2013-2014
CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT SERIES

Abigail Washburn with Kai Welch featuring Wu Fei introducing the Wu-Force
Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Dr. Cornel West
Friday, February 21, 2014
Event co-sponsored by the WKU Black History Celebration & Cultural Preservation Committee.

Dr. Michio Kaku
Monday, March 17, 2014
Event co-sponsored by the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics & Science in Kentucky.

All events are hosted at WKU located in Bowling Green, KY. All events begin at 7:30 p.m. CST. Building doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for everyone. Seating is on a first-come-first-served basis.
Greetings from the Dean

Welcome to the fall issue of Arts & Letters! It’s been an exciting several months in Potter College, and we’re delighted to have the chance to share our adventures with you. Our arts students have been especially busy in extending WKU’s “international reach” to Asia and Europe. The WKU Symphony took its first international concert tour this spring, traveling to China to present four concerts over a two-week period in late May. The outstanding photographs taken by university photographer Bryan Lemon will give you a window on this exciting experience. While our musicians were in China, members of the WKU Dance Company were performing in Italy, and Art students were studying and painting in Amsterdam and Paris, all extensions of the vibrant arts community on our campus.

Not all of our international reach is in the arts, of course, and we’re adding some new features to the magazine that highlight our research in international settings. Tim Rich from Political Science starts us off with a short article on his work in South Korea.

We’re also busy right here in Kentucky. The Art Department faculty and students have constructed a wood-fired kiln on the University Farm. It’s a remarkable facility that generates temperatures of 2500°F and gives our ceramics students a unique opportunity for creating very distinctive work. Brent Bjorkman, who directs the Kentucky Folklore Program in the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, tells us about a folkloric survey that Folk Studies faculty members are conducting in Allen County. Speaking of Folk Studies, our Alumni Spotlight this time focuses on Teresa Hollingsworth, a graduate of the program.

The start of the academic year always brings new faculty members to Potter College, and we’re delighted to welcome a dozen new colleagues to campus this fall. You’ll find profiles of each one as we feature articles about faculty members who have won awards for outstanding work in teaching, service, advising, and research/creative activity. We’re particularly proud of Lindsay Oestermiller, an assistant professor of Art, who received the University Award for Outstanding Work in Research/Creative Activity. Lindsay is a ceramicist whose work—especially with wood-fired kilns—has attracted international attention.

All of this adds up to some pretty exciting opportunities for our students on campus, across Kentucky, and around the globe. I think you’ll agree that this is a special issue of Arts & Letters!

David Lee, Dean
Potter College of Arts & Letters
What does Allen County, Kentucky, mean to the people who live there? What aspects of community life have contributed to the rich history and vibrant present that make this region of south central Kentucky unique? These were the questions on the minds of four WKU Folk Studies graduate students during the summer of 2011 as they began laying the groundwork for an inclusive ethnographic community documentation project set to begin that fall. Over the following two years, the breadth of student fieldwork projects exploring community life in Allen County would exceed everyone’s expectation.

The Allen County Folklife and Oral History Project got its start in July of 2010 when Cabot Pyle, Director of Charitable Giving for the Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation, contacted Barbara Deeb, Producer and Reporter for Educational Television Services at WKU, concerning a project inspired by a visit to the Newseum in Washington, DC. Devoted to the documentation of news journalism, the Newseum depends heavily on oral history records for its exhibits and displays. Pyle wondered if the methods of oral history and ethnographic documentation might be applied to Allen County to build a record of the personal histories and community traditions of the Foundation’s service area. The Foundation was working with a team from the Newseum to create an exhibit about local history to be located in the newly dedicated Allen County Community Services building, but Pyle wanted to establish an ongoing effort to document oral history and community life in the county.

Recognizing the opportunity for collaboration, Barbara Deeb contacted Dr. Erika Brady of the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, and soon Cabot Pyle was meeting with Dr. Brady and Department Head Dr. Michael Ann Williams. The result was a substantial two-year grant to support expanding hands-on ethnographic research in Allen County, and thus the Allen County Folklife and Oral History Project was born.

Over the course of the past two years, students in Folk Studies at WKU have used their specialized ethnographic training to document historical and cultural themes in the county as diverse as beekeeping, survival of log structures, patterns of animal husbandry, food traditions, and community music and celebrations, among many others. Through the exploration of these themes, they sought to identify the elements that make community life in the region unique, essentially delving deeper into the question, What does Allen County mean to the people who live there?

More than 100 Allen County community members participated in the project during the two-year endeavor, sharing their experiences and traditions with WKU students. The result has been hundreds of photographs, scores of hours of recorded audio and video, a handsome publically accessible website, and several events devoted to the celebration of community history and tradition in Allen County. To ensure that this valuable information is accessible to both scholars and community members for years to come, all of the fieldwork materials are now part of the Kentucky Folklife Archives of the Kentucky Library and Museum at WKU.
Integrating the project into graduate courses has been central to the collaboration since its inception and has been the key to producing thoughtful work that respected the community and met professional archival standards. While the students in Dr. Brady's graduate and undergraduate Folklore Fieldwork courses took the lead in interviewing, photographing, and exploring folk life in Allen County, the project has been integrated into multiple folk studies classes in innovative ways.

Dr. Michael Ann Williams asked students in her Cultural Conservation class to complete a project on the food traditions of Allen County. Students approached foodways from several angles, interviewing farmers, home cooks, restaurant servers, and food sellers. From these interviews they produced media projects highlighting the various food traditions in Allen County, including an interactive DVD about farmers in Allen County and a short film on individuals and restaurants who serve food in the area.

Last fall students in Dr. Williams' Vernacular Architecture course ventured into Allen County to conduct a survey of log structures, identifying and documenting fifty-four that are still standing. Students presented their findings at the WKU Student Research Conference in March 2013, sparking interest in the continuation of historic preservation and documentation efforts.

Most recently, Folk Studies Professor Timothy Evans worked with local high school teachers Kelly Burch and Chelly Taylor-Stamps to pilot a project to involve history students from Allen County-Scottsville High School in documenting the folk life of their community. Folk Studies graduate students led a workshop, teaching oral history techniques to the high school students and working with them one-on-one to practice their interview skills and to conduct interviews in the community. Not only did the high school students learn valuable interview and ethnographic skills, they engaged with their families and communities in new ways, learning about the importance of their own culture and history.

The Allen County Folklife and Oral History Project remains ongoing and vibrant, with community experts in the methods of folklore fieldwork, so that the rich heritage of Allen County folk life will continue to be harvested and enjoyed. Even as the WKU student work continues, Allen County residents are learning how to document their own families and communities as part of a special grassroots educational effort. This fall, the Kentucky Folklife Program is working with the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) to offer an in-depth six-week Community Scholars training in Scottsville. Mark Brown, the KAC’s Folk and Traditional Arts Program Director, and Brent Björkman, Director of the Kentucky Folklife Program, now based at WKU, are working with this group of dedicated community members to help them develop the ethnographic skills they will need to continue documenting the folk life and oral history in Allen County.

**Caitlin Coad**, Assistant Project Director, graduated with her M.A. in Folk Studies in May 2013 and is currently interning in Public Programs at The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. **Lilli Tichinin** is in her second year of M.A. work in Folk Studies. She is a graduate assistant to the director of the Kentucky Folklife Program, a statewide folklife and heritage culture organization housed at WKU.

In order to create easier access to the collection and project, Sarah McCart-Jackson, Folk Studies graduate and member of the summer 2011 student team in Allen County, created a website for the Allen County Folklife and Oral History Project. The website is a resource where people can learn about the project, the contents of the collection, and view sample projects and fieldwork. The current Allen County Community Scholars will also have an opportunity to share their research publically using this growing website. These photos, short films, and audio slideshows are a window into vast collection of materials archived at the Kentucky Library and Museum at WKU. 

http://allencountyfolklife.wix.com/home
Artist—the word typically conjures up visions of a solitary, maybe even secluded, existence, an individual shabbily dressed and working furiously in paint or through a sculptural process. Add a little clutter to a dimly lit hovel and the portrait of the artist seems nearly realized. This vision has some basis in reality. Many artists are tight on finances so the studio tends to be meager. A consistent flow of ideas generated in the studio fills the space with false starts and works in progress, an apparent mess to casual observers, but to the occupant, a space chock-full of potential. And like most endeavors of excellence, it takes considerable time and privacy to find one’s voice in a material.

