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WKU English

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Centennial Celebration

WKU's year long Centennial anniversary celebration was, in the general estimation, a fitting tribute to the long success of this institution. Hundreds of alumni, current students, faculty and administrators commemorated the birth of an extraordinary institution of higher education by participating in various university and departmental events.

The celebrations began on January 22 with the opening of the Western 100 photo exhibit, which highlighted the variety of activities which Western students may participate in during their career at Western Kentucky University. Pictures may be viewed at http://www.wku.edu/Library/kylm/centennial/exhibit.html. On February 25, President Ransdell led a commemorative March Up The Hill in honor of the establishment of the college. On November 16, the Centennial Mosaic was unveiled outside the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center.

Long-Standing Faculty Retire

The English Department lost some respected faculty this year and they will be missed. They have worked hard to establish the English Department as more than just a list of classes, but a community nurturing with the interests of the students and fellow faculty. Those who retired are Dr. Ward Hellstrom, Dr. Joe Survant, Dr. Nancy Roberts and Dr. Jim Flynn. Dr. Hellstrom had been at Western for 26 years, since 1981. He earned his Ph.D

Study Abroad

Western Kentucky University offers many opportunities yearly to students who would like to study abroad. Classes are available all over the world, in disciplines ranging from English to Science. The English department offers classes abroad almost every term in England, Scotland, Ireland, and France. The Department also offered its first travel study program here in the United States last summer. Students have many opportunities to travel to a variety of places where great literary works were written.

During the winter 2006-2007 term, Dr. James Flynn took a number of students to England where they explored areas out-

CONTENTS:

Centennial Celebration 2
Study Abroad 2
Retiring Faculty 3
Faculty Publications 3
Departmental Awards 3
Upcoming Events 4
Recent Events 4
Centennial

(continued from page 1) Also, the Centennial Fountain was installed outside of Van Meter Hall, overlooking the city of Bowling Green. The next day, the Charles A. Keown Plaza was dedicated, followed by the Founders Concert at Van Meter Hall, where pieces commissioned especially for the Centennial Celebration were performed, and Cheryl Beckley was presented with the Kentucky Archives Certificate of Merit. The Centennial Mall was unveiled and dedicated in a ceremony on November 18 that featured remarks from President Randsell and artist, Gino Miles, creator of the sculpture centerpiece in the Centennial Mall.

The centennial was also celebrated within the English Department. On Saturday, October 28, Dr. Jim Flynn presented a history of the English Department, which is available on the English Department’s website: www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/English.

In addition, Dr. Wes Berry organized an Oktoberfest luncheon. Alumni and faculty gathered in Cherry Hall to celebrate the Centennial. Dr. Joe Hardin sang and played piano, entertaining all. The English Club sold t-shirts and mugs adorned with the phoenix seal of this newsletter. President Randsell was in attendance, helping to commemorate a tree to Dr. Willson Wood, head of the department from 1928 to 1959. Dr. Frank Steele read a commemorative poem. English Department activities included a photo display and circulation of a special edition of Zephyrus, the English Department’s literary magazine, which featured, in addition to the 2006 submissions, outstanding works featured in past editions of Zephyrus going back 50 years and celebrating the publication’s 50th Anniversary as well as the school’s Centennial.

Sunday, following the English Department celebration, was the Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing. Dr. Pat Carr announced the finalists and winners, as well as read from several of her books. All of the finalists were WKU students: Emmett Barton, Kimberly Reynolds and Mike Sobiech, all of Bowling Green; Bobby Deignan, Charles Jacobs, Dustin Meyer and Brook Shafar, all of Louisville; Laura Huff of Gamaliel; Travis Morris of Owensboro; and Bethany Pastorial of Nashville. The winners were, in order of place, Laura Huff, Charles Jacobs, and Kimberly Reynolds.

For more information and pictures of all the celebrations, as well as a History of Western Kentucky university, please visit www.wku.edu/centennial.

Study Abroad

(continued from page 1) Side London, including Canterbury, Stonehenge, Stratford, and Bath. It was a three hour credited course in which the students studied writers such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Keats, and Virginia Woolf among others. They stayed in a four star hotel in central London and attended three theatrical productions.

