

Spring 2011

# Newsletter for the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Spring 2011

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at WKU

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# The Spirit

## WKU International Student Teaching Continues to Grow

Two students represented Western Kentucky University in an international student teaching placement in Belize only three years ago. During the current school year, thirty-three WKU student teachers are representing the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in an international student teaching placement in Germany, Spain, and Ecuador. We received fifty-two requests for an international student teaching assignment for the spring 2011 semester alone. Demand for this exciting and challenging opportunity continues to grow.

While the student numbers are increasing, numbers of actual locations and contractual agreements continue to expand as well. In addition to existing contractual agreements and actual student placements in locations such as Quito, Ecuador, Belize; Barcelona, Spain; and Berlin, Germany, we recently completed a draft agreement with Linköping University in Sweden through which we expect to place WKU student teachers beginning with the fall 2011 semester. We are also working furiously to develop continued opportunities for our students in other countries including Japan, China, Great Britain, and Costa Rica.

One unfortunate side effect of the current recession is the cut back



WKU international student teachers Katie Ray, Daily Browning, and Molly Clark visiting Father Benjamin (holding the Red Towel) and a fellow priest at the Vatican in Italy

in hiring of all employees including educators. In fact, one slightly disturbing national statistic from the US Labor Bureau recently indicated that only twenty percent of those education graduates throughout the US from the 2009-10 school year actually were employed as teachers at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Among WKU graduates, those numbers were a little more positive. Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board statistics showed that, during this same period of time, WKU students were employed at a three to one rate when compared to the national employment situation. In other words, almost sixty percent of WKU teacher education graduates were employed during the past year as teachers.

To carry this statistical comparison even further, a phenomenal one hundred percent of WKU student teachers with international student teaching experience have been hired as classroom teachers upon their completion of the certification process.

In summary, based upon the employment success rate, the high interest rate among our students, and the wonderful opportunities to travel and to experience other cultures and customs, Teacher Services will continue to facilitate a wide variety of international student teaching opportunities for our teacher education students. Only two years ago, a goal was established of encouraging ten percent of our student teachers to participate in such an international student teaching experience. That goal has already been surpassed during the current school year, and even higher internationalization goals will be established in the future. These international student teaching programs offered by CEBS provide measurable support to the vision for WKU to be "A Leading American University with International Reach."

# GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

This has been a very exciting year, and with the opening of Gary A. Ransdell Hall (GRH) on January 24th, we began a new era in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. For most faculty, staff, and students, the opportunity to move into a facility specifically designed for the instruction and learning that will take place is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The facility in which learning occurs truly makes a difference. The excitement is high and we are poised for new opportunities. The official dedication of Gary A. Ransdell Hall will be April 29th, 2:00pm.

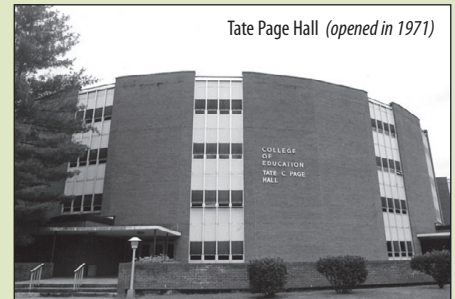
Our mission is "Empowering individuals to lead and serve our dynamic world", and we continue to provide learning experiences to broaden the perspective of our graduates as they prepare to positively impact those with whom they work. Faculty members in the Department of Psychology have a number of new laboratories where students will be engaged in a variety of research studies focusing on human behavior at the local, state, national, and international levels. This semester, 23 student teachers will be spending four weeks in school settings in Spain, Germany, or Ecuador. These experiences are life changing and help prepare participants to engage in a work setting that is becoming increasingly diverse. We are continuing to identify new study

abroad sites and are currently exploring several opportunities associated with Harlaxton College in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, and are working with the Confucius Institute to provide additional teachers of Chinese for Kentucky's schools. International opportunities for students and faculty will continue to grow and will be enhanced with the relocation of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children from Winnipeg, Canada, to WKU's Gary A. Ransdell Hall.