Then there are ceramic artists. Their process is similar, beginning with the requirement of time away from others, time to build, clarify, and edit their visual content, be it a pot or sculpture. But at the point of finishing, one often finds ceramists seeking each others’ company, especially if they are finishing their wares in “atmospheric” processes. Atmospheric firing refers to the addition of salt, soda, or wood during the firing of a kiln. At high temperatures these materials either melt on the pottery or vaporize and change the atmosphere, which in turn affects clay bodies and glazed surfaces. Wood-fueled kilns are a precursor to today’s more efficient gas and electric kilns. They fire slowly and demand a community effort to produce successful results. Such a process seems contrary to contemporary expectations of quick outcomes and our notion of the artist as “lone-wolf,” existing apart from a community. Yet this work-intensive, all-hands-on-deck method is gaining adherents.
Our kiln at the farm is helping us teach students, reach out to our service region, and build new networks with local, regional, and international communities.

Western Kentucky University’s ceramics professor Lindsay Oesterritter favors such “old school” processes. She is well known on the national scene as an atmospheric firing proponent. At the time of her hire, the Department of Art made a commitment to provide facilities that would support her research and instruction in atmospheric firings. Through generous donations of land by the Agriculture Department and finances through the Potter College Dean’s office, a kiln building was erected on WKU’s farm. The Art Department then invited master kiln builder Professor Ted Neal of Ball State University to provide a workshop in building his trademark “train kiln.” (The name derives from the kiln’s resemblance to a locomotive, minus the big wheels.) With Professor Neal’s expertise, our students and Professor Oesterritter completed the kiln in two successive weekends. On November 29, 2012, Professor Oesterritter’s classes fired their first load of stoneware. This statement in no way captures the dedication and sweat equity of the event. To fire such a kiln requires that one to two cords of well-dried wood be split and cut to specific dimensions prior to the firing. Teams of participants must feed the kiln day and night, remaining vigilant to its temperature differences, top to bottom, front to back. The temperature climb itself must be sustained at a gradual rate and, most importantly, when the kiln reaches 2,100°F, it must be held there for a minimum of eight hours. This allows the wood ash time to be carried throughout the interior of the kiln and to fuse with the clay body. The effort is worth the reward, with color and textural results varying significantly on a single vessel, from matte black, to glossy purple, and blushes of yellow, blue, brown, and orange.

Once the kiln has cooled, bricks are removed from an arched space that serves as the kiln’s door. Heat pours from the opening, and anyone unloading the ware is soon on hands and knees in the interior of what might best be described as a soot-filled oven. Surprisingly, this sweat-drenched individual happily volunteers to play the role of Santa, handing out the kiln’s gifts. Pots are passed between participants’ hands with “Ohhs” and “Ahhs” repeated down the line. Not all of the pots are winners. There are pottery shapes and surfaces that no mother could love, but everyone acknowledges the effort it took to get the pot fired.

One of the unique aspects of atmospheric firings is that they are infused with contradiction; experience and study combine with chance, or as potters say, “giving it up to the fire.” One can have a lifetime of study in the art and chemistry of firing, but ultimately the vagaries of wood type, atmospheric pressure, placement of pots in the kiln, and wind direction will play their parts in the creation of the work.

When the process is complete and all the pots are pulled, still another gift is tangible to the participants: the sense of a newly formed community. Working side-by-side, students, professionals, and interested community members have all taken turns stoking the fireboxes, sharing bad jokes, cold pizza, and flat sodas. Their dirty hands and aching backs are communal badges worn with no small amount of pride.

The Department of Art values this second outcome as much as the first. Our kiln at the farm is helping us teach students, reach out to our service region, and build new networks with local, regional, and international communities. We foresee building similar communities as we explore other mediums that may soon include glass and hot metals. In the future we and other departments envision a wide range of artisan activities developing on WKU’s farm; the Heritage Arts Center is the name we’ve given this dream. If you care to participate in future events or would like more information about the kiln, please contact the Department of Art at (270) 745-3944.

Professor Brent Oglesbee has been a member of the Art Department at Western Kentucky University since 1993. He currently serves as Head of the department with teaching duties in a variety of mediums. Brent earned his MFA from Penn State University in 1983 and has since exhibited in juried, small group, and invited solo exhibitions throughout the United States. He has twice (1996, 2006) been awarded the Kentucky Arts Council’s Individual Artist Fellowship, Al Smith Award.
Through a Comparative Lens: WKU Research in South Korea

BY TIM RICH

With WKU’s goal to be “A Leading American University with International Reach,” one should not be surprised by a growing interest among students in one of the more dynamic regions in the world: East Asia. The U.S. has been intrinsically tied to the region both politically and economically, and this interconnectedness continues in the twenty-first century. Assistant Professor Timothy S. Rich, in the Department of Political Science, encourages not only greater student interest in the region, but study abroad opportunities and other ties between WKU and leading universities in East Asia. As a graduate student, for nearly a year Dr. Rich studied and conducted research in China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan, and he would like others to have what he considers a transformative experience. Dr. Rich joined WKU in the fall of 2012 and in his first year of teaching taught two East Asia related courses: Government and Politics of East Asia, and Politics of North Korea. While much attention is placed on growing interest in China, which Dr. Rich sees as well deserved, he was pleasantly surprised by similar interest in other countries in the region, an interest he hopes will translate into a greater appreciation for the region’s diversity.

After his first year at WKU, Dr. Rich left for Seoul, South Korea, to conduct research on the country’s electoral system. South Korea transitioned to a democracy in the late 1980s, after nearly two decades of exceptional economic growth. To put this growth into context, until the early 1970s, the economies of North Korea and South Korea were similarly sized, whereas now South Korea exports more in a weekend than North Korea does in a year. Seoul in particular has developed into a cosmopolitan international city where English is frequently spoken and where one can easily find Japanese, Chinese, Uzbek, Indian, and other foreign companies and cuisines.

Dr. Rich’s research focuses primarily on the electoral politics of East Asia’s three democracies: South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. This summer’s research was a continuation of research focusing on how the public perceives democracy and electoral institutions (e.g., the legislature). Funded through a grant from the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), Dr. Rich’s research explored two specific questions: what explains voting patterns in South Korea’s legislative elections (the National Assembly) and what led to the election of the country’s first female president, Park Geun-Hye. The latter question has generated considerable attention outside of the country primarily for two reasons. First, President Park was the daughter of South Korea’s longest reigning authoritarian leader, Park Chung-Hee. Second, females remain underrepresented in electoral politics in the region. As part of this research he interviewed electoral politics experts in the country and collected existing survey data that had been unavailable in English. His analysis of the National Assembly shows that while small parties still win some seats, as a whole competition increasingly mirrors two-party competition familiar to American voters. Meanwhile, he suggests long-term trends in part explain Park’s victory in the presidential election. Rich states, “conventional wisdom states that higher turnout favors liberal or progressive candidates. However, this ignores South Korea’s graying population. As the over 50 and especially over 60 population become a larger percentage of the voting population, this heavily favors conservative parties like that headed by Park.”

In addition, Dr. Rich pursued a side project on North Korean politics. He was fortunate to meet with officials from the Ministry of Unification to discuss the ever-tense dialogue between the two Koreas, and was later quoted by the Christian Science Monitor regarding inter-Korean talks, stating that North Korea intends to negotiate from a position of power, hence the provocative actions beforehand. He also laid the groundwork for expanding an ongoing project on the rhetoric of North Korea’s English language news, working with Dr. Heon Joo Jun at Yonsei University, one of South Korea’s most prestigious universities, at which Dr. Rich hopes to lead a study abroad.

Dr. Rich also found time to enjoy Korean culture. Besides sampling food from street vendors and various styles of Korean barbeque, he also attended a baseball game of his favorite Korean team, the LG Twins. Dr. Rich sees baseball in particular as an area where WKU students can see distinct differences from the U.S. while in a relatively familiar environment. For example, unlike in the U.S., fans in South Korea largely sit in areas defined by which team they support. And while the rules are the same, how the crowd reacts, what refreshments are sold, and how much jerseys cost differ considerably from what one finds in the U.S.

Dr. Rich anticipates he will return to South Korea within the next two years, likely after a trip next summer to Taiwan. He also envisions more WKU students taking advantage of the already existing exchange programs in South Korea, especially now that his first student to take the plunge, Jeffrey Walker, has recently returned from his summer studying at Yonsei University.
What makes an artistic golden age? This June, fourteen WKU undergraduate and graduate art students traveled to Amsterdam and Paris to study the origins and outcomes of two exceptional heydays in art history on a faculty-led study abroad program, “Great Art Centers.” Both cities abound with resources for the courses offered by program leaders Dr. Ingrid Cartwright and Dr. Guy Jordan: seventeenth-century Baroque art and the art of the latter half of the nineteenth-century, including the age of Realism, Impressionism, and the Belle Époque.