A new travel study program was offered in May, called Literary New England. The program was led by Professor Walker Rutledge and entailed two weeks’ travel. The students enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about literary classics such as Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter, Herman Melville’s Moby Dick, and Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn. They visited Nantucket island, Emily Dickinson’s home in Amherst, the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and the witches museum in Salem, where Arthur Miller’s The Crucible was plotted, and locations around Boston such as the Old North Church and Plymouth Rock as well as Herman Melville’s farm near Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he wrote Moby Dick. To see pictures and to read student journals, go to: http://www.wku.edu/honors/LitNE/index.html

Additional study abroad excursions have been planned. Dr. Tom Hunley is teaching (continued on page 3).
Faculty Retiring
(continued from page 1) at the University of Illinois and he specialized in Victorian Literature.

Dr. Joe Survant got his B.A. from the University of Kentucky in 1964, and his M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. in 1970 at the University of Delaware. He came to WKU in 1970 and has primarily taught contemporary literature and poetry writing. Dr. Survant was one of the founders of the department's creative writing program. He chaired the Creative Writing Committee until he took Optional Retirement in 2002. He also served as Kentucky's Poet Laureate from 2002-05. Dr. Survant said about his retirement, "I've enjoyed the time spent at Western. I will miss the daily contact with friends and students in the English Department, but look forward to having more time to write, read and travel."

Dr. Nancy Roberts, who was at WKU from 1996 to 2007 and taught fiction writing, has already taken advantage of her retirement to travel. She relocated back to her adopted home state of Utah and looks forward to the Sundance Film Festival.

Finally, Dr. James S. Flynn acquired his Ph.D. from Auburn University. He came to Western in 1972 and specialized in Early British Literature. Dr. Flynn was the department head from 1979-84. He won awards for Public Service in 1984-85 and 1999. Dr. Flynn said of his career at Western: "Teaching at Western has been a great way to spend a career. I particularly am appreciative of the many good, responsive, intellectually curious students who have enlivened my classes—and me—down through the years. And I have been fortunate in my departmental colleagues and in my authors—studying writers such as Chaucer and Dante and the Gawain-poet is a blast."

Thanks to these dedicated members of the English faculty, Western has established a strong academic foundation for those who love literature and writing. These professors have had a hand in shaping the academic opportunities offered in Western's English Department.

Faculty Publications

Dr. Nikolai Endres


Dr. Joseph Glaser

Middle English Poetry in Modern Verse. Hackett Publishing.

Dr. Ted Hovet


Dr. Tom C. Hurley

Teaching Poetry Writing: A Few-Canon Approach. Multilingual Matters Ltd.

Dr. Debra Logan


Dr. Jane Olmsted

"Roadside Encounter" (poem) in Bernwood "Don't Mean Maybe" (story) in Briar Cliff Review.

Dr. Alex Poole

"The Academic Reading Strategies Male and Female College Students Use When Reading Online." Balanced Reading Instruction.

Dr. Kelly Reames


Dr. Judith Szerdaheyi


Dr. Elizabeth Winkler

Understanding Language: A Basic Course in Linguistics. Continuum.
Department Achievements

Dr. Lloyd Davies
- President, Kentucky Philological Society

Dr. John Hagaman
- Member, $1 Million Club for raising grant money for the Writing Project

Dr. Sandra Hughes
- Traditions Professorship 2006-2007

Dr. Debra Logan
- Wood Professorship 2006-2007
- Dr. Logan is now the editor of the Victorian Newsletter

Dr. Judith Szerdahalyi
- Wood Professorship 2007-2008

Dr. Dale Rigby
- Traditions Professorship 2007-2008

Upcoming Events:

Scott Russell Sanders
October 13, 2007

Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing
November 11, 2007

"Special Guest" Wendell Berry will be sponsored by the Creative Writing Committee
November 28, 2007

The Phoenix Staff
Editor: Emmett Barton
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Recent Events:


20th Annual Robert Penn Warren Conference and Symposium, hosted by Mary Ellen Miller
April 21-22, 2007

April 23, 2007

TechKnowledg-E Conference Organized by Judith Szerdahalyi, Terry Elliott, and David LeNoir.
May 5, 2007

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