Fall 2013

University College Connection Fall 2013

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University College Newsletter

From the Dean’s Office

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Happy Holidays
Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

From
University College

** Regional Mail **

University College is responsible for getting mail from the Bowling Green campus to the regional campuses. If you have an item that needs to go to South Campus, Elizabethtown, Ft. Knox, Glasgow or Owensboro campuses, you may drop off your mail at: Tate Page Hall, Room 201, or call our office (745-4092) for pick up.

Please CLEARLY label the mail with the person’s name, campus, building name, and room number.

Your cooperation is appreciated!

Where’s Big Red?
Big Red (JUST LIKE the image to the left) is hidden somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to find him and you win a University College travel mug! Email wendi.kelley@wku.edu and tell us where you found him!
WIT Breast Cancer Awareness Day, which was held on Tuesday, October 15th, 2013. Women in Transition (WIT) is a student organization for non-traditional female students, who hosted the event. In preparation, WIT members and advisors baked tasty treats, decorated ornaments, and made pink ribbon pins to raise money for breast cancer research. At the event, we raised over $200 and donated all of the proceeds to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pictured from left to right: Tammy Wellman, Barbie Morrow, Megan Thompson (advisor), Jennifer Howard (advisor), Julia Howard, Heather Bailey

Some of the faculty in the Academic Support and Liberal Arts and Sciences department dressed up for Halloween.

Top row (left to right): Beverly Fulkerson, Trish Jaggers, Carnetta Skipworth, Jan Brockman, Jill Brown, Dana Emberton-Tinus, Michelle Hollis

Bottom row (left to right): Julia Howard, Jennifer Howard, Heather Strode
Jan Duvall and Shirley English from WKU South Campus attended the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) Conference in Boston, Massachusetts on November 6-9, 2013. CRLA is a group of student-oriented professionals active in the fields of reading, learning assistance, developmental education, tutoring, and mentoring at the college/adult level. [www.crla.net](http://www.crla.net).

This is the first time Jan and Shirley attended and they have come back to South Campus with a lot of fresh and new ideas. Jan is the Coordinator of the Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center and Shirley is an instructor for the math department at South Campus as well as the Chair for the ARLAC Board.

Student Welfare Committee of Academic Support hosted “Stress and Time Management” by Brian Lee from Counseling and Testing in room 303 on November 12th at 2:30. Previous sessions included: Homesickness and Anxiety (9/17) by Betsy Pierce, Counseling and Testing and Getting Involved (10/22) by the Alive Center.
Former WKU students responding to AIS degree audit
Over the summer and early part of the fall semester, Adult Learner Services, working in conjunction with Deborah Weisberger, Liberal Arts & Sciences Department Head, conducted a degree audit of approximately 175 former WKU students to see if they had enough credits to receive an Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) degree or if they needed only a few credit hours to get one. Seventy-eight either had enough credits to receive an AIS or needed less than 10 hours to get one. Letters and degree programs were sent out approximately three weeks ago.

Graduate Assistant Amy Mandelke, who did the lion's share of the audits, reports that six students have already sent in their signed degree program and have applied to receive their AIS. Thirteen more have contacted Adult Learner Services wanting information on returning to WKU to complete their degree. Requests are still coming in almost daily. It is hoped that students who return to WKU to complete an AIS will stay to complete a bachelor degree.

New web pages for near completion
After changing the program name to Adult Learner Services, new web pages were created with URLs that reflected the new identity. Those pages are near completion and should be published this month. The new pages will feature:

* the program’s new logo, which is compliant with the university branding effort;
* the promotion of Project Graduate (formerly WKU FINISH), which will make WKU compliant with CPE’s branding effort;
* more diversity in gender, age, race and cultural heritage;
* video vignettes of WKU adult students;
* tutorials;
* more information about services and resources offered around campus through programs such as Military Student Services, the Counseling and Testing Center and Women in Transition.