The trip started off in Amsterdam, where the Rijksmuseum was the crowning jewel and last of the city's artistic triumvirate recently rejuvenated — the adjacent Van Gogh and Stedelijk museums completed renovations just months earlier. While such a well-timed hat trick is unprecedented in today's art world, it can't compare to the grandeur Amsterdam experienced in the seventeenth-century. Remarkably, millions of paintings were created in Holland during the Dutch golden age — from grand group portraits commissioned by civic groups to tiny scenes of everyday life, which now overflow the galleries of the Rijksmuseum and Frans Hals Museum in nearby Haarlem, where the group spent a day.
"Students got a taste for the dramatic artistic changes in the nineteenth century"

The dramatic swell in art production is largely tied to Amsterdam’s meteoric rise as an international center of trade and science, as students learned at sites like the Amsterdam Museum and the Atlas-topped Town Hall (now palace) on Dam Square. Lured by lucrative commissions, artists flocked to the city—including Rembrandt, who gained enough fortune to build the gabled mansion and large studio, where art history, studio art, and art education majors learned about his techniques. The unique character of Dutch art of the golden age also reflects political and religious changes as the Dutch rebelled from Spanish rule and its imposed Catholicism. The Calvinist Dutch, intent on avoiding overt religious imagery, invented new pictorial modes like still life, landscapes and genre paintings, which were often imbued with deeper symbolic expressions. Students got a taste for the dramatic artistic changes of the nineteenth-century in Amsterdam as well, visiting the Van Gogh museum on several occasions, which was literally steps from the group’s base on the Museumplein.

After a week in Holland and a train ride to Paris, the program turned its attention to the prolific artistic production that emerged after Napoleon III and Baron Haussmann transformed Paris from a medieval maze into broad boulevards of modern experience. The era is marked both by the grand academic paintings that were the toast of the conservative Salon and fill vast halls of the Louvre, as well as a growing backlash to this long held artistic model. At the Rodin Museum, Orangerie, and Musée d’Orsay, students explored the work of the artists who looked to modern life for models of truer experience. These Realist tableaux, Impressionist landscapes, and Symbolist visions mark the beginnings of an avant garde. At the Centre Pompidou, one could clearly observe how these first, bold challenges to traditional notions of art in the late nineteenth century stepped quickly into increasingly abstract modes of expression.

The nineteenth-century, Paris’ Belle Époque, is certainly only one of its incarnations as a “great art center.” The group also spent a day at Versailles, visited Sainte-Chapelle, Notre Dame, Les Invalides, the Panthéon, Petit Palais, and walked the city over, finally collapsing en masse at the Eiffel Tower for picnic, pictures, and a glance back on two golden weeks of learning about two golden ages of art.

Ingrid Cartwright is an Assistant Professor of art history, specializing in seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art. A recent essay “On the Bit: Prince Maurice, Simon Stevin and the Spanish Warhorse” is slated to appear in the volume “Animals and Early Modern Identity” (Ashgate, 2014). She earned degrees in art history from Smith College (B.A.), American University (M.A.), and the University of Maryland, College Park (Ph.D), and with Dr. Gay Jordan, helped establish the art history major at WKU. She is the current Potter College representative to the International Education Advisory Council and is eager to assist faculty in the design and implementation of study abroad programs.

Dance as International Language

BY JULIE PRIDE

“I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to study and perform internationally,” said Carrie Farmer, a senior from Kingdom, Tenn. Farmer is one of the more than 70 students who have participated in the Dance in Italy study abroad trip since 2005 when the tour was first planned by Clifton Keeler Brown, Associate Professor of Dance and Dance Program Coordinator at WKU. Brown, who previously danced professionally in Italy with L’Ensemble Da Micha Van Hoeke, believes it is important for WKU dance students to experience dance in a foreign country. “It broadens their education in our global society,” said Brown.

“The performance exposure to a different kind of audience was incredible,” remarked Jordan Jones, a senior from Ft. Wright, Ky., who has participated in the program twice. “We learn so many different things. The audiences are different and the movement qualities in the choreography are different. The dancers from WKU have been able to experience firsthand cultural differences in Italian and American dance. We saw a dance piece that used vocals and tethered balloons,” said Farmer. “Also the dancers in Italy more commonly incorporate folk dances into their performances.” Both Jones and Farmer liked the public interaction with the audience in Italy. “Italian audiences are very lighthearted and joyful and very appreciative of what’s on stage,” said Farmer.

“The best part of the program is seeing American culture through another culture’s eyes,” said Jones, “Dance is a universal language, and each culture has its own dialect.”

Over the years of the program, the participants have had many different experiences including performing in Rome and Civitavecchia, collaborating with Balletto di Civitavecchia, and demonstrating at a public school in Civitavecchia. They have also been able to take classes with touring companies and work with professional dancers from both Italy and France. The study abroad program also includes time to experience local culture both urban and rural. The dancers have been hosted for dinner by the mayor of Tolfa, Italy, visited a hot springs, hiked in the Italian countryside and marveled at the famous sites of Rome.

To get credit for the excursion, participants must document their experiences to share upon their return. As part of an Honors College project, Jones, for example, made a video about her experiences that can be seen on the WKU Honors College website. The next Dance in Italy program is scheduled for May 2014. For more information about the Italy experience or about the dance program at Western Kentucky University, contact the Department of Theatre and Dance at 270-745-5845 or see the department’s website at wku.edu/theatre-and-dance.

Julie Pride has a bachelor’s degree in music from Florida State University and an M.A. in Healthcare Administration from WKU. She has been tickling the ivories since age five and, as the Staff Accompanist for the Department of Theatre and Dance, accompanies the dance program and plays for the musical theatre projects. She admits to being an aficionado of both fountain pens and french fries and that she adores working in theatre.

“"The best part of the program is seeing American culture through another culture’s eyes”
The Symphony goes to China

By David Lee • Photos by Bryan Lemon

The Symphony at WKU has completed a highly successful concert tour of China. Established in 1909, The Symphony at WKU is the Commonwealth's oldest orchestra, and this trip marks the ensemble's first international tour. Between May 12 and May 26, 2013, the 55-member orchestra performed on four university campuses—the main campus of North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) in Beijing, the NCEPU campus in Baoding, Beijing Language and Culture University in Baoding, and Hebei University. The Hebei concert was the first performance in the university's newly completed concert hall. The Symphony was under the direction of Dr. Bill Scott, now in his tenth year as the Baker Professor of Music at WKU. Members were particularly delighted that WKU President Gary Ransdell and his wife, Julie, joined the group for several days in Beijing.

For the tour, Scott and The Symphony prepared a diverse program that included both classical and popular music as well as works by both Western and Eastern composers. Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, The Symphony's concertmaster and a violin faculty member at WKU, performed the "Butterfly Lovers' Concerto. Composed in 1959 by Chen Gang and He Zhanhao, the piece draws on the Romeo and Juliet story and is perhaps the best-known work in the Chinese classical music repertoire. Reflecting its Kentucky roots, The Symphony also performed another contemporary composition, "Come Life, Shaker Life," by Dr. Michael Kallstrom, WKU Distinguished University Professor of Music, a work that echoes the Shaker tune of the same title. The Symphony's performance was the Chinese premiere of the piece, and The Symphony presented it as a musical gift to WKU's partner Universities. Other selections from the major orchestral repertoire included Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnole.

"For the tour, Scott and The Symphony prepared a diverse program that included both classical and popular music as well as works by both Western and Eastern composers."

Above: Dr. Bill Scott prepares to conduct the concert performance with the WKU Symphony. Right: Students visited many Chinese attractions including the Great Wall the Forbidden City, and the terra-cota warriors in Xi'an.
The concerts had a lighter side as well. The Symphony brought a taste of Kentucky to China with Jay Ungar’s Summer, from The Harvest Home Suite, a “Bluegrass-style” fiddle tune performed by Alyna Bloecher, a recent music education graduate from Fairbanks, Alaska. The concerts included music from several movie themes popular with Chinese audiences, including Titanic, Pirates of the Caribbean, and various themes from James Bond movies. Each concert concluded with The Moon Represents My Heart, perhaps the most recognized Chinese work from the popular genre. Orchestrated by Bill Scott, the performance featured solos by the WKU Artist String Faculty, Sarah Berry, Andrew Braddock and Ching-Yi Lin, who serve as principal members of The Symphony.

