careers that have to do a lot with me and with my artistic abilities, in my childhood I studied music, specifically saxophone and piano, but at the moment sing in a juvenile Choir of fond artists, I dance and write poetry...

I like the current music but I also prefer the music of the time of my parents, I believe that it's fantastic also. At the moment I don't have a favorite artist because I like many. I think that each one of them has his way of being expressed, it is for that reason that we should always accept the likes of other people... now, don't worry for that reason... One day you will get up of the bed and you will see the life in a different way... then you will realize that you have matured, but while that moments arrives you have a good time with your friends, you wants a lot to your family and its about fulfilling your big dreams.

I live in a city that is not very big, Pinar del Rio, Cuba but people here are calm, and have good feelings. I feel really happy and proud of living in the earth where the best tobacco in the world is cultivated and one of the most attractive natural beauties in the planet, The Valley of Viñales, exists which is Patrimony of the Humanity, I wait that if some day you decide to visit Cuba... you would want to come to Pinar, of sure you will like it, because it's a wonderful city of many fields and natural landscapes.

My university is big. I hope you are studying a lot so that some day you can go to a good University and become a great professional and your parents together with your friends will be proud of you. Regrettably, already I have to say goodbye Danielle, but not without before to wish you many happiness. You are very intelligent and sure you will be a great professional, alone you have to put in some zeal and to trust you, and you will see as smiles the luck, it doesn't care that you don't have abilities for the music... you take it inside that feel it that it has a good time, never stop to sing, to smile and of being happy. Remember whoever, “the art enables the spirit”, and you, you are already a real artist.

Greetings and Good Luck,

Luisiño
Socio Cultural Studies, Pinar del Rio University

March 17, 2013

Dr. David Lee, Dean
Dr. Lawrence Snyder, Assistant Dean
Dr. Andrew McMichael, Associate Dean
Professor Oglesbee, Head, Art Department
Poter College of Arts and Letters
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd #41066
Bowling Green KY 42101

Dear Sirs,

We have had a pleasure of hosting two faculty members in Pinar del Rio, Cuba this week from Western Kentucky University, Dr. Miwon Choe, Art Education and Dr. Petra Collyer, Equine Science. Although it was a brief visit, we had very productive meetings and discussions about possibility of future collaboration.

I am eager, willing, and would like to thank you in advance on behalf of the faculty of Social and Humanities Sciences of Pinar del Rio University for supporting the collaboration between students and teachers from our two universities, that we build together will help ease the obstacles as the faculty and students become involved in the unique experiences of being immersed in the Cuban life and culture in a positive light.

We hope this kind of bridge forming interaction will stay alive to nurture the understanding and collaboration between our universities and countries.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juan Silvio Cabrera, Ph.D.
Coordinador del Proyecto “Crearte”
Universidad de Pinar del Rio
March 270, esq 27 de noviembre
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
jsilvio@fcsh.upr.edu.cu

ARTS & LETTERS 9 FALL 2014
results of this project at the 2014 conference for the National Art Education Association in San Diego.

Her ongoing interactions with Cuban educators, both individually and during workshops she has presented, has helped Choe connect with the Cuban Education Association, La Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba. This affiliation, in turn, will provide future opportunities for collaboration between WKU and Cuban teachers and students.

Ghana: Art2Read

Yet another piece of this cultural collage comes from Ghana. After Choe posted information about her students’ collaboration with Cuban students to the art education blog, she was contacted by a colleague from Ghana who was interested to learn more. Mariama Ross, Associate Professor of Art Education at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, hoped to establish a similar exchange with American students. She contacted Choe in July 2013 and decided to mentor one of her own graduate students as that student works at Kumasi Anglican Sr. High School, similar to the ways Choe’s students work with Warren County students.

Like the work with Cuban students, this partnership exchanges works on paper and is based on these two core ideas: we are all artists and authors and visual and verbal literacy are essential and interconnected. The students in Ghana initiated this exchange, each sending a piece of his or her artwork, a photo, and a personal letter to their counterparts at Warren Central. Carter’s students responded with their own pieces of art and letters. As with the Cuba project, Art2Read gives art students in both countries chances to make connections not only between visual and written literacy but also between cultures.

Back to Cuba…and to Kentucky

In March 2014, Choe returned to Cuba to add another piece to the collage by visiting classrooms and conducting workshops for art educators. In both venues, she delivered small, accordion-style books made by the students in four of her Art Education classes and 18 students from art classes at Munfordville School in Hart County, Ky., taught by Jennifer Bruton Sims, a 1995 A.B. in Art Education and 2004 M.A.E. The Kentucky students created the books and provided the content for the first half of them, writing the text and providing illustrations. The Cuban students and art educators then completed the books and returned them to WKU with Choe. Isabel, one of the Cuban workshop participants in Cienfuego, captured the heart of this exchange when she wrote that it “make[s] people use dialogue to learn, to love, and to live in a world of peace.”

For the children participating in the Crearte project and the art teacher in Pinar del Rio, Choe also delivered art supplies donated by WKU’s art department and handmade pillowcases donated by fashion merchandising students and their instructor, Gloria Carrico. On this trip, Choe not only met the Crearte and Cuban high school students in Pinar del Rio who had corresponded with the Warren Central students and enjoyed being able “to put names to faces” and stories, but also shared gifts of friendship from the Hill.

Another Warren County collage piece was added when Choe took the 80 letters written by the Cuban students to two of Doris Poole’s Spanish classes at Greenwood High School. Students in Spanish 3 and heritage speakers of Spanish translated all the letters into English and provided their translations to the WKU and Munfordville elementary students to whom the letters were addressed.

Because all of these collaborations are ongoing, more pieces will continue to be added to the collage, and Choe and her students will continue to share the results of their projects at academic conferences and workshops, locally, nationally, and internationally. To provide an opportunity for the community to see and appreciate the pieces of this collage, the Educational Resources Center in Gary Ransdell Hall will present an exhibit of students’ work in the 2014-15 academic year.
Miwon Choe is an associate professor and art education program coordinator at WKU. She teaches undergraduate and graduate art education courses and delivers arts and humanities workshops. She also conducts action research for teacher leaders and participates in many P-12 visual arts outreach programs, including VSA New Understanding, ESL Art, Home School Art Alliance, Summer SCATS Art, and Super Saturday Art Programs. Choe also serves as a faculty sponsor for the student exchange program between WKU and Hanyang University, Korea.

Angela Jones is an associate professor in and the internship coordinator for the Department of English, where she primarily teaches classes in the professional writing program. In 2013–14, she also served as the Faculty Fellow in the Potter College Dean’s Office.
Grants for Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement

Adrienne Nixon

Curtains, by John Kander, Fred Ebb, Rupert Holmes and Peter Stone, is a murder-mystery musical comedy set in the 1950s during a Boston tryout for the fictional Robbin’ Hood, a “new musical of the old west.” The production of Curtains at WKU, performed in Van Meter Auditorium in February of 2014, presented an interesting opportunity for collaboration. The two worlds within the musical should look like two separate designers created them. So, Shura Pollatsek, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, created the 1950s world of eclectic artists, actors, directors, and producers to look visually interesting and colorful but “un-designed” and more realistic. Adrienne Nixon, B.F.A. student, created the world of Robbin’ Hood by channeling a 1950s costume designer translating the Wild West era.

One of Adrienne Nixon’s designs was for the character Nikki Harris, who played the Schoolmarm in the show-within-the-show. The shape was based on an 1890s silhouette featuring a wide bell skirt and leg-o’-mutton sleeves. The garment was draped, cut, and constructed by Becca Trimbur, also a B.F.A. student. The bodice was draped on a form padded for the actress while the sleeves and bell skirt were drafted from existing diagrams. Both designer and draper travelled to New York City to conduct research and to Fort Worth to present the work at the national design conference of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.
Benjamin Harris

Senior Benjamin Harris was awarded a FUSE grant with an international component to conduct research in Munich, Germany, during January 2014. Harris’ research focuses on the nature of Enlightenment reform in the Germanies, examining differing policies in Prussia and Bavaria at the close of the eighteenth-century. Harris studied various documents and manuscripts from the era at the Bavarian State Library in Munich during his two-week stay in southern Germany, particularly examining various legal codes and reform edicts published in the mid-1700s. Harris’ research argues that while reform programs launched within the two states seem to mirror Enlightenment trends of equality and toleration, these themes were instituted only to the extent in which they reflected the political, religious, and social necessities of the two states. Harris’ research will be used to complete his Honors Capstone Experience/Thesis, titled “Rhetoric, Rights and Pragmatism in the Germanies: Enlightenment Reform in Eighteenth-Century Prussia and Bavaria,” and his History Capstone Project, focusing on human rights in historical perspective. Harris graduated in May 2014 and is attending law school at the University of Kentucky.