Adult Learner Services would like to thank the many people around campus who have helped us in our transition and continue to assist us in our effort to support our adult students.
Bonner Leader Program
By: Sarah Hagan

The Bonner Leader Program at WKU is off to a great start! Cumulatively, the Bonners have completed over 730 service hours and more than 140 hours of training and enrichment. Jillian Weston is a junior at WKU, and she is in her second year of service with refugees at CEDARS. Jill has been working with a housing coalition to get the Uniformed Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA) passed. She is also working to get a renter’s handbook translated into the necessary Burmese languages. Jill is an example of what happens when Bonners become so impassioned by their service that advocating for policy change is a natural next step.

Some other Bonner successes this fall include Lejla Mehmedovic who has been working with Hope Harbor. Lejla has been reaching out to local hospitals and contacting the Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiners in order to expand the advocacy circle and resource potential for victims of sexual abuse. Bonners are engaged in various service endeavors including mentoring at risk youth, serving disabled populations, reaching out to local refugees, and providing food for the campus community. Bonner Leaders are new to Western’s campus, and making quite the impression on campus and in the community so far.

Applications will soon be available for the fall 2014. Any high school students interested in applying for the program can learn more on the ALIVE Center’s website at www.wku.edu/alive.

Student Worker and Internship Opportunities

The WKU ALIVE Center offers a number of unpaid internships during the fall and spring semesters for students at Western Kentucky University. In addition, the Center offers at least one student worker position during the year. The Center currently has an opening for the following positions: Communications & Marketing intern, Community Partnership intern, Digital Media & Design intern, Leading Service-learning intern, and Student Worker. Any student interested in one of the positions should view the full descriptions online at http://www.wku.edu/alive/student_opportunities.php.

The deadline to submit information is November 22nd.
WKU Students Turn $100 into A World of Change.
By: Lauren Haynes & Lauren Cunningham

Turning $100 into a world of change. That’s exactly what students at Western Kentucky University have been doing this semester through The $100 Solution™ Service Learning program. Just about eight student groups have had the opportunity to connect with four community and campus organizations to identify organizational or communal barriers and began working collaboratively to create long-term sustainable solutions that addressed the issues.

Seven of these groups are students enrolled in Nicholas Hartmann’s Folk 280: Cultural Diversity in the U.S. course and the other group consists of the South Central Kentucky AHEC Rural Health Scholars. These student groups went out into their communities and created the capacity for change. Groups used the five pillars of The $100 Solution™, Partnership, Capacity Building, Sustainability, Reciprocity, and Reflection, to guide their projects that would strengthen and improve the communities in which they learn and live.

Projects this semester include the development of additional marketing tools for the Bowling Green Community Farmer’s Market to advertise the new SNAP/EBT program for local citizens. The additional advertisements will help the CFM spread the word about their new program that could potentially benefit hundreds of families in Bowling Green. Other projects range from creating shelving for, and providing new food donation bins for The WKU Food Pantry. Another group is using their $100 to improve the soil at the Food For All Community Garden to increase the amount of food that is produced annually and then donated to families in our community. The Fairview Community Health Center will receive new a play area for small children and families that are receiving services at the center.

On November 25, 2013 students will have the opportunity to share their semester projects at The IMPACT Expo: A Showcase of Service Learning at WKU. The IMPACT Expo will take place at the Kentucky Museum at 5 pm in the Western room and is hosted by The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships to highlight service-learning on WKU’s campus.

For more information about The IMPACT Expo or The $100 Solution™ contact Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Cunningham at the ALIVE Center at laurencunningham@wku.edu.
Student Ambassadors of Service

The ALIVE Center’s Student Ambassadors of Service have been actively working this semester. The group strives to increase awareness of social issues and community needs, while also identifying ways for students to get involved addressing those topics through a diverse set of programs and projects. This year, the Student Ambassadors are focusing on hunger and homelessness, health and wellness, and student involvement in service. They planned a number of events during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week November 18-23 to bring students together to build awareness.