The tour stressed collaboration between Chinese and American musicians, and Bill Scott invited local musicians to join The Symphony at each performance. The award-winning Electric Blue Choir from NCEPU-Beijing sang two selections with The Symphony—melodies from the movies Beauty and the Beast and The Lion King.

WKU graduate Kyle MacDonald did the orchestration for these two works. A violin student from the Beijing Language and Culture University joined Lin on the last section of the Butterfly Lovers Concerto, and at Hebei University The Symphony featured Associate Dean Lv Yi as soloist in Mozart’s Piano Concerto in D minor.

WKU’s student musicians made the most of this special opportunity to perform in an international setting. The performances attracted large and appreciative audiences each evening, and audience members eagerly sought out the musicians after the performances to exchange pictures and music. At Hebei University and NCEPU-Beaoling, Chinese students presented afternoon performances of Chinese music and dance using traditional Chinese instruments. Steven Stewart, violin major from Grayson County, reciprocated by performing Bluegrass fiddle tunes. A special highlight of the trip was an impromptu concert the students arranged on the Great Wall. The principal brass members of The Symphony carried instruments and music stands to the top of the Wall and performed a piece by Michael Kamien to the surprise and delight of other visitors.

The Symphony’s first international tour stirred a good bit of excitement in the WKU arts community, and twenty alumni and friends of The Symphony also made the trip through a special tour arranged by WKU’s Office of Alumni Relations. In addition to attending the four concerts—and learning a good bit about the complex logistics of mounting a symphony concert in an international setting—the alumni enjoyed a rich sampling of China’s cultural heritage, including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the terra-cotta warriors in Xi’an as well as numerous museums and galleries. Lynn O’Keefe, owner of Gallery 916 in Bowling Green, acquired several examples of Farmer Art—work done by amateur artists in rural areas since the establishment of the People’s Republic in 1949—for the Gallery.

The Symphony’s tour was part of WKU’s growing commitment to building its international reach, and the university has made a special effort to build its connections with China. Through a partnership with Hanban—an organization affiliated with China’s Ministry of Education—WKU houses a Confucius Institute that supports language instruction and cultural programming through WKU. The university is also home to a Chinese Flagship Program through a Department of Defense grant that supports intensive instruction in the Chinese language. In addition, WKU has ongoing partnerships and faculty-student exchanges with its host universities in China—North China Electric Power University, Beijing Language and Culture University, and Hebei University. The Symphony’s tour was part of this overall initiative, and the trip received financial support from the WKU President’s Office, Potter College of Arts & Letters, and the Department of Music, as well as from Hanban and the Confucius Institute. Generous alumni also helped to make it possible for students to participate in this tour.

David Lee joined the History Department at WKU in 1975 and became Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters in 1992. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Miami University, he holds a doctorate in American history from Ohio State University. Dean Lee’s research focuses on the early 20th century. He is the author of a biography of World War I soldier Sergeant Alvin York, as well as several articles on the early development of commercial aviation. He has also appeared on National Public Radio and on the Biography series discussing his research. He has held research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association. Dean Lee serves on the board of the Kentucky Historical Society, the University Press of Kentucky, the Confucius Institute at WKU, and SkyPAC, Inc. He also chairs the WKU Cultural Enhancement Series.

Bryan Lemon is the Public Affairs photjournalist. He rides his bike to and from work every day to lower his carbon footprint, and he dreams of traveling to the moon to photograph its stark topography.

Published in Bluegrass Music News, Fall 2013.
ART

Located in Main & Corridor Galleries

November 14 – December 14, 2013
Fall Graduating Seniors Exhibition

This group exhibition presents the work of the Dept. of Art’s Fall 2013 Seniors graduating in both the Studio Art and Graphic Design tracks.

Corridor Gallery

March 5 – April 10, 2014
Mama’s Boy and Dig: Digital and Mixed-Media Prints by Heath.

Freeman & Jeff Murphy

This two-person exhibition explores the nature of parenthood and childhood in relation to the non-familial world.

For more info and updates, visit www.wku.edu/art or call 270-745-3944.

MUSIC

November 22, 2013
Opera Theatre

FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm

November 23, 2013
Holiday Jazz

Marshall Scott, John Martin, Beth Pope, Wayne Pope and Webb Hendrix

Music Rehearsal Hall, Room 103, 7:30 pm

December 6, 2013
Holiday Pops

The Symphony and Choirs at WKU with Timothy Simpson, guest tenor

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

December 7, 2013
Winterfest. A Choral Celebration

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 8:00 pm

December 11, 2013
Student Performer of the Semester Recital

FAC Recital Hall, 1:00 pm

January 24, 2014
FRISM, a smorgasbord of student ensembles

Van Meter Auditorium, 8:00 pm

January 27, 2014
String Trios

Ching-Yi Lin, David Gillham, and Andy Bradock

FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm

February 14, 2014
Chamber Music with Ching-Yi Lin & Friends

FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm

February 16, 2014
German Masters of Lieder

Sylvia Kersenbaum, pianist, Liza Kelly, mezzo soprano

FAC Recital Hall, 3:00 pm

February 17, 2014
Faculty Recital with Mark Berry, percussion

FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm

March 4, 2014
WKU Bands in Concert

Mark Ford, Scott Harris, and Mark Berry, marimba solists

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

March 23, 2014
WKU Choirs in Concert

Van Meter Auditorium, 4:00 pm

March 28, 2014
Chamber Winds Concert

Wind Ensemble

FAC Recital Hall, 11:30 am

March 28, 2014
Romantic Masterworks

The Symphony at WKU with Marilyn DeOliveira, guest cellos

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

March 30, 2014
Emerita Faculty Recital with Sylvia Kersenbaum, piano

Van Meter Auditorium, 3:00 pm

April 6, 2014
Faculty Recital with Heidi Alvarez, flute

FAC Recital Hall, 3:00 pm

April 8, 2014
Saxophone Chamber Music Faculty Recital with John Cipolla

FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 pm

April 25, 2014
With Voice and Song

The Symphony and Choirs at WKU, Jennifer Brennan-Hondorp, soprano

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

April 26, 2014
WKU Jazz Band

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

May 2, 2014
WKU Bands in Concert

featuring the winner of the 2014 WKU Concerto Competition

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

May 4, 2014
WKU Choirs in Concert

Van Meter Auditorium, 4:00 pm

May 11, 2014
Baker Chamber Players

Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum, 3:00 pm

May 14, 2014
Student Performer of the Semester Recital

FAC Recital Hall, 1:00 pm

*Tickets available at door only.
**The Symphony, for tickets visit www.wku.edu/go/cesor call 270-745-3121.

CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT SERIES

February 4, 2014
Introducing the Wu Force: Abigail Washburn with Kai Welch and Featuring Wu Fei

Wu Fei (guzheng/voice) and Abigail Washburn, (banjo/voice) are schooled in Chinese traditional, classical, bluegrass and country music. Drawing on these roots, they compose and perform fresh original music, and are currently working together in the Beijing-Nashville based Wu Force.

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

February 21, 2014
Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Cornel West, the Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University, is a prominent philosopher and public intellectual who has written 19 books, including Race Matters, “Race and Democracy in the Age of Obama Inspiration and Motivation”.

Cospopnored by the WKU Black History Celebration & Cultural Preservation Committee

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

March 17, 2014
Dr. Michio Kaku

Dr. Michio Kaku is a theoretical physicist, bestselling author, and popularizer of science. He’s the cofounder of string field theory (a branch of string theory).

Cospopnored by the Gatton Academy

Van Meter Auditorium, 7:30 pm

For more info and updates visit www.wku.edu/go/cesor or call 270-745-3121.

ARTS & LETTERS 22 FAL 2013

ARTS & LETTERS 23 FAL 2013
Student Scholarships and Grants

BY ANGELA JONES

PCAL students made an excellent showing in what was a record-setting year for WKU students and recent graduates earning national scholarships in 2012-13.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants of up to $5,000 for U.S. citizen undergraduate students who are Pell Grant eligible to pursue academic studies abroad. Seven PCAL students were awarded this scholarship to support them in their Spring 2013 studies.

Timothy Phelps, an English for Secondary Teachers major from Shepherdsville, Ky., studied in Germany.

Tyler Prochazka, a dual major in International Affairs and Asian Religions and Cultures from Newton, Kan., studied in China.