Brie Logsdon

In her undergraduate thesis, “Engagement Media—The Fusion of Journalism and Museum Experience Design,” Brie Logsdon explored connections between the goals of museums and journalism. With the help of her advisor, Kerry Northrup, and the hard work of Western iMedia, she was able to apply lessons from museum engagement design to a large, multi-media news story called “Inside Confucius.”

A large portion of valuable research came from reaching out to museum experts and even visiting the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, Tn. The resulting project was a series of large, interactive infographic panels presented as a museum exhibit to maximize audience engagement. The exhibit was on display at the Kentucky Museum on WKU’s campus for two weeks. Along with the exhibit, Logsdon’s thesis included a written component. Versions of this portion of her thesis were published in News & Tech magazine and in the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers’ publication for news media executives. She and the team have continued to develop the story, adding videos, stories and panels to the project.
Hannah Connor

There have been few studies of human skeletal remains from non-mound archaeological sites in Kentucky. The WKU Anthropology Lab curates several such collections that have yet to be analyzed. Hannah Connor’s research examines the demographic profile, health, diet, and burial practices of the burial population from Site 15Wa399, a rockshelter near Shanty Hollow Lake in Warren County, Ky. WKU faculty and students documented the site in 1971 and 1974, salvaging artifacts and human remains from two graves exposed by looting.

Burial 1 contained at least five individuals. Three adult females and a 16.5-20.5-year-old male had no pathologies or traumas. A 45-55-year-old male exhibited several pathologies: osteoarthritis, endocranial lesions possibly from syphilis, anemia, extreme tooth wear, dental caries, dental abscesses, antemortem tooth loss, and a fractured metacarpal. Burial 2 contained a male child aged 5 ± 1.5 years and a child aged 3 ± 1 years, possibly male, both of whom had anemia.

Mortuary practices involved multiple interments. None of the bones exhibited cut marks from defleshing or disarticulation, indicating in-flesh burials. At least one adult was flexed. The children were interred with bone beads. Dental wear patterns of the old male suggest an agricultural diet. Both children exhibited slight tooth wear, indicating they had been weaned. Pending bone chemistry analysis will provide more information about diet. Radiocarbon dates also are pending.

Mallory Treece, Paige Settles, and Jeff Walker

Two Political Science students, Mallory Treece and Paige Settles, presented their research at the highly selective Southern Political Science Association’s annual meeting in New Orleans in January 2014. They joined a third FUSE grant recipient, Jeff Walker, at the Kentucky Political Science Association and the WKU Student Research Conference in March 2014. Dr. Timothy Rich, in the Department of Political Science, serves as a mentor for all three.

Treece analyzes the role of framing in terms of opinions on gun control. Using an original web survey with an embedded experimental design, she tested whether partisan identification influences support for a hypothetical 24-hour waiting period. Survey respondents received a question framing gun control as being proposed either by Congress or by Democrats. Treece found that both partisan identity and gun ownership shape support for gun control. She also found widespread bi-partisan support for a 24-hour waiting period.

Settles examines patterns in Congressional candidates’ retractions of tweets on Twitter. Through the use of existing data from Politwoops and her own data collection, Settles found that female candidates were more likely to delete tweets, with limited distinction in terms of partisanship or age. She is expanding her project to analyze the speed with which tweets were removed and to cover the 2014 congressional campaign.
Using interviews and written records, Walker identified patterns in how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) navigate access into North Korea and where NGOs are most likely to be successful. Overall, his research challenges perceptions of North Korea as hostile to international engagement.

All three students expect to submit their research to peer-reviewed journals later this year.

Margaret (Maggie) Woodard

An English major with a concentration in Creative Writing and minors in English Literature and Gender & Women’s Studies, Margaret Woodard has long been interested in the interconnectedness of all these disciplines. Particularly, she has focused a great deal on the representation of women on film and how this depiction varies from culture to culture. She is also intrigued by women filmmakers and writers and wanted to explore how women articulate their experiences creatively.

Woodard’s FUSE grant provided the time and resources to carry out her research, and the opportunity to share her work at the Pop Culture/American Culture’s Annual National Conference in Chicago. There she presented a paper about two films and filmmakers—Deepa Mehta’s Fire and Kent Mackenzie’s The Exiles. She also read part of an original poetry collection based on her experience as a woman growing up in the American South. She calls presenting at a national conference as an undergraduate “a tremendous gift” and “an incomparable learning experience.” The FUSE grant not only was instrumental in her acceptance to a graduate program, but will assist her in future scholarship.

Nick Rabold

Nick Rabold’s Capstone Experience/Thesis, directed by Dr. Patricia Minter of the Department of History, tells the story of desegregation of the City of Bowling Green, Ky. Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas declared that segregation deprived minority groups of equality in 1954, and the first implementation of the ruling in the United States followed with Willis v Walker from Adair County, Ky., in 1955. Willis was decided at the federal courthouse in Bowling Green. Despite this, the desegregation of the Bowling Green schools did not come until 1963 with Willie Larry Lawrence, et al. v Bowling Green, Kentucky Board of Education. Rabold sought out relevant legal documents, news media and NAACP documentation of desegregation in Bowling Green to tell the story of Lawrence. Rabold secured his FUSE Grant in spring 2013, enabling him to travel to Washington, D.C., and study the NAACP files on Bowling Green and Warren County at the Library of Congress. Rabold was also able to obtain the case files of both Willis and Lawrence from the National Archives at Atlanta. Rabold’s work is the first detailed, scholarly publication on Lawrence.
Although the conflict in Northern Ireland officially ended 16 years ago with a peace agreement signed in 1998, the struggle for a united society is far from over. From semantic tensions naming the peace agreement to structural divisions segregating Protestant and Catholic students in schools, the country remains, in many ways, divided.

Emma Collins, a senior from Chicago, Ill., majoring in Corporate and Organizational Communication, spent eight weeks this summer with an internship in conflict resolution in the heart of a once violent, now healing city in Northern Ireland—Derry–Londonderry.

Tucked away in the northwest corner of Northern Ireland, the city has been traumatized by religious tensions for the last 400 years. From the 17th century siege by William of Orange to the 1972 murder of 14 Catholic protesters on Bloody Sunday by the British Army, to a series of IRA bombings in Protestant neighborhoods, this city’s walls have witnessed too much violence. The most recent bout of conflict, The Troubles (1966-1998), injured over 40,000 people and claimed more than 3,500 lives.

However, since the 1998 peace agreement, the country has made immense progress. Community organizations heavily funded by the European Union and other international agencies have worked to decrease violence to an historic low.

Collins interned with The Junction, a peace and reconciliation community organization whose current project is Ethical and Shared Remembering. This program facilitates the planning of commemorative memorials in a way that does not ignite sectarian violence. Many in the community are worried that the centurial commemorations of World War One, the 1916 Easter Rising, and the 1922 partition of Northern Ireland will be sparks that ignite a divided society back into devastating conflict. The Junction works with political and religious leaders to plan memorials ethically and to ensure they do not renew hostility for any particular group.

Through the Towards Understanding and Healing project, The Junction also hosts workshops for community members from both Catholic/Republican and Protestant/Loyalist backgrounds to give them a space to tell their story of how The Troubles affected their lives. In some cases, former paramilitary members from the Loyalist community share intense stories with former paramilitary members from the Republican community. At the height of The Troubles, this combination of people sharing the same space would have led to almost certain violence, but The Junction has provided forums to create mutual understanding, peace, and healing.
These forums created an incredible opportunity for Collins to learn about the conflict from those most affected. She has built strong bonds with ex-combatants—once jailed because of their involvement—who are now committed to making peace. Because visa requirements limit these individuals’ ability to travel to the U.S., WKU’s commitment to international reach is the only way these connections are currently possible.

Although much of the work Collins completed focused on learning about the tumultuous history of the Emerald Isle, she is extremely optimistic about the present and future for Derry~Londonderry. The city recently completed a nine-day-long festival to welcome in a fleet of clipper boats racing around the world. Noticeably absent from the celebration was crime. Instead, Protestants, Catholics and a range of people from growing immigrant populations enjoyed a mile-long marketplace along the River Foyle filled with shopping, food, and music. Tens of thousands of participants filled the riverfront, not only to celebrate the clipper boats, but also to bask in the glory of a new era for Northern Ireland.

But to succeed in the mission of creating a vibrant, shared future, peace builders have had to adapt to a variety of new challenges. The social landscape in Northern Ireland is no longer a binary division of Catholics and Protestants. And, unfortunately, rising populations of immigrants, many Muslim, have revealed a tragic disposition towards xenophobia in the region.

The rising frequency of hate crimes against migrants has prompted The Junction to begin a new project called the City of Sanctuary. The goal of this program is to create a neutral, safe space where people of all ages, races, and religions can find an opportunity for cross-community dialogue and friendship.

