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WKU Provost

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DOERS & DEEDS

Academic Excellence at WKU



“Back of the deed was the doer, back of the doer, the dream.” – H.H. Cherry, Founding President



WKU President Gary Ransdell at the annual Faculty and Staff Convocation

At the annual Faculty and Staff Convocation on Sept. 14, WKU President **Gary Ransdell** presented the annual Spirit of WKU and Diversity awards. **Carl Kell** (Communication) received the Spirit of WKU award in recognition of his 35 years of commitment to WKU, to students, and to the profession of communication. His many contributions include the founding of the Spirit Masters organization in 1980. Three individuals received the President’s Awards for Diversity. **Jane Olmsted** (English and Women’s Studies) received the Employee award for her work to promote diversity among faculty, staff and students. Business reporter, radio anchor, and graduate student **Ameerah Cetawayo**

received the Student award, and local folklorist/historian **Maxine Ray** received the Community award. Congratulations to all!

WKU nursing student **Race Stork** was chosen in May for a national scholarship provided by the National Organization of Veterans Upward Bound Projects Personnel. The scholarship was awarded for the fall semester of 2007. This national scholarship program began in 2004, and each year Veterans Upward Bound at WKU has had a veteran participant win the scholarship.

Phillip Myers (Office of Sponsored Programs) has been voted in as a Member of the Distinguished Faculty of the

Society of Research Administrators International. This honor was created to recognize individual SRA International members who contribute to the formation of the body of knowledge required by professional research administrators. This election is another first for WKU’s strong international reach, as Myers is the only SRA International Distinguished Faculty in the state of Kentucky. Congratulations!

WKU’s student chapter of the Financial Management Association received a Superior Chapter Award for the 2006-2007 academic year. This is the first time WKU has received this honor, which is the highest honor for an FMA student chapter. FMA has over 200 active chapters and fewer than five percent receive the

A total of 45 students are studying abroad in Fall 2007. Harlaxton College in England is host to 28 students and 17 are studying at various locations in Mexico, Spain, Belgium, England, Japan, Germany, Chile, Vietnam, Poland, China, India, and Belize. Twelve different countries are represented for the Fall 2007 semester.

honor each year. In order to earn this designation, the chapter had to meet a number of specific criteria, demonstrate exemplary chapter management, and excel in providing members program activities. Congratulations to the FMA students and advisor **Jean Snavelly!**

S. Kay Gandy (Curriculum & Instruction) has been named the 2007 Kentucky Distinguished Teacher Educator by the Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators. Gandy received the award Sept. 28 at the KATE annual conference at Georgetown College. She is beginning her fifth year at WKU and also serves as coordinator for the Kentucky Geographic Alliance. Previously, Gandy worked for 27 years as a classroom teacher in Louisiana. The award was established to recognize and honor teachers with extensive experience within the educational community in Kentucky who have made significant contributions to teacher preparation programs.

Oliver Scharbrodt (Philosophy & Religion) was invited to attend an international research workshop on Islamic Fundamentalism and Sufism organized by the Israel Science Foundation and held at the University of Haifa in Israel in July 2007. Around 30 invited speakers from North America, Europe and the Middle East discussed the relationship between fundamentalism and Sufism in modern Islam and explored new perspectives and avenues of research.

Two WKU journalism faculty members were honored in August by the National Association of Black Journalists for their efforts to increase the number of black journalists in newsrooms. **Robert Adams** and **Jim Highland** received the group's Journalism Educators of the Year Award on Aug. 10 in Las Vegas. For more than 20 years, Adams and Highland directed WKU's Minority Journalism Workshop.

Three WKU students in the Intramural-Recreational Sports program were 2007 recipients of the national William N. Wasson Award for outstanding student leadership and academic excellence.

Jordan Gardner won as a graduate student, and **Rosie Porecca** and **Caleb Wells** won as undergraduate students. This is the highest award given to a student



Kay Gandy

member of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association by the professional membership. Congratulations!

Kirk Atkinson (Computer Information Systems) has been appointed by the Judge-Executive of Butler County, KY as the broadband Internet coordinator. He will identify potential providers for rural constituents and plan the site study and deployment plan in conjunction with the selected provider, ConnectKentucky,

local business leaders, the county K-12 school leadership, and concerned citizens. He will also work to develop the communication strategies necessary to notify residents and provide education on productive uses of broadband access.