Byron Turner, a Political Science major from Bowling Green, Ky., studied in Tanzania.

Jessica Brumley, an English for Secondary Education major from Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Critical Language Scholarship
Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Critical Language Scholarship provides 7-10 weeks of intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences abroad. Three of the four WKU recipients of this scholarship were PCAL students, all of whom furthered their study in China this summer as part of their participation in the Chinese Flagship Program.

Hannah Garland, a dual major in International Affairs and Asian Religions and Cultures from Nashville, Tenn., was awarded a Boren Award. Stovall will study in China for the 2013-14 academic year, completing his Capstone Year for the Chinese Flagship Program. Boren Awards are funded by the National Security Education Program and provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad.

Alexandra “Dare” Norman, a Music Theatre major from Bowling Green, Ky.

J.P. Stovall, a triple major in Spanish, International Affairs, and Asian Religions and Cultures from Nashville, Tenn., was awarded a Boren Award. Stovall will study in China for the 2013-14 academic year, completing his Capstone Year for the Chinese Flagship Program.

George Mitchell Scholarship
Awardees are selected for their academic and personal achievements and qualities. The Mitchell Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate leadership as well as exceptional personal, intellectual, and professional promise.

Ameliah Given, a 2013 Graduate in English for Secondary Teachers from Bowling Green, Ky., was selected as an alternate for an English Teaching Assistantship to Israel.

Fulbright Grants
The Fulbright Program awarded approximately 6,000 grants in 2010 to U.S. students, teachers, professionals and scholars to study, teach, lecture and conduct research in more than 155 countries, and to their foreign counterparts to engage in similar activities in the United States. Benefits for research grants and English teaching assistantships include round-trip transportation and maintenance for the academic year. Recipients of research grants may also be eligible to receive funds for books, research allowances, full or partial tuition, and language study programs.

Kelsey Mattingly, a 2013 Graduate in Art History and Sociology from Louisville, Ky., was awarded a Study Grant to the United Kingdom to pursue a one-year master's program in art history.

Princeton in Asia
Princeton in Asia (PIA) provides service-oriented experiences for highly qualified students while serving the needs of various regions throughout the continent.

Angela Jones is an associate professor of English at WKU and coordinates the department's internship program (www.wku.edu/english/internships.php). She also teaches community yoga classes, serves as president of the board for the Bowling Green International Festival, and volunteers for the Bowling Green Warren County Humane Society. In 2013, Angela was recognized for her university and community service with the PCAL Public Service Award. In 2013-14, she is serving as a faculty fellow in the PCAL Dean’s Office.
Alumni Spotlight: Teresa Hollingsworth

BY LILLI TICHININ

Teresa Hollingsworth grew up in Shepherdsville, Ky., and WKU has been a presence throughout her life. She spent time on campus as a child while her parents did graduate work at WKU, and she felt the school was a natural fit for her education. Initially Teresa came into WKU as a Broadcasting major but after discovering her interest in Folk Studies changed her major to History with a minor in Folk School was a natural fit for her education.

Teresa credits WKU for preparing her for her work in Public Folklore and for being a home to which she continues to return. During a recent visit to campus, she talked with current Folk Studies graduate student Lilli Tichinin about her experiences at WKU and her work in Public Folklore.

LT: What first brought you to Folklore?
TH: When I was an undergrad at WKU, I needed an elective class and one of my friends recommended taking Intro to Folk Studies with Dr. Lynwood Montell. I ended up taking several other Folk Studies classes. I went to see Dr. Montell in his office at FAC and he said, "Well, what is it that you like to do? What is it that really interests you?" I was very interested in objects and material culture and the people who made them. Where things came from, why people created things. What did it mean to them? What did it mean to their community? And he said, "Well that’s it. This is what you should do."

LT: Is there a particular project or program that you’ve worked on that you feel epitomizes your goals as a public folklorist?
TH: I think perhaps a project I’ve worked on in the past two years, a quilt exhibit called “The Sum of Many Parts, 25 Quiltmakers in 21st-Century America.” We worked with one of our sister organizations, Arts Midwest. I was one of the co-curators for the exhibit that was developed to tour China. It has been in six different cities in China and is currently in Beijing at the Women and Children’s Museum. Every step along the way we’ve been able to send a quilt, and I was able to go with two of the quilters to present the work in Shanghai. To watch the interaction between those two individuals as quilters and to watch them interact with audiences, whether they were students, museum professionals, or just interested folks in China, was a pretty amazing experience. We take so many things for granted in this country as far as our arts are concerned. Sometimes I think people feel like there’s very little discovery left, and it was fascinating to be engaged and to participate in this project. It was a pretty special experience to take a truly traditional art from our country abroad.

LT: Which piece of your Folklore training do you think has been most useful in working in an art organization such as South Arts, which is not limited to traditional arts?
TH: The thing that I have taken from my training is that the traditional arts are not stagnant, they’re constantly evolving and constantly adapting to new environments and to change. The only way any vibrant arts organization is going to survive is if you’re constantly evolving, changing and adapting to the world that we live in and the world that’s around us. I’m always looking at ways that the traditional arts can be included in other arts programming. We are not in a silo, we are not boxed in: this is just art, this is just dance, this is just music. How can the traditional arts be a part of that?

LT: What was an underclassmen, a quilt exhibit at the Kentucky Museum. The quilts were made from scraps from the Fruit of the Loom plant; there would be those lovely fabrics used in boxer shorts or other garments, (scraps of which) the workers could then take home. I would love to go back to see which of those people are still quilting, or if any of their family members continued to quilt. Where are those quilts now? Are they still in the families? I would love to know, almost 30 years later, what became of those individuals and those quilts.

Lilli Tichinin graduated from University of Oregon in 2009 with a B.A. in Anthropology and a Certificate in Folklore. After graduating she interned at the Smithsonian Center for Folklore and Cultural Heritage where she worked on the 2010 Smithsonian Folklore Festival. She is currently a second-year graduate student in Folk Studies at WKU and is the graduate assistant for the Kentucky Folklore Program.

LT: Are there any projects that you worked on while you were a student that you wish you could add on to or do a little differently?
TH: There was a project that I worked on as an undergraduate, a quilt exhibit at the Kentucky Museum. The quilts were made from scraps from the Fruit of the Loom plant; there would be those lovely fabrics used in boxer shorts or other garments, (scraps of which) the workers could then take home. I would love to go back to see which of those people are still quilting, or if any of their family members continued to quilt. Where are those quilts now? Are they still in the families? I would love to know, almost 30 years later, what became of those individuals and those quilts.

Teresa Hollingsworth at the 2013 Performing Arts Exchange with folklorist Bill Hey former National Endowment of the Arts Chairman (right) and Brent Bjorkman, Director of the Kentucky Folklore Program at WKU.
Lindsay Oesterritter, "a ceramic artist with particular interest in functional wares fired in a wood fueled kiln," is this year’s winner of the PCAL Award for Research and Creativity. The award's name is quite apt because her creative work deeply integrates research and art. As she explains, her practice includes "two important but very different elements." The first involves process and material: "The combined materials that make the clays, the amount and types of wood used to fuel the kiln, and the time, atmosphere, and temperature of the firing process all need to be tested and retested." The creative element, of course, is the ceramic forms she creates, "wares that are comfortably used while maintaining expressive characteristics in form and surface."

In recent years, Lindsay has researched materials and methods in Australia, where she tested locally occurring clays, and has studied in China, the origin of most contemporary ceramic practices. Her novel approach to "form and surface challenges in wood kilns" has made her much sought-after to lecture, conduct workshops, and exhibit her work. In the last five years, she has lectured and led 21 workshops, been juried into 57 exhibitions and invited to 28 others, and has led and led 21 works, been juried into 57 exhibitions and invited to 28 others, and has studied in Norway and Denmark, and is collaborating with a Norwegian ceramic artist to organize an exhibition of American functional ceramics that will travel from WKU to several galleries in Norway. This summer she presented at the prestigious Utilitarian Clay Symposium in Gøttingen, Tønn., an event she considers "a career highlight." Clearly, as her colleague Kristina Arnold observed in her nomination letter, Lindsay is "a rising rock star within the ceramic world."