Collins is interning for The Junction, a peace and reconciliation community organization whose current project is Ethical and Shared Remembering.
As part of her internship, Collins crafted a marketing plan for the City of Sanctuary to create more inclusive, well-attended events around the city, attempting to change the conversation from bitter division to progressive inclusivity and hospitality. Collins feels her experiences at WKU in the Communication and English Departments and participation on the WKU Forensics team have helped her greatly in preparing for her internship.

In the classroom, it might be easy to shrug off small errors, but using the correct language can have drastic consequences in a post-conflict zone. Republican and Loyalist communities disagree about what to call almost everything, down to the name of the city. Protestant Loyalists prefer the city's official name—Londonderry. However, Catholic Republicans generally contest the addition of London to the name as a marker of British imperialism and prefer Derry. To make matters more complicated, a third group of traditional Republicans prefer the original Irish/Gaelic name—Doirè.

Derry–Londonderry or L'Derry are adaptations of the city's name to create the most inclusive language possible. For observers, these differences may seem insignificant. But for residents on both sides of the conflict, the name of the city is another reminder of the hurt created by decades of fear and hate.

Collins is of Irish descent, but she was careful to remember that she is an outsider to this community. Although she attempted to learn all she could, no amount of reading and listening could replace the pain experienced by many of the people she met who have been forced from their homes, witnessed the tar and feathering of women, or lost friends and family. However, Collins recognized a unique role outsiders can play.

Collins noted that “many people have spent their whole lives so entrenched in sectarian division that they forget to notice the progress that has been made. I tried to bring to attention all of the things I noticed that make this city so wonderful.” She is excited to export the success they have had building peace through dialogue to communities in the U.S. Collins lamented, “Ironically and tragically, I am a lot safer living in this post-conflict zone than I am in my hometown of Chicago, where over 1,100 people have been shot and nearly 200 killed in the first six months of 2014. But I am soaking in all I can here, because they have created peace and are fighting to keep it. I want that for Chicago, too.”

The director of The Junction, Maureen Hetherington, often speaks about how the work the organization has done in Northern Ireland is culturally transferrable to many areas around the world because the need to connect to others and share our story is part of the human experience. The people of Derry–Londonderry may still have work to do in creating a shared society, but their progress is an inspiration to onlookers around the world. For Collins, experiencing this community as her classroom is a lesson she'll never forget.

Emma Collins, a senior major in Corporate and Organizational Communication from Chicago, Ill., is a current events, hiking and skiing enthusiast. She is the recipient of a Forensics scholarship and wants to become fluent in German and Spanish. After graduating from WKU in May 2015, she hopes to attend graduate school and eventually find a career that allows her to travel internationally.
Department of Modern Languages presents the new Chinese and Arabic majors

BY LAURA MCGEE

In January 2014, WKU added a Chinese major and the first Arabic major in Kentucky, along with corresponding minors and 28 new Arabic and Chinese courses. Arabic and Chinese continue to be the fastest-growing foreign languages studied in the United States. In the first semester offered at WKU these programs have exceeded expectations, attracting 40 Chinese and 18 Arabic majors. Students have combined these majors with study in fields as diverse as Nursing, Archaeology and Psychology. Arabic/Photojournalism major Nikki Boliaux remarked, “I came to WKU for the photojournalism program with the intent of studying Arabic. Luckily Arabic became a major during my first semester and I’m able to study and major in exactly what I want. I think studying a language, especially a critical language, expands your cultural intelligence and provides you with knowledge you need to interact with other citizens of the world.” Currently, almost 90% of WKU Chinese majors study abroad with the aid of scholarships, including 17 Confucius Institute scholarships and eight awards for excellence in China’s national standardized test, the HSK. Meanwhile WKU students are learning Arabic in Jordan, Morocco, and Oman through Gilman, National Security Language Initiative, and Critical Language Scholarships.

Laura McGee is Head of the Department of Modern Languages. She has been a faculty member in the German program at WKU since 1997.

Department of Sociology presents the new Criminology major

BY DOUG SMITH

Starting in fall 2014, the Sociology Department will offer a new Bachelors degree in Criminology as well as add several concentrations to its existing Sociology major. These changes are the fruition of nearly two years’ work by the department’s faculty, and they are designed to give students more opportunities to clearly identify their specializations and competencies to prospective employers. The Department of Sociology now offers three minors (Sociology, Criminology, and Sexuality Studies), two undergraduate majors (Sociology and Criminology), and two advanced degrees (the Sociology M.A. program and the online criminology M.A. program).

While there are existing programs in criminal justice and criminal justice administration, WKU will have the Commonwealth’s first undergraduate criminology major program. Criminology gives students a basic knowledge of criminal justice, as well as a strong interdisciplinary command of theories and research methodologies and their application in order to develop practical solutions to crime problems.

In addition to the new Criminology major, the department is adding four concentrations to the sociology major: Inequality and Social Change; Research Methods; Community, Environment, and Development; and Family, Gender, and Sexuality. Students can still pursue a generalist sociology degree without declaring a concentration.

Doug Smith is Head of the Department of Sociology.
During her spring 2014 sabbatical, Associate Professor Angela M. Jerome became a part of a women’s intercollegiate athletics team, but she didn’t play in a game or coach; she studied their communication. The study started off as just another one of her “crazy” research ideas and ended up being one of the best experiences of her career. She calls it just another one of her crazy research ideas because studying communication in sports originated from a humorous conversation she had with her dissertation advisor, Professor Robert C. Rowland at the University of Kansas. She explains, “While writing my doctoral dissertation on Firestone’s image repair campaign following its tread separation crisis, Dr. Rowland joked that if I spent as much time writing as I did watching NASCAR, I would be more productive. After earning my Ph.D., I decided to write an essay about an image repair campaign undertaken by NASCAR driver Tony Stewart to see if I could be more productive writing about what I loved. It got published, and I embarked on a mission to add to scholarship concerning communication in sports.”

Jerome continued to focus her research on the image campaigns of NASCAR drivers and car owners. But her love of intercollegiate athletics also led her to conduct studies with colleagues and students on image repair in the NCAA. Because of a fondness for women’s intercollegiate basketball acquired from her parents, Jerome’s research evolved in a new direction in 2012. Paying a great deal of attention to the media’s coverage of the 40th anniversary of Title IX (the legislation which forced federally-funded universities to offer women equal opportunities in all areas, including athletics), she became fascinated with the stories of the participants in ESPN’s 2002 documentary titled On the Basis of Sex: The Battle for Title IX (re-aired in 2012 as part of ESPN’s The Power of Title IX celebration). That same year, Team USA’s Women’s Olympic Basketball Team, made up of former intercollegiate greats and WNBA all-stars, was on course to win its 5th straight gold medal. She could not wait to watch, but she noticed that the team largely went overlooked in the media hype leading up to the Olympics and that the team, led by its marquee player, Diana Taurasi, initiated a public campaign to change that. As a scholar of image campaigns, Jerome undertook the challenge of studying the campaign and produced a paper titled “From Title IX to Legitimacy: The Narrative of Team USA’s 2012 Women’s Olympic Basketball Team”; she presented the paper at the 2013 Central States Communication Association Convention in Kansas City, Mo., While doing that research, she found only a few studies concerning the communication of female athletes. Team USA went on to win that 5th gold medal, and she went on to further study the communication of female athletes.
Jerome could have continued to study what female athletes say in the media, but she wanted to learn how they communicated when the cameras were off and no reporters were around. She also wanted to understand how they and their coaches managed conflict, built team identification, motivated one another, discussed discipline, balanced academics and athletics, talked about the media portrayals of themselves and other female athletes, talked about life after college, and discussed Title IX.

She wanted their stories to be heard, so she set out to find the funding for such a study and a team willing to allow her to travel with them and attend practices to observe their communication up close. She also wanted to interview all members of the team concerning the issues outlined above. Though she had not secured a team at the time, she applied for and received a WKU RCAP grant co-funded by the Department of Communication, Potter College of Arts & Letters, and the Office of Sponsored Programs, which covered the cost of Jerome’s travel, transcriptions of the interviews, and of the stipend for a graduate student to code data.

Jerome found one women’s intercollegiate athletics team that graciously and courageously agreed to participate in the study, and she attended two of the team’s away games, traveling on the bus with the team and sitting on the bench before and during the game so that she could hear and see interactions firsthand. She also attended all pre- and post-game team meetings at those events. She interviewed all but one player on the team, attended three practices leading up to the team’s conference tournament, attended its year-end banquet, and sat in the stands for many home games during the season.

All of her data has been collected, and Jerome is in the analysis phase of the project. Reflecting on her experience, she notes, “While I don’t have any official results at this time, I can tell you that I met a group of well-spoken, welcoming, professional, funny, and inspiring young women who were honest even when honesty wasn’t necessarily easy. The time, energy, commitment, and communicative skill it takes to come together as a team, handle conflict, remain competitive, and maintain a solid academic performance is beyond comprehension. Yet, these women did it.”