There are 16 Student Ambassadors of Service this fall. In addition to the previously mentioned activities, the ambassadors also volunteer their time to educate student groups and classrooms regarding the ALIVE Center's services and how students may make a difference in the Bowling Green community and surrounding areas.

Hill House Partners with Eleventh Street Academy

By: Lauren Cunningham

The Western Kentucky University Hill House graduate students began a partnership with Bowling Green City Schools and The Eleventh Street Academy to provide meaningful, educational opportunities for students ranging from 6th-12th grades through service-learning and community based research projects. This fall Hill House students have worked diligently along side the 11th Street Academy Director, Maresa Duarte, to plan a variety of programs and activities that include assessment and evaluation, career path planning and a career fair.

This year the four Hill House students come from three different academic disciplines: Sociology, Public Health and Social Work. This interdisciplinary approach lends itself to providing a melting pot of knowledge and experience for students to apply and utilize. Hill House students intend to measure the impact of their planned programs via pre and post testing and qualitative data collection.

The Hill House is located on East 11th Street in downtown Bowling Green, neighboring The 11th Street Academy. The Hill House is a community development graduate assistantship program where four WKU graduate students live and work together to make a positive impact in the neighborhood while gaining hands-on experience in their disciplines. Hill House students have the unique opportunity to use their fields of study to work as public problem-solvers and applied community-based researchers which strengthens their academic coursework experiences and creates an impact on their personal and professional lives and in turn, on their future communities.

For more information about the WKU Hill House program or upcoming projects and research, please contact Lauren Cunningham, Community Engagement Coordinator for the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, or Nic Hartmann, Public Scholarship Coordinator at the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at lauren.cunningham@wku.edu and nicholas.hartmann@wku.edu.
Saundra Curry Ardrey

Dr. Ardrey was inducted into the Furman University Department of Political Science Hall of Fame on October 21 in Greenville, SC. Ardrey was the first African American hired at the University in 1983. She taught Political Science at Furman University from 1983 to 1988. She created the department’s first course on Racial and Ethnic Politics that has since been transformed into a major in Race and Diversity. She also developed and taught a course on Women and Politics that became the precursor Women’s Studies Department.

Dr. Saundra Curry Ardrey is chair of the Political Science Department and Director of the African American Studies at Western Kentucky University. She is also the only African American department head at the University. Ardrey has made contributions to the extant literature through publications on the political beliefs and behavior of African Americans. Her other interests include African American Studies, media and politics, campaign management and public opinion.

A graduate of Winston-Salem State University and the Ohio State University, she is recognized as a media analyst and she is active in state and local politics and community activities. Ardrey has also served as president and as executive secretary of the Kentucky Political Science Association (the first African American to serve in both positions), she is a member of the American Political Science Association Women's Section Committee, and she co-founded the WKU Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility. She has received numerous awards and honors, including Outstanding People of the 20th Century. Her husband of thirty-six years, Dr. William Ardrey, is a trauma specialist with Inspire Medical Group. They have two children, Chris and Lindsey.

Dr. Yvette Getch

Dr. Getch (executive director of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex) saw her article, “Motivations and enculturation of older students returning to a traditional university,” published this summer in *New Horizons in Adult Education & Human Resource Development* (25, 3, pp. 62-75).

Nic Hartmann

Nic Hartmann was recently appointed to be a convener of the New Directions in Folklore section of the American Folklore Society, and will be serving as a panelist for an upcoming service-learning workshop at WKU in mid-November.
Dr. Kristi Branham

Dr. Branham and Gender & Women’s Studies minors Whitney Marsh and Margaret Woodward presented at the annual conference of the Popular and American Culture Association of the South in Savannah, Georgia in October 2013. The students proposed and presented research they conducted in Dr. Branham’s GWS 375 American Masculinities course in the Spring 2013 semester. Whitney Marsh presented her paper titled “The Feminization of American Tattoos,” and Margaret Woodward presented her paper titled “‘Here I was Born and there I died’: The Power and Fragility of Masculinity in Vertigo.” Dr. Branham’s presentation was titled “‘Two Mothers United’: Interclass Female Friendship in Stella Dallas.”