With the arrival of new members of the administrative team at the university level, new ideas and opportunities will enhance our current work as well as foster our engagement with new initiatives. This past fall, we began implementing a graduate-level residency program in science and mathematics education in the Jefferson County Public Schools, and we will continue this initiative throughout the next academic year. Numerous graduate programs have been redesigned, with the master's programs in teacher education leading to the teacher leader endorsement being offered for the first time Winter Term 2011. The redesigned principal preparation program has received state approval and will be officially implemented Fall Semester 2011. Program faculty in the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs have revised the School

Counseling program with a goal of having all programs accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

This spring all of our professional



education programs will participate in an on-site review as part of our continuing accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board. Our graduates continue to be highly productive in their chosen careers, and their success is due in large part to the partnerships established in area schools and their respective teachers and administrators. The initial and continuing education of practitioners will be more clinical-based, and the strong partnerships with area schools are critical to the success of these programs.

Our programs are strong, and our students continue to excel, as is evident from the fact that our Reserve Officer Training Corps received the MacArthur Award for the outstanding program in the U.S. Army's Cadet Command's 7th Brigade, consisting of 43 programs. Upon their commissioning, our cadets continue to distinguish themselves in service to their country. Beginning this year, cadets can major in Military Leadership, one of three such programs in the United States.

It is an exciting time to be in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. We are fortunate to have highly motivated faculty and students, and our programs are continuing to grow. I encourage you to visit our new facility to continue to support those programs that have served as the foundation for your professional careers and growth.



# Toyota USA Foundation Awards \$500,000 to WKU

## Grant will Support Math and Technology Leadership Academy

Western Kentucky University has been named the recipient of a nationally competitive \$500,000 grant from the Toyota USA Foundation.

According to Dr. Sam Evans, Dean of WKU's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the grant, to be awarded over three years, will help fund WKU's Math and Technology Leadership Academy (MTLA). The academy's aim is to increase K-5 student interest and achievement in math and technology among high risk youth in the Bowling Green Enterprise Community, as well as other areas of Warren County.

"With a focus on student learning, this initiative will provide opportunities for educators to enhance their knowledge and skills relative to mathematics and technology as they develop and implement learning experiences for elementary age students in an environment that not only promotes student success but also prepares students for success in middle and high school settings and fosters interest in possible careers in these areas," Dr. Evans said.

WKU will develop the MTLA by providing intense math and technology professional development to educators in order to strengthen their own skills, develop a national model for teacher preparedness and, in turn, increase student achievement in these areas. Professors from WKU's Ogden College of Science and Engineering, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and The Center for Gifted Studies will partner



Dr. Sam Evans, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Jim Wiseman of Toyota and WKU President Gary Ransdell

with representatives from Bowling Green Independent Schools, Warren County Public Schools and the Housing Authority of Bowling Green to develop unique, challenging experiences for the MTLA teachers and the students they serve. In addition, the MTLA will aim to increase the number of diverse students qualifying for advanced math opportunities while encouraging family involvement through Math and Technology Community School events.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of the Toyota USA Foundation," said WKU President Gary

Ransdell. "Thanks to their support, WKU and its partners can move ahead in their efforts to make MTLA a reality. By increasing the effectiveness of teacher leaders, we believe we can better engage young students and introduce them to new opportunities in math and technology. At the outset, a total of 18 schools and nearly 9,000 students stand to benefit. But over the long term, we believe the positive impact for families and communities will be far greater."

"We're proud to support WKU's Math and Technology Leadership Academy and strongly believe in its mission

to engage and increase achievement among young students in high-risk, diverse communities by developing teachers' skills and experiences," said Jim Wiseman, Group Vice President of Corporate Communications and Chief Communications Officer of Toyota Motor North America. "We are highly confident that the University's partnership with area educators, school districts and the Housing Authority of Bowling Green will yield great results not just in Western Kentucky, but ultimately in communities across the country."

### ABOUT THE TOYOTA USA FOUNDATION

The Toyota USA Foundation is a \$100 million charitable endowment created to support education programs serving kindergarten through 12th grade students and their teachers in the United States, with an emphasis on mathematics, science and environmental science. For additional information about the Toyota USA Foundation, visit [www.toyota.com/foundation](http://www.toyota.com/foundation).