Interestingly, in her grant proposal Jerome argued that her study needed to be done because “In 2010-2011, nearly two-hundred thousand young women competed on NCAA-sanctioned athletic teams. These women, who spend countless hours at practices, traveling, and playing their sports are role models for the children who write their names on posters and wear their jerseys. They are also future business leaders, teachers, doctors, lawyers, judges, congresswomen, coaches etc. The communication they learn and enact matters because team communication experiences structure, at least in part, the future life experiences of these women and those around them.” Of her participants Jerome remarks, “Almost all of the women on the team I worked with had clear personal and/or professional aspirations. Some had already applied to and been accepted by graduate programs in their chosen fields of study; most others had mapped out the steps to get them where they wanted to be after graduation. Having completed all of my data collection, I am confident that the communication skills these young women have learned during their time as student-athletes will play a role in their future endeavors.”

Jerome hopes that the results of this study and others that are sure to follow will be used to help women’s athletics teams increase their communicative effectiveness. Of her research she comments, “I am far from being one of the most productive scholars in the communication discipline, but I have found a research trajectory that allows me to produce valuable research while watching countless sporting events. What could be better for a woman who loves sports?”

**Angela M. Jerome** is an Associate Professor of Communication. Her research focuses on organizational image repair and sports communication. Her most recent publication in this area, “A Death, a Family Feud, and a Merger: The Image Repair of Teresa Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt, Inc.,” appears in Blaney, Lippert, and Smith’s 2012 book Repairing the Athlete’s Image.
The Potter College of Arts & Letters is proud to congratulate the college award winners in Teaching, Research and Creative Activity, Advising, and Service. All the recipients were nominated by colleagues or students, and then selected by a committee of their peers.

In Sociology, Associate Professor James Kanan received the Potter College Award for outstanding teaching. He teaches Sociology and Criminology courses, and teaches a lot—299 students during the 2013-14 academic year. In complimenting him, students have called Kanan everything from a “genius” to a Marine Corps Commandant. Kanan himself notes “creating [an] environment to learn is my task and my joy. Learning their names, addressing their needs, adapting assessments to meet a wide range of abilities and needs, and engaging students both in and out of the classroom are part of what I think constitutes quality teaching. I am lucky to have the job I do and to enjoy its challenges as much as I do.”

Associate Professor Beth Plummer, from the Department of History, received the Potter College Award for Outstanding Research/Creative Activity. Much of her scholarship focuses on reconstructing the daily lives of people who are caught up in the grand sweep of history. Plummer sees advising as a professional activity that is closely interwoven with the rest of her professional life—with her teaching and her scholarship. She describes advising as a “multi-faceted responsibility that includes the expected realms of scheduling and monitoring degree program progress but also includes fostering the academic and personal development of students.” She makes extensive use of experiential learning projects that often put students in new settings and introduce them to the work of her discipline. She holds a Master Advising Certificate and stays current with advising-related information. Plummer models the commitment to personal and professional development that is at the heart of her approach to advising—a message that students should make trying new things part of the undergraduate experience. One of her students commented that “her style and humor… make it easy to fall in love with Anthropology.”

Associate Professor Kate Hudepohl, of the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, is the recipient of the Potter College Award for Advising. Hudepohl sees advising as a professional activity that is closely interwoven with the rest of her professional life—with her teaching and her scholarship. She describes advising as a “multi-faceted responsibility that includes the expected realms of scheduling and monitoring degree program progress but also includes fostering the academic and personal development of students.” She makes extensive use of experiential learning projects that often put students in new settings and introduce them to the work of her discipline. She holds a Master Advising Certificate and stays current with advising-related information. Hudepohl models the commitment to personal and professional development that is at the heart of her approach to advising—a message that students should make trying new things part of the undergraduate experience. One of her students commented that “her style and humor… make it easy to fall in love with Anthropology.”

Associate Professor Miwon Choe, from the Department of Art, is the...
recipient of the Potter College Service Award. Choe believes there’s an artist in everyone. Her award folder is brimming with letters from Art teachers in area schools extolling what Choe has done to put the visual arts at the heart of the K-12 school experience. But she’s also worked with the non-profit organization Very Special Arts to bring art to students with disabilities, with the Center for Gifted Studies to make art part of Super Saturdays and SCATS, with with Study Abroad to take future art teachers to Cuba, Ghana, and South Korea, with Study Away to take art teachers to Los Angeles, and she utilizes art to help international students learn English. One of her colleagues wrote, “The creative and intellectual impact of her work within the community will ripple through our region for years to come.” As she puts it, “My commitment to service, P-12 art outreach, and advocacy teamwork define and guide my work, and it IS the heart of the WKU art education program.”

Instructor Wren Mills, of the Department of English, has received the Potter College Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award. Drawing her inspiration from mentors as diverse as current faculty to Zen Master Shunru Suzuki, Mills believes in renewing her teaching in order to never teach the same class twice in the same way. As an instructor she feels that she best meets the needs of her students by thinking of the class holistically while also considering the individual needs of the students. Student comments such as “Dr. Mills is the most effective teacher I’ve had in college,” that she “goes above and beyond to meet the needs of her students,” and that hers is “the most organized class I’ve ever taken” reveal her skills as a teacher and the deep admiration and respect that her students have for her. Previous winners of the Faculty Teaching Award note Mills’ commitment to ongoing professional development, and that she is someone to whom experienced teachers go for advice.

POTTER COLLEGE SCHOLARS

At each commencement ceremony, we recognize students with the highest grade point average as Scholars of the College. This May 11 graduates were honored as Scholars of the College.

Hannah Brantley (Sociology)
Nicholas Bratcher (Spanish/Religious Studies)
Trip Carpenter (History/Film)
Katherine Cook (Sociology)
Anna Beth Gillon (Film)
James Ben Hussung (Religious Studies)
Sharon Leone (Sociology)
Bliss Powers (English for Secondary Teachers)
Penny Sprigg (Advertising)
Ryan Vennell (Broadcasting)
Scott Vennell (Broadcasting)

In addition, Mark Reeves from the History Department was recognized at the Graduate Commencement as the outstanding graduate student in Potter College.
Julie Lyn Barber is a doctoral candidate at Ball State University, and earned a Masters of Music in Opera and Music Theatre at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She has taught music and theatre at Taylor University (Upland, In.) and Portland Community College (Ore.). She regularly choreographs, directs, and music directs musical theatre and opera, and she was the founding managing director of the American Heritage Theater Project in Portland, Ore. She has played the role of “Berenice” in Cabaret Poe with Q Artistry in Indianapolis every October since 2009, and regularly appears in productions at the Indianapolis Theatre Fringe Festival. Other favorite roles include “Maria” in West Side Story (Theatre Under the Stars, Vancouver), “Sister Amnesia” in Nunsense (Sylvia’s Class Act Dinner Theatre, Portland) and “Cordelia” in Falsettos (triangle! theatre productions, Portland). Recent awards for singing include winning the BSU Concerto Competition, being a finalist for The Chicago Oratorio Award, and winning an Encouragement Prize from the Audrey Rooney Bach Competition. As an Early Music specialist, Barber has performed with the Amherst Early Music Festival and directed for the Bloomington Early Music Festival. A number of her plays have been produced, and she has written several articles for Classical Singer magazine.

Amanda Crawford is an award-winning journalist with more than 15 years’ experience working for major international, national and regional outlets. Her stories have appeared in most of the largest newspapers in the U.S. and in magazines and web publications around the globe. She’s also an experienced journalism professor, having served on faculty at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University. Most recently she worked as the Southwest correspondent for Bloomberg News and Businessweek magazine. She has traveled nationwide to write major articles on a wide range of topics from mass murders and wildfires to political campaigns and public spending on sports. She tells stories across multiple platforms, contributing to a blog, shooting photographs and video and appearing on TV and radio. She began her career in Washington, D.C., working for People Magazine and other publications. She earned a Master of Mass Communication degree from Arizona State University.

Lindsey Eastman is a recent graduate of Penn State University where she received her M.F.A. in Costume Design. Before beginning at Penn State, Eastman was a designer, costume shop manager, and instructor at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Ill. During summer 2014 she was the cutter/draper for the McLeod Summer Playhouse at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she worked with several WKU students and alums on Oklahoma!, Spamalot, and Anything Goes. She received her B.A. in Theatre Design and Production from Illinois State University in 2007. She has also worked as a costume technician at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington, Ill. and the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, Calif. Eastman is very excited to work with the faculty, staff, and students at WKU and to pursue her passion for roller derby with the local team.

Kate Horigan earned her Ph.D. in English with a specialization in Folklore Studies from The Ohio State University. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Tulane University. Before coming to WKU, she taught in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University. Her research focuses on expressive culture in disaster-affected communities; she is currently working on a long-term study of personal
narratives shared by Hurricane Katrina survivors. She is also involved in global initiatives to study and ultimately improve disaster response. Other areas of interest and expertise include memory and commemoration, ethnography of communication, and critical trauma theory. This fall at WKU, she is teaching Supernatural Folklore, Urban Folklore, and Folklore Genres.