Maggie Woodward

“The experience of presenting at my first conference this month was invaluable. I had never been to an academic conference, nor did I know what it would be like. Before departing to Savannah, I was very nervous, despite several reassurances from Dr. Branham that the people would be friendly and non-judgmental. My panel (“Masculinity in Popular Culture”) was scheduled for 3 p.m. on the first day, so before I presented, Dr. Branham, Whitney Marsh, and I watched a preceding panel—“Television Comedy Seriously Considered.” I’m grateful we stumbled across such a lighthearted, entertaining, and highly insightful panel beforehand; it was the best way I could have broken the ice.

At three, my panel started and after the chair discovered the first paper on our schedule was not in attendance, I went first, with my paper “Here I Was Born, and There I Died: The Power and Fragility of Masculinity in Vertigo.” In a word, it was exhilarating. I used all the tips Dr. Branham gave us in the week before; and to my surprise, my nervousness completely disappeared about two minutes in. When the panel was over, I was even able to answer a couple questions about my paper and Vertigo. In total, I attended five panels over the weekend.”

Whitney Marsh

“As the first six weeks of my junior year rush by, I sit down and reflect upon my life on the hill. Being a student here at Western Kentucky University has brought me countless memories and experiences that I will value for the rest of my life, in addition to preparing me academically to be one of the best and brightest in my field. I have been fortunate enough to have found faculty who have really taken an interest in helping me achieve my dreams. Without this invaluable support, I am certain that my time here thus far would not have been so fulfilling or successful.

With all of the above being said, I had hands down my best college experience to date over fall break 2013. During the break, my mentor and professor, Dr. Kristi Branham, accompanied me and a fellow GWS minor Maggie Woodward, to Savannah, GA for the Popular/American Culture Association in the South conference. This was an academically rich conference, with undergraduates, graduate students and professionals presenting original research. This conference was especially enriching because it was an interdisciplinary event packed with any and every kind of academic field well represented. This collection of difference, along with the range of varying research topics, inspired me. It showed me that anything and everything can be studied, as long as you research thoroughly, are passionate about the topic and frame your argument in the right way and apply preexisting theories to legitimize your topic. My future research project topics will no longer be stale; I was inspired to let my imagination run wild.”
Molly Kerby

Dr. Molly Kerby, along with Dr. Gayle Mallinger (social work), Dr. Jeanine Huss (education), and Dr. Martin Stone (agriculture) received a interdisciplinary (WKU iRCAP) grant to create a sustainable community gardening project in cooperation with the Afterschool Program at Parker Bennett Curry Elementary. The school has a School and District Report Card ranking in the 10th percentile in the state and is classified as “needs improvement” (Kentucky Department of Education, 2011). The racial composition of the school is 35.90% African American, 4.66 % Asian/Pacific Islander, 36.60 % Hispanic, and 22.84 % White (Kentucky Department of Education, 2012). In terms of academic achievement, Parker Bennett Curry Elementary School’s state report card shows 21.67 % proficiency in science on average compared to the state average of 70.53 % and 41% proficiency in language arts on average compared to the state average of 68%. In the 2012-2013, Parker Bennett Curry began the Community Eligibility Option (CEO), a universal free meal service (breakfast and lunch) for students in high-poverty areas.