Ron Milliman (Marketing) was recently appointed to the position of National Chair of the Marketing, Public Relations, and Publicity Committee for the American Council of the Blind. The ACB has over 50,000 members and is the largest organization of its type of the blind representing the blind in the world. Milliman also serves as President of the South Central Kentucky Council of the Blind; First Vice President of the Kentucky Council of the Blind; Chair of the Monthly Monetary Support Program Committee of the ACB; and as a member of the ACB's Resource Development Committee and Board of Publications.

AMS Dept. faculty members **Denise Gravitt**, **Greg Arbuckle**, **Terry Leeper**, **Kaveh Khatir**, and **Laura Leach** participated in a Girl Scouts Badge Day on May 4, 2007. Thirty-three girls from across the region came to WKU to work on badges in "Architecture and Environmental Design" and "Build A Better Future."



Girl Scouts Badge Day

In its first-ever participation in the Metro Louisville Society of Professional Journalists competition, the *College Heights Herald* won all six collegiate categories in the 27th annual contest held this summer. Winners were junior **Corey Paul**, best news story; senior **Leah Caudle**, best feature story; May 2006 graduate **Jake Mitchell**, best sports story; May 2007 graduate **Ashlee Clark**, best editorial; senior **Kari Collins**, best news photography; senior **Jeff Giraldo**, best feature photography; and senior **Greg Barnette**, best sports photography. The feature category was a sweep with senior **Tavia Green** placing second and **Paul** finishing third. **Ed Linsmier**, a December 2006 graduate, was second in news photography, and senior **Sara Holcombe** was second in sports photography. In another sweep, junior **Elsa Hanson** was second in best feature photography while her brother **Christian**, also a junior, was third.



Bronson Murphy

The WKU Construction Management Program was accepted into the Associated Schools of Construction in the fall of 2006, and was also granted Candidate Status by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) in June 2007.

Charles McGruder (Physics & Astronomy) has received a six-year, \$350,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to help South Africa increase its number of black astronomers. Three organizations – the National Society of Black Physicists, WKU, and the University of Cape Town – are collaborating on the project, which will send two professors per year to South Africa. “We will not only send professors to teach but we will also send students to serve as role models,” said McGruder, who serves as a member of the project steering committee and spent part of his summer in South Africa working on the project. “Through our efforts, we have convinced the Kellogg Foundation to fund this project over a six-year period.” McGruder has been at WKU since 1993 and was head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy from 1993 to 2002.



Charles McGruder

WKU’s **Carroll Knicely Center** has recently been in the national spotlight. The Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors -- International (ACCED-I), the professional association

for collegiate conference and events personnel, presented a “Campus Spotlight” article on the Knicely Center in the most recent edition of its e-Communique newsletter. The Knicely Center was recently honored with a monetary gift from a valued long-term client, Ward Elliott, and last fall received the elite “One-Stop Shop” designation from ACCED-I. As part of WKU’s Division of Extended Learning and Outreach (DELO), the Center serves both WKU and the surrounding community.

Bronson Murphy, a senior music education major and vocalist at WKU, was selected as the sole recipient of the 2007 Jim and Carolyn Fern Scholarship. Under the auspices of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, a scholarship committee selects the recipient from applications submitted by college students across the entire state of Kentucky. Bronson directs a church choir, was on the staff of the Jenny Wiley Theatre summer season, and sings in the WKU Opera Theatre and Chorale. He also was selected by the WKU music faculty for membership in Pi Kappa Lambda, the national collegiate music honor society.



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Jeanne Fiene, head of WKU's Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, & Research, assumed her post as President of the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration at the annual conference held this summer. Fiene is a long-standing and active member of the organization. She has served as editor of the newsletter in past years and as a member of the executive board from 2005 to present.

WKU's Forensic Team placed first in individual events sweepstakes, debate sweepstakes, and combined individual events and debate sweepstakes at the Purdue University "Boilermaker Invitational," the team's first event of the season. Twenty-two members of the WKU team competed only in debate, extemporaneous speaking and impromptu in the September 14-16 tournament.



Jeanne Fiene, outgoing president Linda Morford

Twelve out of the 16 advancing debate teams were from WKU, so the team was largely competing against itself in elimination rounds. Looks like WKU Forensics is on its way to another great year!

Rick Horn has been selected as the 2007 Sutton Landry State Star of the Kentucky Small Business Development Center. Horn, director of the SBDC at WKU, received the award in September at the Association of Small Business Development Centers national conference in Denver. Horn was chosen for being an exemplary performer, making a significant contribution to the KSBDC program, and showing a strong commitment to small business throughout Western Kentucky.

Kristina Schmucker was named a 2007 winner of a Leaders Scholarship in the amount of \$2500 from the American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE), the professional association for medical practice management. Kris is a senior Health Care Administration major. Congratulations!