**Tammy Jeffries**

Jeffries’ educational journey began at Friends School in Detroit, a liberal school founded in the Quaker tradition, emphasizing equality. As a child she took these lessons to heart and lived a life that minimized judging others. As a non-traditional student and the first in her immediate family to finish college, Jeffries earned an undergraduate and graduate degree from Western Michigan University and her doctorate in 2013 from the University of South Florida. Throughout the years her research remained centered on issues of equality, relationships, and identity development winning her University-wide honors and several national awards. As a scholar in the area of diversity communication, she is most interested in understanding how we shape the messages that deal with cultural diversity, showing how these messages are communicated and/or miscommunicated. Jeffries’ most recent research project examined the ontoepistemological (how we come to know, what we know, and what we do with that information) underpinnings of diversity education in the field of communication by focusing on the points where diversity, pedagogy and interpersonal communication intersect. Jeffries is honored to accept the invitation to join Western Kentucky University’s Communication Department and looks forward to meeting the students and faculty of WKU and exploring the beautiful Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Aramide Kazeem**

Kazeem is interested in teaching courses on the applications of statistics in social science research, research methods, social demography, and development issues in sub-Saharan Africa. She taught statistics at the undergraduate level at Penn State for two years. Her research interests include demographic aspects of education, international development, child labor, gender, and schooling in sub-Saharan Africa. Her current research examines orphan-hood and schooling in Nigeria.

**Amanda Lee**

Amanda Lee graduated with her bachelor’s degree in Social and Behavioral Science from Western Kentucky University in 2014. She has been employed by WKU since 2010 working at the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology as a student assistant. In 2013 Amanda joined the WKU staff and began working with the Confucius Institute and the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, where she held the position of office assistant. Amanda joined the Department of Music in June 2014, where she will assume the responsibilities of book finances and office management.

**Christopher S. Lewis**

Christopher S. Lewis is excited to join the WKU faculty. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Cincinnati and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from The Ohio State University, where he also held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Most recently, he spent a year as a visiting assistant professor of English at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. His teaching and research interests include African American literature, U.S. ethnic literature, post-1865 U.S. literature and queer studies. His research on African American LGBT writing can be found in recent and forthcoming issues of *Rocky Mountain Review* and *African American Review*. Chris’s courses often ask students to put African American literature in conversation with African American music and visual art, an extension of his personal interests in attending concerts and composing visual art that he looks forward to exploring in Bowling Green.
**Christa Moore** joins the Sociology Department this fall as an Instructor for the WKU Dual Credit Program. She is a Kentucky native, originally from Beaver Dam. Moore is a WKU alumna who received her A.B. in Psychology in 1998 and a M.A. in Sociology in 2005. She has 15 years of experience in providing human services to at-risk families and children through her work with non-profit and public agencies. Her specializations are in the areas of child abuse and neglect prevention and facilitating collaborative partnerships. Moore is currently completing a doctorate in Applied Sociology at the University of Louisville. Moore and her husband, Ron, enjoy being outdoors, gardening, and cooking out with family and friends; watching science fiction films and television shows; and caring for their dogs.

**Michael Reno**, Visiting Assistant Professor in Philosophy, graduated from Illinois State University in 1999 with a double major in English and Philosophy and a minor in Women’s Studies. He attended graduate school at Michigan State University, where he earned an M.A. in 2001 and a Ph.D. in 2011 with a dissertation titled “Adorno and the Possibility of Practical Reason.” While finishing his Ph.D., Reno held a visiting instructor position at Grand Valley State University from 2006 through 2009. Since then he has taught a variety of courses at Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Lansing Community College, and Michigan State University. Reno’s research exists at the intersection of environmental ethics and critical theory. He is currently working on pieces on the concept of nature, the limits to economic growth, what constitutes an action, and the moral status of animals. He is excited to begin teaching courses at WKU that not only touch on some of these themes, but also help show students the breadth of philosophical inquiry and its usefulness in everyday life. Reno, his partner, Melissa Nelson, and their two children enjoy growing, cooking, and eating food and are excited to see Mammoth Cave National Park.

**Marcia Sanders** recently joined WKU as the Office Assistant for the Department of Modern Languages. She comes to the University from a local company where she worked as an administrative assistant for the past 15 years. She is looking forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students and is excited to take on this new role as well as be part of a program that supports students in learning new languages and cultures. Sanders was born and raised in Bowling Green, Ky., and has deep roots in the community where she attended WKU as a student. Her interests include reading, gardening, and spending time with her daughter.

**Bradley Vieth** has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, San Diego State University, Saddleback College, and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. He received his training at Oberlin Conservatory (B.M.) and the University of Texas at Austin (M.M. and post-graduate). Vieth’s New York theatrical credits include *Wings, A Child’s Garden, Shout! The Mod Musical, Smile, See What You Want to See* (workshop with Audra McDonald), *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *Triumph of Love* (pre-Broadway). His Chicago credits include *A Little Night Music* (Jeff Award for Best Musical Direction), *The Grand Duchess, Forbidden Broadway, Another Midsummer Night, Lend Me a Tenor, Book of the Night, Jerry’s Girls, The Libertine* (with John Malkovich), *Lovers and Friends, The Rake’s Progress*, and *The Consul* (stage director). In Los Angeles, Vieth orchestrated and performed in the West Coast premiere of LaChiusa’s *First Lady Suite, Divorce Party, the Musical* is currently playing in Las Vegas, which Vieth arranged and orchestrated. European credits include *Chicago, On the Town, 42nd Street, Cabaret, Carmen, West Side Story, and Little Shop of Horrors* (German premiere). In his spare time he enjoys traveling in Spain and renovating old houses.

**Rachel Walston** was born to teach Fundamentals of Public Speaking and Communication. As the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach’s first full-time Dual Credit faculty member, Rachel
teaches five sections of COMM 145 every semester in high schools from Warren Central to Metcalfe County, as well as online. An Instructor with the Department of Communication since August 2012, Rachel moved into the Dual Credit role in January 2014 and quickly found teaching high school juniors and seniors both a rewarding and a challenging enterprise. A Yankee by birth, Walston holds a bachelor of science in journalism from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and a master of arts in communication from WKU. She proudly serves as faculty co-advisor for WKU’s LGBTQ student organization, Student Identity Outreach, and can periodically be seen celebrating diversity by dancing around campus in a rainbow tutu. Outside the classroom, Walston’s alter-ego, Patti Whack!, is active with Vette City Roller Derby. An injury ended her four-year skating career in 2013, so she picked up a microphone and now basks in the spotlight as one of the teams’ announcers. She lives in Bowling Green with one roommate (Chris), one hedgehog (Marshmallow), and two cats (Ripley and Herriot), and pines daily for her wife Stephanie, who is serving the U.S. Army at Fort Meade, Md.

Alison Youngblood discovered her passion for teaching while working as an Assistant Language Teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. She lived in Saitama Prefecture from 2004 to 2006 teaching English at a local middle and elementary school. Upon returning to the States, she received her M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Central Florida. She then accepted a position in South Korea with Samsung Human Resources as a Corporate Language Trainer. She returned to the U.S. in 2010 to begin her Ph.D. in TESOL. As a doctoral student, she ran a grant-funded adult English as a Second Language program with Orange County Library Services, which has served over 1,500 non-native speakers in Central Florida. In addition, she has worked on research projects with the local hospitality industry to develop workplace English language programs and on Race to the Top initiatives as an ESOL consultant for STEM professionals in a job-embedded teacher preparation program. Outside of work, Alison enjoys yoga, photography, and spending time on the water. She is looking forward to exploring Bowling Green and the surrounding areas.

Huiqiang Zheng is the new clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages. She earned an M.A. in Education at Shaanxi Normal University in 2007, a Ph.D. in Chinese Linguistics and Literature from Xiamen University in 2013, and an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Purdue University in 2014. Zheng has taught Chinese as a second language both in China and the United States for ten years, and initiated the Chinese Program in Xijing University in 2007, where she also taught Modern Chinese Literature. She served as full-time lecturer in Chinese Literature & Culture at the University of Texas - Pan American in 2008 – 2009. Her research focuses on the application of advanced semantic-networks research and pedagogy theories in Chinese classes. Huiqiang Zheng loves teaching and is eager to aid students learning Chinese. She looks forward to joining the team at WKU.
Art

• The Department of Art notes the following activities and faculty accomplishments from the past year.

Our new kiln building at WKU’s farm has successfully produced a series of wood-fired pots for students, faculty, and visiting artists. The facility is now nearing completion with the installation of electricity on site. This major improvement in the facility will provide much easier access to power tools, welding equipment, and lighting throughout the facility. The department anticipates providing a greater variety of art instruction opportunities at the site.