The project will teach participants to plant heirloom vegetables and herbs that can be grown in the fall/spring school sessions with the intention of “seed-saving” to eventually create a community seed bank. Afterschool program participants would learn to plant, measure and document growth, and understand the value of resiliency and sustainable community development. WKU students, members of the Community Farmer’s Market, and interdisciplinary faculty would all play a role in addressing the interconnected nature of sustainability efforts. The project bridges four WKU colleges and allows for a broad range of multidisciplinary student involvement. Finally, developing a sustainable garden project in the community unites the pillars of sustainability: 1) social equity is enhanced through cooperation and collaboration, 2) economics is considered in terms of consumerism, and 3) the environment is protected by promoting biodiversity. The proposed project also provides opportunities for parental involvement, consistent with their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

Dr. Kerby’s latest accepted publication is from a top-rated journal on retention; her article links retention with sense of place and develops a model using sociological theory for assessing sense of place. Journal of College Retention: Research, Theory and Practice will publish her article in the coming months.

Jane Olmsted

Dr. Olmsted’s essay “The Weight of a Human Heart” was published in Memoir Journal’s gun issue, October 2013. About the essay, the editor writes, “Jane Olmsted, our Grand Prize winner, shares a poignant story of personal loss . . . [She] is a writer who has the gift of being able to put the reader squarely in her shoes. Her story lingers long after closing the book.” She is leading a Study Abroad course in the winter term to Peru. Students will consider issues of Place, Leadership, & Community in Iquitos and native communities on the Orosa River, about a day’s river boat ride down the Amazon. An optional extension to Cuzco to see Machu Picchu will conclude the trip.
Beth McGrew

“This is my first semester with the Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities Master’s program, and it is rockin’ my world! The past couple of months have been stimulating, challenging, fulfilling, and inspiring—all while being surrounded by amazing people committed to good work.

My research is focused on project sustainability—how do we create projects that will continue to be successful long after initial investors and leaders are gone? I am working with others on campus to start WKU’s first Community Garden at the Office of Sustainability. The vision is for the garden to be community-driven, educational, and to demonstrate sustainable gardening methods and how they compare to conventional methods. Most importantly is to learn how to design and implement this idea to continually educate and engage participants long into the future, and from this research, build a project-sustainability model to which others can refer.

Last month, I attended two conferences: AASHE in Nashville and Powershift in Pittsburgh, both of which highlight sustainability as it relates to the environment, people, food, and energy. I learned of other institutions that are leading the way in edible landscaping on campus and sought out their greatest challenges. This will help me anticipate and navigate similar obstacles at WKU. I hope to share research on specific challenges facing edible landscapes on campus and project sustainability at these conferences in the future.”

Judy Rohrer

Dr. Rohrer attended the Critical Ethnic Studies Association conference in Chicago this September. The conference theme, "Decolonizing Future Intellectual Legacies and Activist Practices," made it a particularly productive conference for her. She's following up with contacts who are helping shape ICSR’s social justice programming and curriculum. She presented on "Turning the Tide: Teaching Against Settler Colonialism" on a panel exploring research methodologies and pedagogies focused on unsettling settler colonialism. In late November, Dr. Rohrer will attend the American Studies Association annual conference in Washington D.C. She organized a panel, "Indebted to Normativity? Using Ambivalence to Build Collective Default," and will be presenting her paper "The 'Importance of Being Ordinary': Governmentality and Biopower in Gay Marriage Politics." This paper is currently under review with a feminist journal.
Andrew Rosa

The following article was just released as the lead article, “New Negroes on Campus: St. Clair Drake and the Culture of Education, Rebellion, and Reform at Hampton Institute,” History of Education Quarterly, 53, 3 (August 2013), 203-232. He is working on an invited essay for the Journal of African American History, entitled A Justified and Instructive Life: Rethinking the Sociology and Political Theory of W.E.B. Du Bois,” due late November. Dr. Rosa will be in-residence at the Arthur Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture as a short-term fellow during the Spring Semester in support of his book project, St. Clair Drake, A Biography of the African Diaspora. While there, he will lead a Study Abroad-Trinidad trip for WKU students in March, in conjunction with the University of West Indies, St. Augustine. He will give a public lecture for the History Department at UWI, entitled "St. Clair Drake: A Model for African Diaspora Studies," in exchange for UWI faculty participation in the Study Abroad course.