Ms. Leonie Kronberg, University Lecturer in Gifted Education, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia; Ms. Edna McMillan, Vice President of the World Council, of Stoney Creek, Ontario; Dr. Julia Roberts; Ms. Dixie Mahurin; Mr. Pete Mahurin; Dr. Gary Ransdell; Mr. Carol Martin Gatton

## A Gift from the Mahurin Family Brings the Headquarters of the World Council to WKU

A press conference on November 16 announced the relocation of the headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children from the University of Winnipeg to WKU. Dr. Leonie Kronberg, Australia, and Dr. Edna McMillan, Canada, were present for the announcement, as was Dr. Ken McKluskey, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Winnipeg.

The move of the headquarters of the World Council to WKU was made possible by a generous gift from the Mahurin family. Pete and Dixie Mahurin have been friends of The Center for Gifted Studies since their daughter Sarah Jo came to the Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students (SCATS) and later the Summer Program for Mathematically and Verbally Precocious Youth (VAMPY) during her middle and high school summers. Pete serves as a member of The Center's Advisory Board and has done so since the first Advisory Board was named in 2001. The Mahurin family endowed the professorship in gifted studies in 2003.

Dr. Julia Roberts, Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies, is one of seven members of the Executive Committee and Treasurer of the World Council. Dr. Roberts is the Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. She has been an active member of the World Council for twenty years.

Dr. Roberts remarked, "The relocation of the headquarters of The World Council to WKU helps The Center for Gifted Studies realize its vision of becoming a preeminent international center. Welcoming the headquarters of the World Council to WKU is a wonderful way to begin the 30th year for The Center for Gifted Studies."

Dr. Julia Roberts thanked Pete and Dixie Mahurin for their gift that made the relocation of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children possible. The group's international headquarters will be located at WKU.

## Educational Leadership Program Selects Sixth Cohort of Students for Doctorate

Western Kentucky University's Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership has selected its sixth cohort of students.

The sixth cohort includes Rhonda Callaway of Sturgis, KY; Michael Hamilton of Cross Plains, TN; Terence Hayes of Hopkinsville, KY; Lynn Hines of Bowling Green, KY; Stephen Holloman of Elkton, KY; Chunling Niu of Chongqing City, China; Mildred Ortiz of Bowling Green, KY; Michelle Patrick of Louisville, KY; Nathan Phelps of Bowling Green, KY; Kristina Rice of Greenville, KY; Nadia Sautu of Bowling Green, KY; Kristina Sidebottom of Horse Cave, KY; Meredith Skaggs of Owensboro, KY; and Andrew Wollin of Bowling Green, KY. Congratulations and welcome to the doctoral family.

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership, WKU's first independent doctoral degree program, was approved in February 2008 by the Council on Postsecondary Education. WKU admitted its first cohort of students in July 2008 and its second cohort in January 2009. WKU's interdisciplinary program develops "practitioner scholars" in four specialty areas – Administrative Leaders, Teacher Leaders, Postsecondary Leaders, and Organizational Leaders – equipped to assume leadership roles in the multiple venues where education takes place and to work with educational partners to improve academic performance and increase learning at all levels.

Using blended delivery methods, including traditional face-to-face classroom settings, distance-learning formats, online platforms, and on-site practicum settings, the WKU program makes it possible for students to remain in their current professional positions while completing the doctoral degree.



## WKU Receives Grant to Develop Green Infrastructure at Habitat Community

The “greening” of Bowling Green will continue with state funding that will initiate a long-planned Habitat for Humanity green housing community. WKU has received a \$655,000 grant from the Kentucky Division of Water to create an integrated green infrastructure at a 16-acre site owned by Habitat for Humanity called Durbin Estates located just off Glen Lily Road.

WKU will work with the local and state Habitat for Humanity and several partners to demonstrate low impact development (LID) techniques including use of natural ecosystem services, and to provide education and training to professionals and the public on ways to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve quality of life for communities.

Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, states receive funding to support nonpoint source management (NPS) programs. NPS is water pollution that affects bodies of water from diffuse sources including stormwater runoff, drainage or seepage from agricultural and urban areas. It is the leading cause of water pollution in the United States today; and because it comes from diffuse sources, it is difficult to manage.

“This project is very unique to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the United States in terms of green infrastructure,” said Dr. Terry Wilson, director of WKU’s Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability. Over the next few years, the 16-acre site will include up to 50 housing units, a community center,

outdoor amphitheater, walking trails, community gardens, rain gardens, edible landscaping, native species plantings and increased tree cover.