• Associate Professor of Art and Gallery Director, Kristina Arnold, recently assisted with cataloging the late David Coffey’s extensive collection of Ecuadorian masks. Professor Arnold is currently curating from the collection to offer a cross-curriculum exhibit of these items during the university’s upcoming international themed celebration, “The Year of Ecuador” in 2014-15. Ingrid Cartwright was recently promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor of Art History and was also granted tenure this past year. A college committee of her peers identified Associate Professor Miwon Choe as the recipient of the Potter College Award for Public Service. Assistant Professor of Art, Brent Dedas exhibited his work internationally at the Contemporary Art Fair, “Art Prague, 2014.” A selection of his drawings was also exhibited by Manifest Gallery of Cincinnati, Ohio, in the 8th and 9th editions of the “International Drawing Annual.” Yale University’s MAVCOR Project (Material and Visual Culture of Religion) selected Associate Professor Guy Jordan’s essay, “The Politics of (Mere) Presence: The Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.” The department’s ceramics faculty member, Assistant Professor Lindsay Oesterritter, was invited to present a talk and exhibit her work at the 2nd Annual European Wood-Fire Conference, in Denmark, Sweden. She is also represented in a new book authored by Amedeo Salamoni titled “Wood Fired Ceramics: 100 Contemporary Artists.” Finally, the department notes the recent retirement of our colleague, Professor Laurin Notheisen, who served the Department of Art for 39 years. Our esteemed colleague leaves a legacy of the highest order in teaching, service, research, and creative activity that included drawing, painting, and printmaking. We wish her many years of unfettered creativity in the studio.

Communication

• This year, led by Associate Professor Blair Thompson as editor and lead author, faculty members wrote and had published a textbook for iOS or Android-based mobile devices for the Department of Communication’s COMM 200: Communication Foundations. Fifteen chapters, interactive activities, and PowerPoint slides enhance students’ understanding of basic communication theories. Students can download the app on computers, tablets, and smart phones. Because it is accessible in so many ways, the classroom can be “flipped,” with the app supporting in-class activities and discussions. Students show a clearer understanding of basic concepts and a better ability to apply those concepts to life experiences. Another tangible bonus is that the app costs students about $50 less than a typical textbook.
In February, 2014, the Department of Communication hosted its first executive in residence, Kari Warberg-Block—founder and CEO of Earth-Kind, inventor of Fresh Cab (an all natural, highly effective rodent repellent), North Dakota’s SBA Small Business Person of the Year, and National Second Runner Up in 2013. She is also included on the 2013 Inc. 5000 List. During her two-day residence, Warberg-Block spoke to four classes across three colleges, engaged in a spirited interview with alumnus Sam Ford, and met with deans and representatives from Potter College of Arts & Letters, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, and Gordon Ford College of Business.

In the fall of 2013, Dr. Paul Schrodt led the “Above and Beyond” lecture series. An Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Texas Christian University, Schrodt spoke to classes and gave an evening lecture on topics related to family communication. Schrodt’s topics touched on issues directly related to students’ lives, such as how divorced parents can more effectively share the care of their children, step-parenting, and divorce-related challenges to family communication. Students extended the conversation through a graduate student-instituted ReVerb event in which large posters were hung on department hall walls, with an invitation to students to post anonymous responses to issues Schrodt raised.

The Department of Communication hosted two speech contests this year, one on the Glasgow campus in the fall and another on the Bowling Green campus in the spring. Contestants from COMM 145 and 161, the general education Communication courses, compete with persuasive speeches developed in their classes. Begun by a generous donation from Dr. John Lyne, alumnus of the Department of Communication, member of the Communication Advisory Council, and the first Communication A.B. graduate to go on to earn a Ph.D. in the field, the speech contest highlights excellent speaking and awards monetary prizes to the top six speakers.

The Department of Communication is continuing its record of supporting diversity in the faculty. For the past two years, the department was honored to have Mittie K. Carey as a Visiting Minority Scholar. Carey taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in Rhetoric, her specialty area. She developed special topics courses on “Women, Rhetoric, and Civil Rights” at both graduate and undergraduate levels and taught Interracial Communication at the undergraduate level. For the next year or two Tammy Jeffries will continue Carey’s legacy, joining the Communication faculty as a Visiting Minority Scholar.

English

In 2014, the English Department is making a special effort to reach out to our alumni through an alumni survey. Our alumni are an under-utilized resource for our students and current faculty, and we hope to find ways that we can interact with each other over the coming years. In order to find out where our former students are, what they’re doing, and how the English major has helped them, we’ve created an online survey. We will certainly keep personal information secure, but we would like to use the information we gather about alumni and how the major has benefited them and feature their stories in our promotional materials. If alumni are in a position to host an intern or would be willing to give career advice to our majors, we would like to facilitate those opportunities as well. Visit our departmental webpage to access the survey.
The English Department held a retirement celebration for Associate Professors Lou-Ann Crouther, Lesa Dill, and Loretta Murrey at the end of the spring semester. Assistant Professor Walker Rutledge, Associate Professor Elizabeth Winkler, and Instructor Judith Hatchett, respectively, offered testimonials to the wonderful careers these professors have had and the positive influences they have had on our students.

Associate Professor Alison Langdon has been named co-editor of Enarratio, The Journal of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. In existence since 1992, Enarratio is an interdisciplinary periodical publishing peer-reviewed articles on medieval art, literature, and culture. Professor Langdon has been an active member of the Medieval Association of the Midwest since 2007 and has served on its executive council since 2008.

The Executive Board of the American Folklore Society (AFS) has accepted the Folk Studies Program’s proposal to edit the Journal of American Folklore for a tenure of five years. The journal, published quarterly, has been in existence since 1888, when AFS was founded, and is the leading American academic journal within the discipline of folklore. Ann Ferrell will serve as the Editor-in-Chief, with the other Folk Studies faculty serving as rotating co-editors or associate editors.

On March 26 and 27, 2014, the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology sponsored the fifth annual Collins-Bramham Public Folklore Workshop. The guests this year were Tim Lloyd, Executive Director of the American Folklore Society, and Bill Ivey, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Lloyd and Ivey discussed their careers and their visions for the future of the discipline. They also met with small groups of graduate students to discuss individual interests and with the folk studies faculty to brainstorm a proposed Folklore Leadership Initiative. Funding was provided by Dr. Camilla Collins and Dr. Jane Bramham. The following week the Kentucky Folklife Program held a University-Based Public Folklore Program Directors’ meeting on the WKU campus. A grant received through the American Folklore Society’s Consultancy and Professional Development Fund helped to bring together directors from eight states with the intention of providing peer-to-peer consultancy on a number of topics including navigating university culture, exploring fundraising models, engendering student service-learning in public practice, collaborating with colleagues in our departments and creating partnerships across campus and exploring ways in which we can partner with one another on the national level to achieve common cause.

Professor Erika Brady completed the three-year credentialing process accrediting her as an American Balint Society group Leader/Supervisor. Regularly meeting Balint groups are an internationally recognized means to enhance patient-physician communication across cultural, social, and psychological boundaries.

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Assistant Professor Eric J. Kondratieff received a NEH Summer Stipend for the second consecutive year, along with a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship (AY 2014-15) to support the completion of his book Tribunes of the Plebs in the Roman Republic, which is currently under contract with Cambridge University Press.

Associate Professor Patti Minter has been recognized for her service to the WKU community and beyond. Minter received the 2014 Student Government Association Citizen’s Award. This award honors citizens of the Bowling Green community for their contributions to their community and their support of WKU. The Gender and Women’s Studies program also awarded Minter this year’s Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award.
• Associate Professor Beth Plummer received this year’s Potter College Faculty Award for Research.

• Assistant Professor Selena Sanderfer received a Mellon Scholars Fellowship in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia-Short Term Fellowship, granted by the Library Company of Philadelphia’s Program in African American History and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support research by scholars from underrepresented backgrounds and others in the field of African American history prior to 1900. This grant will allow Sanderfer to conduct research this summer in the records of the American Colonization Society in Philadelphia. She is currently investigating emigration movements from the southern United States to Liberia throughout the 1800s.

• The Department also congratulates Dorothea Browder and Marc Eagle, both of whom earned tenure this year and were promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.

• The WKU Greek and Roman Classics Club sponsored a series of lectures on various aspects of life in the ancient world, including charioteering (ancient NASCAR), combat sports, and Aristotle’s opinions on “Why Stupid Jerks are the Worst.” This new club has proved very popular with students, and it plans to continue the lecture series next year. For information about speakers for AY 2014-15 visit the History Department web page.

• Professor John Marincola of Florida State University delivered this year’s Harrison Distinguished Lecture, titled “Drunken Persians, Heroic Queens and The 300 at Thermopylae: Making Sense of Herodotus’ Histories.” During his stay at WKU, Marincola also visited with the WKU Greek and Roman Classics Club and the Phi Alpha Theta History Club in conjunction with Kondratieff’s Greek History course for a more in-depth look at Herodotus’ historiographical methods.