As much time as Lindsay spends conducting research, disseminating her findings, and exhibiting her work, she also purposefully shares her research and creativity with students and colleagues. Lindsay was largely instrumental in the ground-up construction of the first wood-fired kiln on the WKU campus, a process that took three years. She looks forward to incorporating the new techniques into the curriculum and the community. As Lindsay explains, one of her goals "as an artist and professor is to teach students about the traditions we work from and engage them in the contemporary field of ceramics." To this end, she organizes student exhibits, hosts visiting artists on campus, encourages students to apply for leading residency programs, accompanies them to conferences and workshops, and takes them to the NCECA annual conferences—thus not only modeling but also fostering excellence in an emerging generation of ceramic artists.

Most recently, Lindsay completed a New Faculty Grant for "Studio Research and the Study of Scandinavian and Danish Design" in Norway and Denmark, and is collaborating with a Norwegian ceramic artist to organize an exhibition of American functional ceramics that will travel from WKU to several galleries in Norway. This summer she presented at the prestigious Utilitarian Clay Symposium in Gøttingen, Tønn., an event she considers "a career highlight." Clearly, as her colleague Kristina Arnold observed in her nomination letter, Lindsay is "a rising rock star within the ceramic world."

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Joe Stites recommended, "[If] you want to know what kind of teacher Jeff Bright really is, just ask his students!" So I turned to students for their opinion and found the following: Matthew Lund, music teacher at Crestwood Elementary School, marvels at Jeff's ability to juggle many responsibilities while still conveying how much he relishes his work ("truly has a blast while doing it"). He adds that Jeff "has instilled a passion for music education in me that I carry with me every day when I walk into my music classroom. I feel extremely privileged to have learned from such an incredible music educator." Alesha Aokin, Director of Bands at Christian Academy of Indiana, writes that Dr. Bright "generously cares about our growth in character as much as he cares how well we can march or play a trombone. I would not be the band director I am today if I did not have the privilege of being one of his students." And Amy Spears, member of the Big Red Marching Band, thanks Dr. Bright for "giving me the opportunity to develop as a musician, teacher, and leader. I have grown so much and I definitely think that's a testament to you. Thank you for helping make my dreams come true."

As one can see, a theme emerges here: Jeff is an inspiring teacher. In this, he has fulfilled one of his professional objectives: "I want to inspire [my students] to be curious and seek the truth, inspire them to reach their potential, inspire them to inspire others." To achieve this he has learned to employ active teaching techniques that prepare his students to be knowledgeable, confident and effective music educators. Mini-peer-teaching experiences allow his students to develop "enthusiasm toward helping others while gaining confidence in their own teaching abilities." Semester-long projects such as selecting and analyzing music for a marching band show and charting the formations simulate real life teaching situations. Observing student teachers allows Jeff to reflect on the effectiveness of his own methods and, in turn, inspires him to "take chances with my approach to teaching to help better serve and prepare my students."

Jeff admits to "moments of discouragement that all teachers experience in one way or another." What does he do recharge his batteries at such times? He remembers what inspired him to become a teacher in the first place—witnessing the long-term impact his father, a university professor, had on his students. Jeff, too, wanted "to influence students' lives and by doing so, the future." Clearly, Jeff regularly achieves the outcome he sought. As Jeff points out, Henry Brooks Adams once astutely observed, "teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops." Dr. Jeff Bright's students are living proof of an outstanding teacher's legacy.

Jeff Samuels Advising Award

Advising may be one of the most important roles in the university; advisors who approach the task with a passion for student advocacy, who take a personal interest in their advisees' growth and success, can make all the difference in students' lives. Dr. Jeff Samuels is one of those "ideal advisors," as one of his advisees declared, for he is consistently "accessible and personable, expertly knowledgeable, and a true advocate for students as they strive to achieve their goals."

Jeff's first goal as advisor is "helping students find their bliss"—that is, helping them negotiate the maze of parental expectation, societal pressure, preconceptions and self-doubt to discover for themselves what excites them, what goals they want to pursue. But this is just the beginning, for as his students explain with equal measures of respect, affection, and gratitude, Jeff exceeds expectations in every way. An award-winning teacher and an active scholar, no matter his own work load, Jeff works with his advisees throughout the year, having tea with them before the day's classes begin or providing feedback on capstone projects via Skype from Singapore. To help his students achieve their goals, he nurtures them in numerous ways, such as inviting scholars in their field to campus and arranging small group discussions, negotiating curriculum requirements with other departments or programs without "compromising the University's academic rigor," and mentoring students through the arduous application processes for scholarships, internships, travel grants, and graduate school.
To make his students more competitive and to round out their education, Jeff encourages them to study abroad and helps them to find the financial assistance they require, even at times providing a spare room when his visits abroad overlap with theirs. With Jeff’s support, his advisees have studied in Japan, Thailand, India, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia. With his guidance, they have gone on to graduate school at Harvard, Yale, University of Virginia, and others too numerous to name. He has even helped students from other majors with personal statements and post-graduate applications. As he says, “My door remains open to students, irrespective of their major or interests.”

That’s remarkable dedication, and Jeff’s students know it. One of Jeff’s former advisees, now in a Ph.D. program in history at the University of Connecticut, observed that no other advisor she’s ever had, including those at Harvard and Yale, compare with Dr. Samuel, whose investment in his students’ personal and academic growth makes him one of a kind. His tireless advocacy makes his students “feel like we have someone on our side, who knows us personally, and cares about our success.” And indeed they do. When the young man who identified Jeff as the “ideal advisor” won a Critical Language Scholarships from the U.S. State Department, he couldn’t wait to share the news with Jeff, who supported him throughout the process.

And as he reports, “I could tell from the hug he gave me that he was as overjoyed as I was at my success.”

Angela Jones
Public Service Award

Dr. Angie Jones, 2013 winner of the PCAL Faculty Award for Public Service, “strive[s] to be a public intellectual, someone who makes knowledge with, not for the members of his or her communities.” Her extraordinary success in “integrating her professional and personal lives in a useful way” is readily apparent in the classroom, across WKU’s campus, and throughout the Bowling Green community.

A rhetoric specialist constantly seeking ways to help out, Angie offered to revivify the English department’s languishing internship program. And did she ever! This required designing a new program from the bottom up—creating an online course; drafting new application, self-assessment, and evaluation materials; finding or creating internships related to students’ skills and professional interests; working as liaison between supervisors and students—and much more.

Under Angie’s demanding mentorship, so far 43 students have completed internships with University publications; commercial publishers; small businesses; and social service, religious and government organizations, to name a few. Her students and the internship supervisors alike credit Angie’s high expectations and exemplary professionalism for the program’s success. One student who completed two internships under Angie’s guidance emailed her to say, “I wanted to tell you how much I have appreciated you as a professor and mentor throughout my academic training. I have you to thank for my success in the professional writing field.”

Joseph Kirkpatrick, President of KirkpatrickPrice, who has hired three former interns as full-time employees, notes that all of Angie’s students similarly credit her for making them “professionals,” also noting that Angie’s work of “connecting English majors with workplace experiences demonstrates the University’s function as a center of learning.”

Angie brings her service-oriented work ethic and her rhetorical skills to the community in other ways as well, primarily through her work for the Bowling Green International Festival (BGIF) and the Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society. Her efforts have borne fruit not only in bridging the town-gown divide, but in bringing in real dollars, helping to keep both non-profit organizations afloat in a time of economic stress. In keeping with the University’s commitment to international reach, for nearly seven years Angie has played major roles in organizing the BGIF, twice writing the grants without which the Festival would have floundered, and serving three years as president of its board of directors. Lorri Hare, Director of the BGWC Humane Society, lauds Angie both for her emotional and financial devotion to needy animals, and for creating connections between student projects and public service. In 2012, Paw Talk, the Humane Society newsletter, researched, written, and published by Angie’s professional writing students, brought in contributions of over $21,765, 30% more than any previous newsletter—a feat made possible by “Angela’s amazing ideas and leadership.”

As one can see, Dr. Angie Jones has many admirers among her students, colleagues, and business and community leaders. And rightly so.

As the criteria for the service award specify, she “exemplify[es] qualities of selflessness, integrity, and humane outlook” for her students and for all of us. Dr. Jones not only embodies public service, she inspires it in others.

Matt Herman
Part Time Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Matt Herman, winner of the PCAL Part Time Faculty Teaching Award, has been teaching in the Department of Music only since fall 2011, but his former department head, Dr. Mitzi Groom, early on recognized Matt as a multi-talented, “complete team player”—a successful composer and an “excellent teacher” who makes the “time to spend with students who need extra help.” And need help they might, for Matt’s teaching responsibilities include not only Music Appreciation, a class many students take only to meet Gen Ed requirements, but also music theory for non-majors, a tough job if there ever was one.