Terry Shoemaker

Shoemaker has an article forthcoming in the Journal of Religion and Society entitled “Revisiting Sacred Metaphors: A Religious Studies Pedagogical Response to the Rise of the Nones.” He has been selected to present this paper at a panel discussion in the spring at the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion in Atlanta, GA. Additionally, a brief paper entitled, “The Nascent Stages of Religious Diversity in South Central Kentucky” is forthcoming in the Harvard Pluralism Project’s On Common Ground resource.

This fall he is presenting “Star Spangled Saints: Ritual Practices that Legitimate War and Violence in the American Church” at the American Academy of Religion, in Baltimore, MD. This is the largest (well over 10,000 conference attendees) religious studies conference and quite an honor to be selected to present.
WKU students work to make Bowling Green more age friendly

As part of the Bowling Green Age Friendly Cities Project, WKU students have worked with a group of seniors to solve an issue they had identified – a lack of community connections and communications about age friendly events.

Hannah Ruggles of Lexington, a Gerontology minor and WKU Honors College student, and WKU graduate students Darla Hayden of Henderson and Haley Canary of Bowling Green, helped hand out free Senior Events Calendars at the Kroger on the U.S. 31W Bypass. Between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 6, the group that included 10 seniors and students from the Honors Introduction to the Aging Experience class distributed 800 copies of the calendar.

“This truly is an initiative that was born out of community conversations,” said Dr. Dana Burr Bradley, director of WKU’s Center for Aging. “While there are many websites that list events for seniors, they didn’t feel the information was available in a format that was age friendly.”

The seniors had identified Kroger, which hosts a popular First Wednesday of the Month senior discount day, as the best place to distribute the calendar. (Their efforts were highlighted on WBKO that evening.)

After picking up a calendar, one senior told the volunteers “there is no excuse for staying home anymore. There is so much to do here in Bowling Green.”

The project is part of the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. In 2012, Bowling Green became one of the first seven cities in the United States – and the only city in south – to become a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The network has 105 members in 19 countries.

WKU’s Center for Aging, the City of Bowling Green’s Neighborhood Division and AARP Kentucky are the convening organizations for the project.

Contact: Dana Burr Bradley, (270) 745-2356

On November 6, a group that included 10 seniors and several WKU students distributed 800 copies of the new Senior Events Calendar at the Kroger on the U.S. 31W Bypass. The calendar is part of the Bowling Green Age Friendly Cities Project.

Dr. Dana Bradley was a delegate at the International Federation of Ageing’s International Istanbul Initiative on Aging in October. She presented a paper on “Strategies to Create an Age-Friendly World One Community at a Time.” Her research examines the international movement to form age-friendly cities encouraging municipalities to transform themselves so that they become better places to live for older people. The call for age-friendly community features comes at a time when the public sector has little money for new initiatives. This means that the policy tools available to encourage age-friendly community initiatives do not include major direct financial incentives. Instead, the policy tools are more likely to involve public education, regulation, enforcement, and perhaps tax incentives. After a detailed discussion about how Bowling Green, KY, Portland, OR and Philadelphia, PA, the paper concluded with policy recommendations directed at city governments.

For more information about Dr. Bradley’s research or about WKU’s collaboration with the World Health Organization please contact her at dana.bradley@wku.edu
The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility

The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility has hosted several well-attended and engaging events this semester at WKU.

ICSR’s fall series of Third Tuesday Tea (T3) events commenced in September with Dr. Judy Rohrer’s presentation “The Ballot or the Bullet (remix): Black Voter Suppression and Premature Death.” Co-sponsored by African-American Studies, this T3 encouraged participants to consider the connections between a well-known Malcolm X speech and the commentary made by Barack Obama in the wake of the Trayvon Martin shooting. African-American Studies also co-sponsored the first session of Films That Make You Think, titled “Rep. John Lewis on Voting Rights Struggles Then and Now.” Discussing the history and struggle of voting and citizenship for many citizens in the United States, students from Dr. Saundra Ardrey’s Project Freedom School course led discussions and facilitated the event for the public.