• On March 21, 2014, approximately 600 area middle- and high-school students participated in the History Department’s 41st Annual History Contest. Assistant Professor Tammy Van Dyken organized the event.

Modern Languages
• Assistant Professor David DiMeo signed a contract with the American University in Cairo Press to write a literature textbook for learners of Arabic. DiMeo also presented “Unimaginable Community: Nubian Nationalism in Idris’ Ali: Dongola, A Nubian Novel” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Ky., on April 12, 2014.

• Hanban Volunteer Teacher for Chinese, Tian Tian, had papers on Chinese pedagogy accepted at two major national conferences in October and November 2014.

• Instructor Eddy Cuisinier presented at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference in Jacksonville, Fla., on March 17, 2014. He discussed his scholarship of teaching under the title “Learning Communities Via the Use of Facebook Closed Groups.”

• Professor Nathan Love presented “Perceval, the Slow Apprentice of Courtly Manners” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Ky., on April 10, 2014.

• Professor Laura McGee accompanied ten student teachers to Germany for a week of cultural-historical programming in Berlin at the start of their month-long student teaching experience.

• Professor Melissa Stewart led the May 2014 Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty Seminar to Ecuador, in which Dr. Kelly Conroy was one of the participants from the WKU campus community.
• Associate Professor Sonia Lenk taught the department’s first dedicated service learning course in spring 2014. Participants in this upper-level Spanish course first researched the needs of the Hispanic community and then planned and put on a Health Fair for Hispanics in Bowling Green.

• Professor Inma Pertusa edited and wrote the introduction to the anthology Fundido en negro: Antología de relatos del mejor calibre criminal femenino, a collection of original short stories featuring the most prominent female detectives from current Spanish crime fiction written by women. The collection was published in Spain by Alrevés in 2014, with a cover design by Professor Matt Tullis of the Department of Art.

• Instructor Yertty Vandermolen attended the XIII International Hispanic Literature Conference which took place in Cartagena, Colombia, from March 12-14, 2014. She presented a paper on the linguistic hybridity and hybrid identity of the protagonist on Esmeralda Santiago’s trilogy When I was Puerto Rican, Almost a Woman and The Turkish Lover. In addition to teaching Spanish at WKU-Glasgow in the 2014-15 academic year, Vandermolen will provide professional development and dual credit outreach to Spanish teachers in schools in Barren and surrounding counties.

• Spanish Instructor Susann Davis collaborated with Josh Meltzer, Photojournalist-in-Residence in the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, to lead a study abroad program in Salamanca, Spain, in early summer 2014.

• In May 2014, the department said goodbye to its Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants Ahmed Mostafa Awah Allah (Arabic), Nikita Prokhorov (Russian), Myeongok Lee (Korean), and Hanban Volunteer Teacher Suya Tan (Chinese). The department will offer Korean 101 for the first time in fall 2014, and Korean 102 is planned for spring 2015.

Music
• The WKU Department of Music was well represented at the 2014 Kentucky Music Educators Association annual convention in Louisville. The WKU Chorale, under the direction of Associate Professor Paul Hondorp, gave a featured performance for a capacity crowd that included students, teachers, convention attendees, and many WKU alumni. Associate Professor Ching-Yi Lin gave a presentation titled “It’s all about the Bow” with the help of students from the WKU Pre-College Strings Program, Instructor Andy Braddock presented the clinic “Teaching Vibrato with Ease,” and Professor Marshall Scott conducted the Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble.

Philosophy and Religion
• After 37 years of exemplary service, Professor Joseph Trafton will be moving to transitional retirement beginning in fall 2014. He will continue to teach for the department, but only during the fall semesters. Trafton has won several awards at WKU for his teaching and research, and it is fair to say that the positive reputation of his courses has only increased as the years have gone along. He has been the cornerstone of the Biblical Studies area in the Religious Studies program, and his efforts have been critical to making the undergraduate Religious Studies program one of the most successful in the country. In 2004, Trafton was named a University Distinguished Professor—the highest faculty honor at WKU. Of course, the public recognition only confirmed what his students and colleagues have known for years—that he is a teacher and scholar of significant achievement.

• The Department of Philosophy and Religion is excited to announce the availability of a new minor on campus. The Minor in Classical Studies will prepare students with interests in the Classical
Roman or Greek worlds to understand these foundational western civilizations from multiple methodologies and knowledge bases.

**Political Science**

- On April 10, 2014, the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach and the Department of Political Science’s MPA Program hosted a welcome dinner to bring together local law enforcement officers from the WKU Police Department, the City of Bowling Green Police Department, and new students from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

  Six students who work in law enforcement in the UAE joined the MPA program this summer. Both Chief Bob Deane of the WKU Police Department and Chief Doug Hawkins of the City of Bowling Green Police Department have graciously agreed to partner with the MPA program to enrich the learning experience of these students. As part of their training and education, these students will work closely with local law enforcement personnel over the next two years.

**Theatre and Dance**

- Assistant Professor **Eric Rivera**’s “Contratiempo” was selected out of 36 adjudicated works to be performed in the gala concert at the American College Dance Festival-South Conference at University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

- **Associate Professor Clifton Brown**, Director of the Dance Program, spent the spring 2013 semester on sabbatical in Spain studying authentic Flamenco dance. At the spring 2014 Evening of Dance Concert, his students performed the result of his sabbatical research, complete with authentic Flamenco costumes.

- **Endalyn Taylor**, Director of the School at the Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York City, visited WKU as a guest artist to work with our dance students.

- Assistant Professor **Michelle Dvoskin** coordinated the first New Works Festival, which resulted in four nights of new works, written, directed, and performed by more than 50 students in the department.

- The department sponsored its first WKU Study Away trip to New York City in January 2014. The 23 students and three faculty members spent a week seeing Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, touring theaters and meeting stars.

**School of Journalism and Broadcasting**

- This past summer, Spanish Instructor **Susann Davis** and Photojournalist-in-Residence **Josh Meltzer** took nine WKU students for a four-week study abroad experience in Salamanca, Spain, offering the first Spanish-Journalism six-credit program. Davis and Meltzer plan to continue the collaborative summer study abroad program in 2015 in Quito, Ecuador, and in 2016 in Mexico.

- The 2014 Western Kentucky Film Festival was again a rousing success—larger, more ambitious and better attended than any previous edition. Writer/director Kat Candler headlined the event, hot off of her recent Sundance success, and shortly before her feature film, **Hellion**, opened nationwide. Candler screened several of her short films for a Bowling Green audience and also participated in discussions and workshops related to screenwriting and directing. In addition to Candler, the Festival welcomed a variety of other filmmakers, documentarians and professionals in the movie industry. These guests screened their work and discussed the art and business of filmmaking. Several WKU alums—all now working in the film industry or as independent producers—guided students through a grueling 24-hour film production. The week also included a high-school film and video competition, which garnered nearly 400 entries and several programs of the very best films, documentaries, animation, and music videos produced by WKU students. After five days of events, the festival concluded on May 9 with an Oscar-style awards ceremony in front of a standing-room-only crowd on the WKU campus.
Glenda (Jones) Gregory ('71, Art) of Fountain Run, Ky., has been named the Tennessee Elementary Art Teacher of the Year for 2013-14 by the Tennessee Art Education Association.

Mitchell H. Payne ('72, History) of Louisville, Ky., has been named Interim Vice President for Business Affairs at the University of Louisville. The United States Commission on Civil Rights has appointed him to its Kentucky State Advisory Committee. Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, Ky., also recently appointed him to the Advisory Committee for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.

Ann Wilson Snively ('75,'81, Art) of Bellbrook, Ohio, recently retired as Director of Wright Memorial Public Library in Dayton, Ohio.

Tom Yunt ('77, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Sierra Vista, Ariz., has been named President and CEO of Wick Communications in Sierra Vista, Ariz. His wife, Marianne ('10) completed her degree after leaving WKU in 1977 only a few credits short; his son Ben is also a WKU alumnus.

Denita Hines ('82, '88, English) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently notified by the Journalism Education Association that she achieved the status of Certified Journalism Educator by passing the mastery exam.

John Todd Tolbert ('85, '89, History) of Bowling Green, Ky., is the new Student Services Coordinator at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, Ky., and is one of four remaining faculty members from the original 1990 staff at Greenwood.

Toya Richards ('89, Journalism & Broadcasting and English) of Louisville, Ky., is the new Associate for Communications in the Office of the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

Vicki Bagwell ('78, '92, Journalism & Broadcasting) and Communication of Madison, Tenn., has been inducted into the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellow. She is an Associate Professor at WKU.