Matt’s teaching evaluations illuminate his success in the classroom. As Dr. Groom pointed out, his appreciative students “note his enthusiasm for teaching, his content knowledge and memorable ways to convey it, his high-tech content delivery, and his ability to make a music appreciation class "fun." Even his non-major theory evaluations were "overwhelmingly positive," because he creates, as one student put it, "a great learning environment."

Matt relishes the complex challenges that teaching first year students bring, whether they are music majors or not. He acknowledges that first year students have a “widely varying skill level and knowledge base.” Even potential music majors may have “an insufficient background in music fundamentals and a poor understanding of our academic expectations.” That is why his 100 level classes often become his priority. He knows that if he can help those students "develop a common set of skills and a strong passion for music, they are much more likely to be successful students in upper-level classes.”

As a teacher who is also a "lifelong student," Matt keeps his classes fresh by applying contemporary scholarship and updating his syllabi every year. Equally important, he is also an active composer. In addition to composing pieces for the WKU faculty and the wind ensemble to perform last year, his compositions have been performed in numerous venues, including the Performing Arts Institute at Scranton, on tour with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, and most recently in the composer ranks of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). Matt has a contract for his first commercially published score.

Dr. Herman has taught at other institutions, where he has won similar awards, including Adjunct Professor of the Year, the Outstanding Faculty Award, and an award for "excellence in music theory teaching." And in 1996 he was a "Young and Emerging Composers" finalist for the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. All of this is to say, as Dr. Groom observed, that Matt’s musical talent, combined with his "professionalism, versatility and teacher disposition are rarely found in one individual, and we are fortunate to have him on our faculty team."

Karen Schneider, emeritus professor and former Head of the English Department, has contributed to Arts and Letters since spring of 2012. After teaching for more than 25 years and having published essays on film and literature, she has transitioned from teacher-scholar to editor to ease the pangs of separation.
Potter College Fall Festival 2013

During the 4th Annual Potter College Fall Festival on October 30, 2013, participants were invited to take photos and upload to Instagram and Twitter using #pcalfallfest. Please enjoy a selection of photos that were shared.

by annihilated via Instagram
by Haleu Valentine @haley_valentine
by Joel Davis @Davis_52

by plasticfriendsband via Instagram
by moriah_ashley via Instagram
by Luke W. Jean the 1st @GooseDubJeans

by abigail1811 via Instagram
by Molly McCaffrey @MollyMcCaffrey
by shannaeCarter via Instagram (3)

by fleurissabelle via Instagram
by nick_pics via Instagram
by Abby Zibart @Arwen_Holmes

by EmilyGayle8 via Instagram
by Chris Embry @Chris_A_E
by shannaeCarter via Instagram copy
The Ashen Egg: Named in reference to the department’s mascot, a rising phoenix. The Ashen Egg showcases current WKU students’ analytical essays on literature, rhetoric, linguistics, film, and popular culture. Our first issue featured nine essays on topics ranging from the synthesis of medieval Anglo-Saxon warrior culture and Christian belief in “The Dream of the Rood” to the problematic construction of gender in the “Twilight” novels. The editorial board is currently reviewing submissions for the second issue, which should be in print by early Spring 2014.

Associate Professor of English Wes Berry gives students a tour of the Commonwealth’s impressive literary heritage in his popular Kentucky Literature courses, and recently he embarked on another kind of tour, visiting over 170 barbecue joints, picnics and festivals from the Mississippi River to Appalachia. The results of his homegrown research appear in “The Kentucky Barbecue Book,” a folksy guidebook to 115 of Berry’s favorite places, laced with barbecue history, a mapping of barbecue regions, tidbits about Kentucky language and place names, over 50 recipes, and 16 pages of photos. Berry gained 25 pounds during four years of research. “When you get the call,” Berry said, “go whole hog. It’s a value I try instilling in my students. Work thoroughly, with soul.”

Reviewing the book, John T. Edge, director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, calls Berry “a cantankerous thinker, with a pleasantly skewed sense of humor,” while Southern studies scholar John Shelton Reed says, “This is a love letter to the old Kentucky. It’s written from the heart, and Berry used his barbecue quest as an excuse to get off the interstates and savor the landscapes and people found along the blue highways and country roads of your state.”

In the past year, Dorothea Browder had two articles accepted for publication in scholarly journals. “Working Out Their Problems Together: World War I, Working Women, and Civil Rights in the YWCA,” will be published in The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, a journal widely read by scholars in a number of fields of U.S. history. The article explores how a group of Young Women’s Christian Association staff placed black working women discursively and literally at the center of the civil rights claims that were heightened by World War I’s strains and opportunities, and fostered a commitment to racial justice among white working women as well. It contributes new insights into World War I, African American history, and women’s history.

The other, “Elizabeth Nord’s Tennis Lesson: How a Rhode Island Labor Leader Got Her Start in the YWCA,” appeared in Rhode Island History in the summer of 2013. This article focuses on Elizabeth Nord, a textile worker whose experiences in and through the Pawtucket YWCA Industrial Program in the 1920s and 1930s led her into labor organizing work for a textile union. Besides reaching an important set of scholars in labor, women’s, and Rhode Island history, this work found a broader audience when the Rhode Island Labor History Association commemorated Elizabeth Nord at its Labor Day 2013 celebration, a public event at a meaningful historical site in the state.


Dick Troutman co-authored with Doug Moseley a book on presidential trivia entitled “From George W. To George W.: A Collection of the Humorous, the Strange, the Unknown, and the Unbelievable in the Lives of Our First Forty-Two Presidents.”

Communication

What should faculty members do when available textbooks don’t speak to students? That situation in Communication 200: Communication Foundations led to six professors banding together to write their own ‘textbook’ in the form of an app. Dr. Blair Thompson initiated the idea over a year ago and brought in Drs. Angela Jerome, Holly Payne, Jennifer Mize Smith, Kumi Ishii and Sabine Chai, all members of the Department of Communication faculty, to create materials tailored to the needs of WKU students. The app contains chapters devoted to the discipline’s key theories. Each chapter defines a theory, discusses its applications to real life, and provides ideas for digging deeper. At the end of each chapter, focused activities and a bibliography provide further resources. Virtues of the app for students include the ability to search key terms, highlight portions of the text, take notes in the margins, and receive updated materials
Dr. Garmon, Director of Leadership Studies at WKU, are well partnered to lead students on this exciting study abroad program.

Political Science

- Dr. Saundra Ardrey was inducted into the Furman University Department of Political Science Hall of Fame in fall 2013. The Hall of Fame honors a person who has made a significant contribution to the Political Science department. Members include former Governor of S.C and former Secretary of Education Richard Riley. Ardrey was recognized for her contributions to the curriculum and for her efforts in establishing outreach programs with the community. Ardrey was the first African American hired by the university, a private, coeducational liberal arts college in Greenville, S.C.

- Dr. James Chappell, who served as director of the Masters of Public Administration Program for over a decade, retired on June 30. He and his wife, Ginna, returned to Mobile, Ala. to be closer to family. When asked about his time as M.P.A. director, Dr. Chappell said, "I would like to think that I made a few good decisions for the M.P.A. Program." One of those decisions involved great effort to achieve NASPAA accreditation for the program in 2009.

- Dr. Victoria Gordon was appointed M.P.A. Director effective July 1. However, her on-the-job training began in January. Drs. Ed Yager and Shannon Vaughan have taken on many responsibilities in an effort to help her with her new duties. Gordon relocated her office to Grise Hall 305 to have more room to meet with prospective and current students. Dr. Gordon is logging many miles, meeting with organizations for possible internship placements, and recruiting and marketing the M.P.A. program in Owensboro and Elizabethtown/Fort Knox. When asked about assuming this new role, she replied: "I was just not ready for Dr. Chappell to retire yet and we will miss him, but I look forward to continuing his legacy of professionalism, and in following his example, I will always put the needs of students first!"

- Dr. Gordon’s new book, "Maternity Leave: Policy and Practice" offers an illuminating perspective on how the policies of maternity leave play out in the practice of common lives.

- Dr. Jeff Kash was recognized by MAP-Works (Making Achievement Possible) for his outstanding efforts in contributing to WKU’s Rally for Retention.

- Drs. Scott Lasley and Joel Turner’s research on personality and legislative behavior has been well received in the discipline. While the impact of personality traits on people’s attitudes and behaviors is widely recognized, there is very little systematic attention to personality in large sample research on elected officials. Their article, "Personality and Legislative Politics: The Big Five Trait Dimensions Among U.S. State Legislators," was published in Political Psychology.