“The project will address quality of environment and economic issues as well as have a positive impact on carbon emissions and the larger concern of global climate change,” said Nancy Givens, WKU Sustainability Programs Development Coordinator and author of the grant. Mechanisms to be included in the infrastructure design and examples of LID techniques include use of modified drainage channels and pervious pavement to reduce stormwater runoff; cisterns, rain barrels and irrigation piping to collect and recycle rainwater; rain gardens and landscaping to slow water flow and improve natural absorption and filtration; and drought tolerant native plants and organic treatment methods to reduce chemical use and irrigation needs and also beautify the site.

“Habitat for Humanity is very excited about the impact this project will have

on our local affiliate, the families we serve, and the broader Bowling Green community,” said Rodney Goodman, Executive Director for the Bowling Green Warren County HFH office. “This is a wonderful opportunity to work with WKU and a broad collaboration of community partners to create a community that will model for us a better way to live.”

The key partners for the project are WKU and the state and local Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Other partners include WKYU-PBS (which will produce a 30-minute documentary on the project), Bowling Green mayor’s office and Department of Public Works, Bowling Green City Schools, BGGreen Partnership for a Sustainable Community, and Bluegrass PRIDE. Dale Reynolds, the regional representative of the Kentucky Division of Water, has provided great encouragement and support to the project.

WKU students from various departments and academic programs will have opportunities to participate in the design, testing and development of the green infrastructure as well as the education and outreach efforts. Area schools will be invited to bring school groups to the site for education. Community organizations, individuals, and residents will also have volunteer opportunities to be involved.



## Child Care Centers Receive National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation

WKU Child Care Centers received the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. NAEYC accreditation is strictly for early childhood programs across the country. In order to become accredited centers must go through a lengthy accreditation process culminating in a visit from an accreditation team of early childhood experts who reviewed the overall program before validating the accreditation.

# Kelly Autism Program Presents Awards

The Kelly Autism Program at WKU presented the 2010 Alliance Awards October 19, 2010, at Downing University Center's Cupola Room. The Kelly Autism Program, part of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at WKU, serves individuals from age seven through adulthood diagnosed in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Continuum.

The Alliance Award Ceremony recognizes individuals making significant contributions to KAP's journey toward national recognition. The Alliance Award is presented to leaders in the business community who have actively participated in the KAP transition to work program. This program is critical in helping participants become independent and productive members in the community.

The recipients of the 2010 Alliance Awards are: Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bowling

Green Hot Rods, Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Helping Hands, Home Towne Suites, Houchens, Kiwanis, Modern Woodmen of America, New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding, Operation Pride, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul Society, State Beauty Supply, The Center for Gifted Studies, Thompson's Trophy Center, and Warren County Public Library.

Recipients of the Friends of KAP Awards are: Lou-Ann Sanford, Tim Murley, Joanie Hendricks, Joe Tinius, Leslie Peek, Anna Clardy, Stacy Faulkner, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Creek, Leo Govoni, Jerry Vincent, Michael Dale Augenstein.

Recipients of WKU Special Awards, presented to faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond to support KAP participants, are: Marya Waters, Department of English; Scott Dobler,

Department of Geography and Geology; Joy Curtis, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; John Spraker, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Robyn Swanson, Department of Music; Kerry Northrup, School of Journalism and Broadcasting; Christina Kerulis, Students in Free Enterprise; Michael Kelly, Sigma Alpha Epsilon; and Jamie Stephens, Special Instructional Programs.

Recipients of the Altoria Awards, presented to individuals who have greatly contributed to KAP with their time, energy and effort, are: Susan Free, program manager of KAP-Owensboro, which is located at the Wendell Foster Center, and Dylan Beckham and family. Dylan, a student at Plano Elementary School, started an anti-bullying effort and has set a goal of raising \$30,000 for the Kelly Autism Program. He was featured recently in a CNN report.



**Recipients of the Altoria Awards for 2010**, presented to individuals who have greatly contributed to the Kelly Autism Program with their time, energy and effort, are: Dylan Beckham and family (left photo) and Susan Free (right photo). WKU President Gary Ransdell presented the awards Oct. 19 during the Kelly Autism Program's annual Alliance Awards ceremony.