Local artist Leslie Nichols lead the October T3 with a discussion of “Women Writing Women: Gender, Art, and Society.” Students, faculty and community discussed issues of mentoring, being a woman in the arts, gender issues in the classroom and so forth. ICSR co-sponsored the Gender & Women’s Studies’ screening of “Women Art Revolution” in October with Kristina Arnold leading discussion. November’s T3 and Films That Make You Think will bring back African-American Studies as a co-sponsor. Dr. Andrew Rosa, new faculty in African-American Studies, will be presenting both sessions; the T3, titled “Race and the Prison Industrial Complex in the Age of Obama, A Public Conversation,” and the film “Slavery By Another Name.”

Throughout the semester, the ICSR has also been hosting its Faculty Reading Group, with Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo leading faculty and staff in a discussion of Jim Wallis’s book On God’s Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn’t Learned About Service the Common Good. Nic Hartmann is working with the ALIVE Center to organize a WKU Public Scholar’s Network so stay tuned for more on that initiative. ICSR has also co-sponsored a number of other events including a panel discussion of DOMA, the World Café Conversations on Race, the Transgender Day of Remembrance talk, and a report back from WKU AID students who participated in the PowerShift conference in October in Baltimore.

ICSR is launching a number of new programs in Spring 2014. Keep your eyes peeled for: Social Justice & the Academy spring speakers’ series, Research Working Groups, and Faculty Brown Bags. For more information: icsr@wku.edu

Pictured Front: Laura Goodwin, Kate McElroy, Brandi Button, Krystal Onyekwuluje

Pictured Back: Nic Hartmann, Terry Shoemaker, Judy Rohrer, Bianca Brown
CanDoo joins Military Student Services

CanDoo, a 2-year-old English Cream golden retriever has joined the Military Student Services Office. He is being shared with the Kelly Autism Program thanks to support from Terry Scarrot and John and Linda Kelly. To see more about CanDoo visit Military Student Services website at www.wku.edu/veterans. Also, to schedule a classroom visit call Teresa Jameson at 745-2180.

College Heights Herald recently did an article which can be found here: http://wkuherald.com/diversions/article_ba30a2a2-4cc1-11e3-9afa-0019bb30f31a.html

Recognition Cords

Fall 2013 Graduation

Military and veterans graduating from WKU as well as faculty/staff, who are military veterans participating in the graduation ceremonies, are eligible to wear these beautiful red, white and blue honor cords. Stop by Tate Page Hall 408 to pick up your cord before graduation.
The WKU Sisterhood awarded Military Student Services $20,000 in support of the “Textbooks For Troops” program. The WKU Sisterhood is a group of women with shared values, who enjoy collaborating to advance the mission of WKU. Members pool their financial gifts and award funds to a limited number of university designations to maximize the impact of their philanthropy. To learn more about the Sisterhood, visit [http://www.wku.edu/sisterhood/](http://www.wku.edu/sisterhood/).

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the WKU Sisterhood for supporting our military students and their family members attending classes at WKU. Free textbooks provide the only means of a scholarship for many of our students. They are very grateful for this service, and we are so proud to provide it to them.

Military Student Services will be hosting a benefit auction Dec. 7 at the Augenstein Alumni Center. Preview begins at noon with the live auction beginning at 1 p.m. “We have some amazing items,” said Teresa Jameson, MSS auction coordinator. There are several sports and entertainment celebrity signed items to include a cast-signed script from Mark Harmon the NCIS as well as signed gear from the Predators, Titans and more. In addition, there are tickets to numerous attractions throughout Kentucky and Tennessee as well as Disney tickets. Several hand crafted items are also available. For a complete list of items visit the Military Student Services Facebook Page at [https://www.facebook.com/WesternKentuckyUniversityMilitaryStudentServices](https://www.facebook.com/WesternKentuckyUniversityMilitaryStudentServices).