Dr. Gene C. Crume, Jr. ('88, '93, Journalism & Broadcasting and Communication) was installed as Judson University's sixth President on Oct. 24, 2013. Judson University, located in Elgin, Ill., is a private Christian university of liberal arts, sciences, and professions. Crume earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and a Master's degree in Communication from WKU. He served as the Coordinator of Special Events in University Relations under Fred Hensley as Executive Director of the Alumni Association from 1993 to 2000, and taught as an adjunct instructor. Crume is married to Cindy Smith Crume ('87), and they reside in West Dundee, Ill., with their son, Gene III. Their daughter, Alexandra, is a freshman at Vanderbilt University.

Darryl Bridges ('91, Political Science) of Florence, S.C., was named Vice President for Development & Executive Director of the Education Foundation at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C. He has served at FMU in various positions in Student Affairs and Public Relations since 1997.

Tracy Maxwell ('92, Journalism & Broadcasting and English) of Denver, Colo., was presented the Elizabeth Heywood Wyman Award at the 52nd International Convention of the Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity.

Kirker Butler ('93, Theatre & Dance) The Neighbors, a sitcom on ABC, was nominated for a 2013 Primetime Emmy Award for Original Music and Lyrics. Butler, of Los Angeles, Calif., is a co-executive producer and writer on the sitcom.
Melissa Alford (’94, Communication) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has been promoted to Regional Sales Manager for a major pharmaceutical company.

Chaplain, Captain Doug Hess (’94, Communication and Philosophy & Religion) of Ft. Dix, N.J., deployed for Al Udeid Air Force Base in October 2013 for a 4-1/2 month tour in support of Operation New Dawn. He was the 2012 Wing Staff Agency Company Grade Officer of the Year at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N. J. He was also named the 2012 AMC (Air Mobility Command) Company Grade Officer Chaplain of the Year.

Scott E. Toncray (’94, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Franklin, Tenn., has received an accreditation in Public Relations. He is a current member of the Public Relations Society of America Nashville District Chapter. He volunteers in Disaster Public Affairs with the Nashville American Red Cross.

Brad Cannon (’95, Sociology) of Alvaton, Ky., franchise owner of Home Instead Senior Care, is the recipient of the inaugural Age-Friendly Awareness Award.

Chips of Red Paint, a modern Southern Gothic novel by Kelly Becker (’96, ‘99, English) of Franklin, Ky., takes the reader back to the summers of youth and the lessons of life. The book is available on Amazon.

Wes Pardue (’96, ‘00, English) of Scottsville, Ky., has been named Assistant Principal at Allen County-Scottsville High School.

Julie McCoy (’96, ’06, Sociology) of Bowling Green, Ky., received the Field Instructor of the Year Award from WKU for the year 2012-2013. Nominations were submitted by students and reviewed by the Department of Social Work.

Marcus L. Vanover (’97, Political Science and Sociology) of Somerset, Ky., was sworn in as the new Family Court Judge for Lincoln, Pulaski, and Rockcastle counties on Sept. 5, 2013.

Heather Garcia (’98, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Franklin, Ky., has joined the WKU Public Affairs staff as Marketing Manager for Regional Campuses.

Eric Vickrey (’99, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Jonesboro, Ark., has been named Director of Alumni Communications at Arkansas State University. He also recently tested for his third-degree black belt through the Ernie Reyes West Coast World Martial Arts Association.

Melanie Liontop (’82, ’98, English) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been named Assistant Principal at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, Ky.

2000s

Brandi Carey (’02, History and Political Science) of Lexington, Ky., has been inducted into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame for her achievements with Women’s Swimming.

Jana (Wright) Costner (’02, Modern Languages) and Jerome Costner of Clarksville, Ind., announce the birth of their second child, Ava Chanel, on Aug. 16, 2013. She weighed 10 pounds, 8 1/2 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Nancy Kate (Sullivan) Sam (’02, Sociology) of Franklin, Ky., announces the birth of her son, Lennox Xavier, on June 3, 2013. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Brandon (’03) and Megan (McCarty) Jackson (’02, Modern Languages) of Dacula, Ga., announce the birth of their daughter, McKenna Grace, on March 21, 2012. She was welcomed by her big sister, Siena, who is 6 years old.

Ted Mosey (’03, Sociology) and Caroline Mosey of Indianapolis, Ind., announce the birth of their daughter, Gwyneth Gray, on June 9, 2013. She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was welcomed by her big brother, Jude, and big sister, Ada.

Mark (’03, ’05) and Kim (Hunt) Vince (’03, History) of Princeton, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Russell Charles, on Sept. 10, 2013. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is also the
Have a craving to fill? Try Milkshakes & Eggrolls: A Pregnant Woman’s Recipe


Bill Lewis (’05, ’07, History) recently defended his Ph.D. dissertation in history, entitled “Valley of Industry: Developing a Regional Economy in the Post Jefferson’s Embargo Ohio Valley” at the University of Missouri.

Ameerah Palacios (’05, Journalism & Broadcasting and Modern Languages) of Mount Arlington, N.J., has earned the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) designation. She currently serves as the Community Relations Coordinator for Roxbury Township School District in Succasunna, N.J.

Jeremy (’06, Political Science) and Amanda (Demarest) Phillips (’02, ’06, Communication) of West Chester, Pa., announce the birth of their daughter, Demarest “Demi” Marie Phillips, on June 8, 2013. Her two big brothers, Nate and Ben, welcomed her.

Ruby Lewis (’07, Theatre & Dance) starred in We Will Rock You, an award-winning rock musical based on the music of Queen, recently played in Nashville, Tenn., at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Ruby Lewis (’07) of Los Angeles, Calif., is playing the female lead, Scaramouche.

Brittany (Sears) Walker (’07, Sociology) and Alan Walker of Adairville, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Mattie Lee, on Nov. 20, 2012. She weighed 4 pounds, 12 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long.

Ryne (’08) and Jessica (Teckenbrock) Dunkelberger (’07, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Shepherdsville, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Harper Elyse Mae, on Oct. 24, 2013.

Victoria “Tori” Burton (’09, Journalism & Broadcasting) of El Paso, Texas, is engaged to 1st Lt. Andrew J. Bruno of East Greenbush, N.Y. A 2015 wedding is planned at the USMMA Mariners’ Memorial Chapel in Kings Point, N.Y.

Kaylee Carnahan (’09, Political Science and Communication) of Bowling Green, Ky., will serve as the Third Congressional District Field Director for Gov. Terry Branstad’s campaign for the state of Iowa.

Alexandra Booze (’09, ’10, Political Science) of Washington, D.C., was recently named the Manager of Media and Policy for Citizens Against Government Waste, a private nonpartisan nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

2010s

Frames, a film by Brandon Colvin (’10, English) and Tony Oswald (’09, Journalism & Broadcasting), was honored by the NoBudge film website. The film was screened at the 2013 Western Kentucky Film Festival. Colvin is now a doctoral student in film at the University of Wisconsin. Oswald is an editor for IW Productions in New York City.

Ryan Driskill (’10, Political Science) of Greenville, Ky., has joined the law firm of Brent Yonts, PSC in Greenville, Ky.

Daniel Howard Houghton (’10, Journalism & Broadcasting) of Franklin, Tenn., recently became the Chief Operating Officer for Lonely Planet.

Sarah (Franklin) Brandenburg (’11, Journalism & Broadcasting) and David Brandenburg of Georgetown, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Harrison Andrew, on Aug. 30, 2013.

Krystol Stinson (’13, English) of Belton, Ky., has been named Chairperson for the Southern Kentucky Veterans Council. Stinson is an Outreach Coordinator for WKU Veterans Upward Bound.

Class Notes provided by SPIRIT magazine, the official college magazine of Western Kentucky University. If you wish to publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu
We hope you’ve enjoyed this edition of *Arts & Letters* and are as excited as we are about the accomplishments of Potter College’s students, alumni, and faculty. Please make a gift today supporting the **Potter College of Arts & Letters Dean’s Fund for Excellence**. Your financial support will provide increased academic opportunities for students within Potter College, including student support for study abroad, research and creative activity, and innovative learning opportunities beyond the classroom. We greatly appreciate your gift. It’s an investment in the future.

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Name _______________________________________________________
Home Address __________________________________________________
City ___________________ State _______ Zip _______
Home Phone __________________ Email ___________________
Spouse’s Name ____________________________    Attended WKU? ☐ Yes  ☐ No
WKU’s Cultural Enhancement Series (CES) now offers Premier Event ticketing. For any events labeled *CES Premier Event a ticket is required upon entry. All CES events, including *CES Premier Events are free admission to the campus and community. If an event is not labeled *CES Premier Event a ticket is not required upon entry, simply show up to the event. Please remember seating is limited for all events and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Free general admission tickets for *CES Premier Events are available at wku.showare.com or by calling the Fine Arts Box office at 1270-745-3121.

For accessibility information please contact the Fine Arts Box office at 1270-745-3121.