# Western Kentucky University's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Chosen as a Recipient of the Prestigious 2011 MacArthur Awards



Western Kentucky University's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program was notified January 26, 2011 of their selection as a recipient of the prestigious 2011 MacArthur Awards. Each year since 1989 the Norfolk-Virginia

based General Douglas MacArthur foundation, in conjunction with the United States Army Cadet Command has recognized the best of the 272 battalions in the nation.

This award, based on the ideals of the late General Douglas MacArthur "Duty, Honor, Country," is presented to individual battalions who excelled during the previous fiscal year. Criterion includes performance on the Cadet National Order of Merit List, Cadet Retention ratio, quality and performance of military training and newly commissioned Second Lieutenants.

"This award came as a pleasant surprise, but it is a result of years of hard work from our Cadets, Cadre and staff here at WKU, as well as at our partner program at Murray State University," said LTC Jason T. Caldwell, WKU Army ROTC's Professor of Military Science and Leadership. LTC Caldwell expressed his sincere appreciation to his staff, Cadre and Cadets, as well as to the Faculty and Administration of WKU for their support not only to the WKU ROTC program but to the U.S. Military in general.

"We at WKU ROTC are blessed to have the support and backing of a very strong Alumni base. The Faculty and

Administration at WKU are second to none. Our job is to train leaders, not just Soldiers but Leaders of Soldiers, an awesome responsibility and one that we take with pride and determination. WKU ROTC is known throughout the Army as being a top producer of exceptional officers. Our goal is to not only continue that tradition but to achieve an even greater level of excellence."

In addition to Western Kentucky University (7th Brigade), the 2011 winners include Texas A & M University (1st Brigade), St. Johns University (2nd Brigade), University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (3rd Brigade), James Madison University (4th Brigade), Texas Christian University (5th Brigade), Georgia Southern University (6th Brigade), and Pacific Lutheran University (8th Brigade).



## Jan Hensley Receives Summit Award for Her Work on the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board

Jan Hensley was the recipient of the 2010 Summit Award for her service to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. As a former educator, Jan values the role of teachers and school administrators in challenging and inspiring the young minds of our community. Her involvement in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board has assisted the college in defining its strategic focus and in connecting with the public school

system to a greater degree. Jan is a two-time graduate of WKU and an avid fan of WKU athletics. She serves as a member of the WKU Capital Campaign Cabinet, is a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood and has been instrumental in the success of the Mary E. Hensley Lecture Series at WKU. Jan truly embodies the spirit of the university and gives freely of her time, talent and treasure to assist WKU in becoming A Leading American University with International Reach.





## Faculty & Staff News and Notes

**Jill Bryant** authored an article entitled “The effects of an initial CACREP accreditation on students in program” (in press) in *Spectrum*.

**Jill Bryant** authored article entitled “The benefits of using art therapy in group counseling” (in press) in the *Tennessee Counseling Association Journal*.

**Jill Bryant** co-authored with P. Baldwin “The School counselors’ perceptions of mandatory reporter training and mandatory reporting” in the *Child Abuse Review*.

**Jill Duba** co-authored with **A. Kindsvatter** and **Crispy Priddy** (’07) “Deconstructing the reflection in the mirror: Narrative therapy groups for middle-aged women dissatisfied with their bodies in *Adultspan*.”

**Dana Welborn** (Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student), **Jill Duba**, and **Aaron Kindsvatter** (in press) published “REBT in juvenile detention centers: A group counseling model” in the *Kentucky Counseling Association Journal*.

**Katie Hayes** (Masters of Family Therapy Graduate Student) presented “Mindfulness Based Therapy” at the 2010 Kentucky Counseling Association Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Cynthia Houston** has been appointed to the Kentucky Textbook Commission.

**Amanda Hoskins** (Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student) and **Wendy Russell** (Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student) presented “Power of a shape: An expressive clay experience with a child” at the 2010 Kentucky Counseling Association Conference.

**Aaron W. Hughey** co-authored “Workplace Violence: Impact and prevention” (with Matthew L. Hunt, human resources director for the Barren River District Health Department) in the *KCA Journal* (Kentucky Counseling Association).

**Aaron W. Hughey** and **Monica G. Burke** co-authored “External confirmation of adherence to standards: As applicable to academic programs as to business and industry” in the *Industry and Higher Education Journal*.