This cast-signed script from NCIS “Tell-All” was donated by Mark Harmon. There is also an autographed photo of Mark that will accompany this script.

Buffalo Trace has put together a beautiful gift basket of items for the bourbon connoisseur. Maker’s Mark has also provided four bourbon glasses and a coffee-table book.

This Hot Rods package comes with a chance to throw out the first pitch, a t-shirt, baseball, cap and autographed Turbo Times.

Sisterhood grants Military Student Services $20,000

MSS to host benefit Auction Dec. 7
WKU is ranked The Best for Vets #7 in the nation and #1 in Kentucky!

WKU is ranked No. 7 among four-year schools in the Military Times’ Best for Vets: Colleges 2014 rankings.

“We are so proud to serve our nation’s heroes and their family members here at WKU,” said Tonya Archey, director of Military Student Services. “In the Office of Military Student Services we are veterans helping veterans and I think our determination to help our students succeed is evident in our growing student population. I would love to see our Army and Air Force ROTC programs grow in number over the next few months, as well as the participation in our Student Veterans Alliance. I highly encourage students to seek out these programs and get involved.”

Military Times, an organization comprising Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times, placed a new emphasis on academic rigor this year when conducting and scoring the fourth annual Best for Vets: Colleges survey, a highly respected 150-question analysis of a school’s complete offerings for veterans. The full rankings, released on Veterans Day, are available online at http://www.militarytimes.com/bestforvets-colleges2014

“As with all of the Best for Vets rankings, Best for Vets: Colleges is an editorially independent news project that evaluates the many factors that make an institution a good fit for military veterans,” said Amanda Miller, editor of Military Times EDGE.

Among the programs WKU offers to its growing population of more than 2,000 active duty military, veterans and their family members are Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Military Student Services, a Student Veterans Alliance, a Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Upward Bound, Office of Veterans Affairs and programs at WKU’s Elizabethtown-Fort Knox campus.

A new addition this fall is CanDoo, a facility dog shared by Military Student Services and the Kelly Autism Program.

The Veterans Resource Center, located in Tate Page Hall 408, also hosts the Textbooks For Troops program, which this semester has more than $49,000 worth of free textbooks available. The program lends textbooks each semester to eligible military, veterans and their family members. Books are loaned out to students at all WKU locations, or shipped across the globe to our military students taking distance learning courses. A benefit auction for the Textbooks For Troops program will begin at 1 p.m. Dec. 7 at WKU’s Augenstein Alumni Center.

Best for Vets provides service men and women a gauge by which to judge whether a school or degree program will truly benefit them. The rankings factored in service member enrollment, percentage of tuition covered by the GI Bill, and availability of specific programs to help service members.

The extensive evaluation process also factored in statistics commonly used to track student success and academic quality, including student loan default rates, retention rates, graduation rates and student-faculty ratio.

The rankings are published in full in the November issue of Military Times EDGE magazine, the premier publication for military transition, and online at MilitaryTimes.com, as well as Army-Times.com, NavyTimes.com, AirForcetimes.com and MarineCorpsTimes.com.

The top 30 four-year schools, top 10 online and nontraditional schools, and top 10 two-year schools are compared in the issues of Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times on newsstands the week of Veterans Day.

Military Times’ series of Best for Vets survey-based rankings include: Colleges, Career & Technical Colleges, Business Schools, Franchises, Employers and Law Enforcement.

The Veterans Day release of Best for Vets: Colleges 2014 coincides with several Military Times initiatives to celebrate service members. The #MyVeteran social media/online campaign allows people to post pictures, videos and stories about a veteran in their lives. Editors’ picks, along with a Made in the USA holiday gift guide, appear in the issues of the Military Times papers on newsstands the week of Nov. 11.