- Just in his second year, Dr. Timothy Rich published "Understanding Sino-African Relations: Neocolonialism or a New Era?" (with Sterling Recker) in the Journal of International and Area Studies. He was awarded the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies for 2013 for his paper entitled "Introducing the Great Successor: North Korean English Language News Coverage of Kim Jong Un 2010-2011."

- Dr. Shannon Vaughan teamed with Dr. Shelly Arsenault, Professor and M.P.A. Director at California State University, Fullerton, to write "Managing Nonprofit Organizations in a Policy World", published by CQ Press in January 2013. (Some of you may remember Dr. Arsenault from her time as M.P.A. Director at WKU.)

- Dr. Ed Yager joins the Speaker’s Bureau of the Kentucky Endowment for the Humanities. He will deliver presentations throughout the state on the “Declaration of Independence” and on “Religious Liberty.” Yager also will teach a course at Harlaxton College in England this summer. The three-week course, "Karl Marx, John Locke and Rival Worldviews," will feature several site visits to London, Oxford and Manchester.

Music

- Mark Berry, associate professor of percussion, recently completed compiling and editing the book, Sounds, Shapes, and Synergy—Music for Triangles. The book is a collection of recital literature for triangle soloists, and is a true “first” in percussion literature—no such book existed prior to this publication. Through RCAP funding, Berry commissioned seven composers. Each composer was challenged to write recital repertoire for the triangle, an instrument that is perhaps the most unheralded in all of percussion, and difficult to write for. Berry also contributed an original composition of his own, entitled “geosynchronous.”

- Original compositions by Michael Kallstrom, professor of composition, were recently performed in Louisiana and Tennessee by WKU music faculty. Kallstrom performed “Souls Made of Music” for bass voice and horn quartet at the International Horn Society Symposium in Memphis, Tenn., and Heidi Alvarez, associate professor of flute, and Mark Berry performed “The Music Falls In” at the National Flute Association Convention in New Orleans, La. Many WKU flute alumni were also in attendance and were able to reconnect with WKU music faculty.
Mary Wolinski, professor of music history, presented the paper “Courty Musical Identity in Flanders” at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America in Knoxville, Tenn., in April 2013, and Jennifer Brennan-Hondorp, adjunct instructor of voice, was a featured soloist at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) in April 2013. Brennan-Hondorp performed songs from classic and contemporary Broadway musicals with Orchestra Kentucky.

**Philosophy & Religion**

- The 17th Annual Southeast Early China Roundtable (SEECR) was hosted at WKU from November 1-3, 2013. On Friday, November 1, Scott Cook of Grinnell College delivered a public lecture entitled “Excavated Bamboo Manuscripts and Their Impact on the Study of Early Chinese Texts.” Philosophical and religious manuscripts excavated in recent decades from tombs dating to well over two millennia ago have shed new light on early China's flourishing intellectual history. Dr. Cook described how some of these finds that contain interesting variations from the received versions imply later editorial concerns. During the two-day conference following the keynote talk, fifteen early China scholars from around the country gathered to discuss current scholarship on a wide range of topics from early Chinese culture. These scholars came from a variety of academic fields, including Archeology, Art History, East Asian Studies, History, Linguistics, Paleography, Philosophy, and Religion. Organized by flagship Academic Director Jianjun He and Religious Studies/Asian Religions and Cultures Assistant Professor Paul Fischer, this event brought a group of scholars who focus on traditional Chinese culture to our WKU campus for the first time.

**Modern Languages**

- Haley Edwards, a senior English major, won a Gilman Scholarship with a Critical Language bonus to study Arabic in Jordan in Spring 2013. Haley was the only one out of a thousand applicants to receive the highest possible award of $8,000. She studied Standard Arabic, Colloquial Jordanian Arabic, Arab Theater and the Culture of Jordan through the CET program in Irbid, Jordan, from January to May 2013. Prior to traveling to Jordan, Haley completed four semesters of Arabic at WKU and is currently enrolled in Advanced Arabic I and II this fall. In addition to her formal Arabic studies, Haley writes both English and Arabic language poetry, is active in the Arabic Club and serves as the Department of Modern Languages’ Arabic tutor three days a week.

**Theatre & Dance**

- Dr. Michelle Dyovskin, Assistant Professor of Theatre, presented a paper called “Playing with Expectations: Gender Mimicry and Musical Theatre Divas” at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, August 2013, Orlando, Fla.

- Amanda Clark, Associate Professor of Dance, participated in a week-long artist residency in September at Baylor School, a private boarding school in Chattanooga, Tenn., where she taught and set choreography for the school’s dance company.

- Tracey Moore, Associate Professor of Musical Theatre, spent part of her summer in New York. She taught two acting classes and attended a meeting for the Teacher Development Program at The Actor’s Center. To keep current on auditioning trends, she also went to several auditions, including “Phantom of the Opera” and an incoming Broadway show called “Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder,” as well as some new projects happening at Lincoln Center.

**English**

WKU’s Office of Research sponsored a trip to Cape Town, South Africa, for Niko Endres where he completed archival research on Mary Renault’s novel “The Charioteer.” Endres’s work yielded a publication in the *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* where Endres argues that Renault nostalgically uses Platonic eros as a model for a love between two young men that offers the good life, that in theory could flourish in post World-War-II Great Britain, but that is constantly threatened by the “queerness” of modern homosexuality.

Elizabeth Winkler is a co-investigator on a mapping project of caves and lava tubes in the Amazon basin and the Galapagos Islands. This month the project won a grant of $48,000 for a continued joint project with the Military University of Quito, Ecuador. The project title is “Mapping structural geology and biologic inventory in karstic and volcanic caves in the Ecuadorian Amazon Basin and in the lava tubes of Santa Cruz and the Sierra Negra in the Galapagos.” In her capacity as a linguisit, Dr. Winkler has the Wood Professorship to continue work on the Kpelle Dictionary project. She is working with native speakers of the language to create an orthography of the language as well as to expand the dictionary. Kpelle is spoken in Liberia. Deborah Logan participated in the Dickens Bicentenary conference at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, in December 2012. Her paper “Dickens in the Victorian Newsletter” is being published in a collection on Dickens scholarship by Jadavpur University Press (2013). Logan also participated in the international Victorian Studies Association conference in Venice (June 2013) where she presented a paper on “The Indian Ladies’ Magazine.” During Fall, 2013, she will be Visiting Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study, Jadavpur University and a guest lecturer at Shantiniketan University. In both instances presenting talks based on her current book project, The Indian Ladies’ Magazine, Raj and Swaraj.
archival research in Rhodes House at the Bodleian Library where she found useful information on European missionary ways of thinking about God, nature, and human cultures during the first half of the twentieth century. The two weeks of research were critical to Dr. Mukonyora’s continuing investigation in two areas: religion and colonialism as well as the intersection of religion and ecology. Both areas also happen to be teaching interests, and students have benefited greatly from her upper-division courses in Postcolonial Christianity (RELS 403) and Religion and Ecology (RELS 408).

Later in the summer, Dr. Mukonyora traveled to the city of Accra, Ghana, in West Africa. The Templeton Foundation invited a group of scholars and religious leaders from different countries in Africa to meet with the representatives of the Foundation and American scholars who are interested in supporting research initiatives on current trends in Christianity in Africa. Again, this experience was valuable both in terms of Dr. Mukonyora’s scholarship and her teaching. She regularly teaches a course on Christianity in Africa (RELS 324) for our students.

Political Science

M.P.A. graduate student Timothy Gilliam and undergraduate Zack Miller traveled to Tanzania this summer with Dr. Saundra Ardrey and the KIS program. Tim and Zach examined the politics of healthcare in Tanzania. While on the trip, the group met with Tanzanian government officials, visited private and public healthcare facilities, and traveled to the U.S. Embassy. Both students are currently in the process of writing papers to be presented at the National Council of Black Studies Conference in March 2014. Tim’s research is on women and healthcare in Tanzania, while Zack’s paper will assess Tanzania’s political leadership and the role of partisan rivalries in the upcoming 2015 national elections.

Philosophy & Religion

Faculty in the Department of Philosophy and Religion often go great distances as they pursue their research—research that results in important contributions to scholarly literature and to enhanced learning in our classrooms. This summer was no exception—especially in the case of Dr. Bella Mukonyora. In late June, Dr. Mukonyora attended a Research Day Meeting at the University of Oxford, England. She then spent a week doing

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