**Aaron W. Hughey** and **Monica G. Burke** presented at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) annual conference. The title of their presentation was “Achieving Results without Formal Authority: Strategies for Student Affairs Leaders.”

**Tracy Ford Inman**, along with **Jennifer Jolly**, **Donald Treffinger**, and **Joan Franklin Smutney**, co-edited *Parenting Gifted*

*Children: The Authoritative Guide from the National Association for Gifted Children*.

**Cynthia Mason** authored “An exploration of the interrelatedness of the functions of school administrators, school reform efforts, and school counseling programs” in the *Kentucky Counseling Association Journal*.

**Cynthia Mason** and **Jill Duba** co-authored “Using choice theory principles and the choice theory career rating scale to enhance academic achievement for minority youth” in the *International Journal of Choice Theory and Reality Therapy*.

**Cynthia Mason** served as an Article Reviewer for the National Association for Secondary School Principals Bulletin (NASSP). The title of the publication was “Making Sense of an Urban District’s Adolescent Literacy Reform.”

**Jill Duba** and **Dave Gerkin** (Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student) presented “Reality therapy for unmotivated clients” at the 2010 Kentucky Counseling Association Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Jill Duba** and **Dave Gerkin** (Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student) presented “Fulfilling basic needs to avoid burnout” at the 2010 Kentucky Counseling Association Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Donald Nims** and **Jill Duba** conducted the Kentucky Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (KAMFT) ethics workshop at the regional meeting for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists for the fourth year in a row.

**Vernon Lee Sheeley** presented a program on “Student Suicide Liability” during the Kentucky Counseling Association annual fall conference.

**Vernon Lee Sheeley** authored “K-12 Schools Facing New Challenges: The ADA” published by the National Career Development Association.

**Christopher Wagner**, Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research was invited to participate in a symposium at the University of Lyon, France in January of 2011. The symposium, sponsored by the University of Lyon’s College of Business Management is an annual affair with approximately 45 researchers to participate. Twenty-six countries were represented at the conference. Wagner presented research on assessing and improving organizational culture. Wagner also taught a course on the same topic.



## WKU Establishes the Center for Learning Excellence

The Western Kentucky University (WKU) Center for Learning Excellence (CLE) is a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and identified schools and districts in the western region (north to Hardin County, east to Taylor County, and west to Fulton County) to provide support to P-12 schools in need of improvement and/or turnaround. The primary service focus will be schools identified as Tier 1 or 2 for School Improvement Grant (SIG) purposes and to other schools in the WKU, Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC), and Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC) service regions identified as in need of assistance by the KDE.

The mission of the WKU CLE is to improve student achievement/learning by empowering teachers through enhancement of teachers’ instructional expertise, professionalism, and collaboration with other professionals.



## Spotlight on One of Our Graduates: In Her Own Words

BY DR. ALLISON K. DYRLUND ('04)

I graduated from Western Kentucky University's Applied Experimental Psychology program in 2004. In 2008, I completed my Ph.D. in Sport and Exercise Psychology at Florida State University with an emphasis in Measurement and Statistics. While I had always wanted to solely do research for a living, I did not desire the long hours and pressure that often accompanies a career at a Research 1 university. While applying for jobs at small comprehensive universities, I came across an opening for a research psychologist position with the Army. The opportunity to work with an elite and inspiring population such as United States Soldiers immediately appealed to me. I initially took a position at the Center for Army Leadership at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, but after two years I had the opportunity to advance my career at the U.S. Army Research Institute at Ft. Hood, TX.

Even though my position required a Ph.D., it was my Masters in Experimental Psychology from Western that ultimately secured the position for me. The strong background in research design and methods I built at Western, as well as the research opportunities I received from

Dr. Steven Winger, made me an extremely marketable and desirable candidate. Furthermore, it is that skill set that has stuck with me and consistently contributed to my career success.

The focus of my research at ARI is on individual, team, and collective training in the operational Army environment. As a researcher at an ARI unit located on a U.S. Army Forces Command installation, I have the opportunity to operate with units; observing training events, after action reviews, staff calls, and other meetings to facilitate the identification of training issues affecting units and to determine which topics are appropriate for ARI research.

Projects I am involved with span topics such as video-based training of expert knowledge, decision-making under physical stress, and junior leader training development. At the daily level I spend a great deal of time designing and writing research proposal requests as well as overseeing contracts that produce research and research products for the Army. In addition, I conduct in-house research projects for which I have partnered with other Department of the Defense organizations. Both positions I have had with the Army have allowed me to travel extensively for data collection, collaboration, and self-development. In the last two years alone, I have had the opportunity to travel to Kansas, Texas, New York, Louisiana, Washington, DC, and Germany.

My work with the Army is inherently rewarding in that I get to conduct research that has the ability to benefit Soldiers by improving combat effectiveness through development of innovative training methodologies. It's an incredible population to work with and I hope to do so until the day I retire.



## Monroe County High School Students Visit Gary A. Ransdell Hall

Visiting the School of Teacher Education on January 25, 2011 were 18 Monroe County High School students and their teachers Ms. Kelli Dickson and Ms. Robin Hagan. The students expressed interest in a career in education, thus prompting their teachers to coordinate a visit to the new College of Education and Behavioral Science Building, Gary A. Ransdell Hall. A variety of WKU faculty, staff, and students greeted the guests and presented information about college preparation, pre-service teacher opportunities, what it is like to be an education student, and careers in education. Upon conclusion of the informational session, the students toured the newly opened building and were able to preview the building's special features.

Presenters included Sam Evans, College of Education and Behavioral Science Dean; Dr. Retta Poe, Associate Dean of Academic Programs; Mr. Dale Brown, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; Dr. Lisa Murley, Assistant Professor, School of Teacher Education; Dr. Roxanne Spencer, Education Resource Center; Ms. Jasmine Clark, WKU Future Educators Association; and Ms. Daily Browning, WKU 2010 graduate, Bachelor of Science Elementary Education.

# Student, Faculty, Alumni Awards

**S. Kay Gandy**, School of Teacher Education, Darrell Kruge, Amber Bechard, Randy Brown, and Diane Williams were selected by the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) to receive the Best College/University article published in the Journal of Geography in 2009 award for their article Writing a Successful Fulbright Group Projects Abroad Grant: Voices from a Journey to South Africa. The award was given at the 2010 National Council for Geographic Education meeting. The Journal of Geography provides a forum for educators and scholars to present results from teaching and research that advance understanding and practice of geographic education from pre-kindergarten through post-graduate levels. NCGE is a non-profit organization, chartered in 1915 to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning.

**Farley Norman**, Psychology, received the 2010 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Research and Creativity Award. This award is given for outstanding contributions in a field of specialty.

**Paul Mullins** ('94 & '99), principal of LaRue County High School, has been named the school-level Administrator of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). Mullins is entering his sixth year as principal at LaRue County. The Administrator of the Year winner is selected by a Kentucky Association of School Administrators awards committee.

**Shana Pack**, Psychology, received the 2010 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Public Service Award. This award is given for distinguished activity in public service.

**Marge Maxwell**, School of Teacher Education, received the 2010 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Student Advisement Award. This award recognizes excellence in advising as evidenced by extensive and effective support of student development in school and broader life contexts.

**Julia Link Roberts**, Center for Gifted Studies, was elected Vice President of The Association for the Gifted (TAG), an affiliate of the WKU Clinical Education Complex.

**Betsy Shoенfelt**, Psychology, received the 2010 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Teaching Award. This award is given in recognition of excellence as evidenced by effectiveness and ability to motivate and inspire students within and outside the classroom.

**Dr. Christopher Wagner**, Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research, was awarded the William T. Nallia Award by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). This recognition is awarded annually to an education leader "who reflects a spirit of innovation and cutting edge leadership while bringing higher levels of success and learning to all children." Dr. Wagner is the Co-Director of the Center for Improving School Culture and has made presentations and conducted workshops all over the country on the topic of improving school cultures.

## Joseph P. Cangemi Award for Excellence in Leadership in Psychology/Education Recipient

**Pam Petty**, School of Teacher Education, was the recipient of the 2010 Joseph P. Cangemi Award for Excellence in Leadership in Psychology/Education. This award was established to recognize personnel in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences who have made broad applied contributions to their professional field. The award is based on successfully working with organizations both within and outside the University; having displayed excellence in writing; having generated creative, applied contributions; and having worked with diverse populations either within the United States or abroad.



## In Memoriam

**1LT Eric D. Yates 1984-2010**  
**WKU ROTC Class of 2008**

1LT Eric D. Yates, an officer with the 101st Airborne Division, B Company, 1st Battalion/502 Infantry, was killed in action supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan recently. 1LT Yates was a December 2008 graduate of Western Kentucky University. He was a double major in Social Studies and History and received his commission through WKU's Reserve Officers' Training Program (ROTC). 1LT Yates was from Rineyville, Kentucky. He is survived by his parents David and Kathy Yates.

# New Faculty

## Educational Administration, Leadership and Research

**Gary Houchens** earned his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville and formerly served as the Teacher Quality Coordinator, Simpson County Schools. He was named the 2007 Principal of the Year and received the Dean's Citation for Outstanding Dissertation.

**Matthew Basham** earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He was a 2007 nominee for the Dissertation of the Year Award by the Council for the Study of Community Colleges.

**Jie Zhang** received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her M.S. in Statistics from Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China. Her dissertation title was Improving English Language Learners' Oral and Written Language through Collaborative Discussions.

## Counseling and Student Affairs

**Bill Kline** earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and will serve as the new department head for the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs. He is a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal for Specialists in Group Work and is also a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) Site Team Member.

**Jill Bryant** earned her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and her M.A. and B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa. She is a National Certified Counselor and serves on the Board for Professional School Counseling. She is also a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) Site Team Member.

## Psychology

**Melanie Asriel** earned her B.S. in Experimental Psychology and her M.A. from WKU. Her research interests include introductory courses, psychology of

religion, psychology of sexuality, and the physiological psychology. She will be teaching at the WKU Glasgow Campus.

**Gordon Baylis** is a Professor of Psychology who is serving as the Vice President for Research and President of the WKU Research Foundation. He has a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Oxford.

**Courtney Ortiz** earned her M.A. in Experimental Psychology, and her research interests include decision making in older adults.

**Rhonda Talley**, Executive Director of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, is a 1973 WKU graduate. Dr. Talley also has degrees from University of Louisville, Indiana University and Johns Hopkins University.

## School of Teacher Education

**Kanita DuCloux** earned her Ed.S. in mathematics education from State University of West Georgia and her doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Georgia. Her research interests include assessment in mathematics, teacher preparation, teacher beliefs, and teaching for diversity.

**Ellen Fryman** earned her M.A. in Education from Eastern Kentucky University and her B.A. in Education from Asbury College. She is a veteran elementary education teacher of 25 years and was the 2000 Cater County Teacher of the Year in Grayson, Kentucky.

**Gail Kirby** earned her Ed.D. in Learning and Instruction with an emphasis in Special Education in 2008 from the University of San Francisco.

**J. Dusteen Knotts** earned her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. Her research interests include inclusion methods, learning strategies, and cueing higher order thinking. She has served as the division coordinator over undergraduate and graduate programs at Murray State University, developed the special education course of study for Trevecca Nazarene University at the undergraduate

and graduate levels, and served as the Executive Director for a non-profit therapeutic equestrian organization.

**Rachel Leer** received her B.S. in Exceptional Education, Learning and Behavior Disabilities and her MAE in Literacy from WKU. She has worked as a tutor preparing individuals for the reading comprehension portions of standardized tests and as a special education teacher as well as a reading teacher at Logan County High School.

**Daniel Super** is currently completing his Specialist in Education here at WKU and has worked closely with the Center for Literacy and WKU's outreach for College Readiness.

## Military Science

**SFC Gary Keeton** has completed the following assignments: HHT 1-12 Cavalry, 1 Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX; 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea; HHT, Special Troops Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, TX; 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, 1st Infantry Division, Germany; HHT, 1st Armor Training Brigade, Fort Knox, KY; 1-116th Idaho National Guard, Kirkuk, Iraq; 2nd Squadron 16th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox, KY; and the 1st Squadron 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, in Fort Hood, TX.

**CPT Corey Henderson** earned his B.S. in Political Science/Pre-Law from Middle Tennessee State University in 2007. He is a candidate in the MBA Healthcare Administration at Northcentral University and completed the Marion Military Institute ROTC in Marion, Alabama, in 2004.



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