

COMMUNIQUE

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Comm Grad Elected to KY Senate

The communication and leadership skills he mastered as a student at WKU have helped David Givens be successful in his family business and as an entrepreneur. Now those skills have been recognized by voters in south-central Kentucky.

Givens, who earned a Master of Arts degree in Communication from WKU in 1997, has been elected to the Kentucky State Senate. On November 4, he defeated Democrat Steve Newberry of Hiseville to claim the seat being vacated by the retirement of State Senator Richie Sanders (R-Franklin). The six-county district encompasses Simpson, Allen, Barren, Metcalfe, Green and Edmonson counties.

"They say running for an office is the world's longest interview," Givens said from his Green County home the week after the election. "Communication is important in the process. Campaigning involves interpersonal communication along with both verbal and non-verbal skills. You have to be able to read people in various situations."

After graduating as valedictorian of Green County High School, he was a four-year Presidential Scholarship recipient at WKU where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree as well, with a double minor in computer science and business administration. He demonstrated that he deserved his scholarship by



David Givens

graduating *summa cum laude* in 1989.

He returned home to work in the family business, Central Farmer's Supply in Greensburg, where his is managing partner. Givens, 41, is a board member, primary stockholder and beef producer with the Green River Cattle Company in

- Cont'd on page 11

Communication takes lead in Debate Watch



When WKU students, staff and faculty made a concentrated effort to learn more about a heated Presidential race this fall, the Department of Communication was at the forefront of planning

and implementing Debate Watch.

Just as had been the case in the last national election in 2004, the WKU family took time out from

regular class work to learn more about national issues and how candidates plan to deal with them. A major portion of that involved selecting one of three nationally televised debates between the nominees of the two dominant political parties. This year's choice was the candidates' clash in nearby Nashville, Tenn. at Belmont University on Oct. 7.

Dr. Sally Ray, who was at the

- Cont'd on page 2

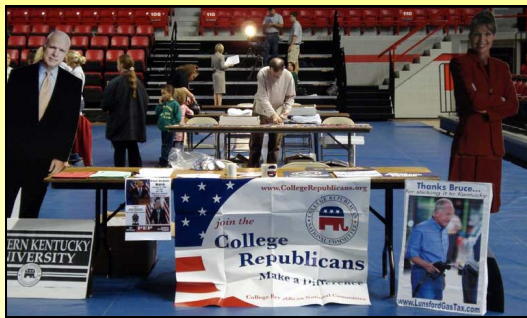


EVENTS



Communication takes lead in Debate Watch—cont'd

time Department of Communication Head, was asked to lead the planning of the event along with Special Events Coordinator Rachel Manning. They had coordinated the 2004 event, which Ray feels was very well received. Dr. Sandra Ardrey, head of the Department of Political Science, joined them in the leadership group.



Playing key roles in the planning were Dr. Carl Kell, who became interim head of Communication when Dr. Ray was named assistant dean of the Potter College of Arts and Letters, and the department's Communication Ambassadors, led by faculty member Jessica McClanahan. Communication Ambassadors President Colleen Matthews, and Public Relations Chair Hannah George, also played a major role. "As we talked over lunch at Mariah's, I began to realize what a colossal event the Communications Ambassadors had undertaken," Matthews remembers. "I felt pretty overwhelmed as a new president, being in charge of such an important campus event. However, I had no doubts the group could accomplish the task at hand."

The Ambassadors handled the situation beautifully and were very much in evidence at the

Debate Watch celebration, which was moved indoors to Diddle Arena because of rain during the day. Kell and McClanahan both expressed pleasure at how well the department was represented by the student group and by a large number of Communication faculty members. "The Communication Ambassadors

did a tremendous amount of work to prepare for and assist in hosting Debate Watch '08," McClanahan says. "This is a group that takes quite a bit of pride in our department, and they want to show others all that we have to offer. I couldn't be more pleased with



their dedication to our mission and our success moving forward."

Dr. Ray was pleased with the overall Debate Watch event, although she was disappointed it had to be moved inside from the South Lawn. "Over 2,000 student ID cards were swiped, and there were probably many more there who didn't check in," she says. "The band Space Capone helped draw the students in, and then the vendors with all their political

shirts and buttons emphasized the election. Aramark did a good job with the food. I saw a lot of enthusiasm exhibited."

Communication faculty got involved by talking with their students about the election and the issues beforehand. Many students were required to watch the debate either as part of the campus gathering or somewhere else and then answer questions about how the candidates performed as public speakers. Dr. Blair Thompson, Basic Course Director, included Debate Watch as a required activity for the Fundamentals of Public Speaking and Business and Professional Speaking courses. Dr. Jenifer Lewis, who is the

Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar, has been involved in a number of Political Engagement Project activities and has found ways for students in Communication classes to learn more about the political arena.

"I am proud to say that I was a part of Debate Watch 2008," Matthews concludes. "It was a personal success because I learned more about where I stand as a voter. Even though I have already voted absentee, I find myself watching the current events on the candidates."

- Jim Turner

Haunted Hill Tours

Shivering through the dark and armed with only a flashlight and script, brave Lambda Pi Eta members tried to awaken the ghosts that haunted this hill. On October 28th through 30th, LPH members gave approximately 30 tours to 150 students, alumni, faculty, and community members.

The Haunted Hill Tours are an annual fundraising event held by Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), the Communication Department's honor society. This fundraiser serves various events LPH hosts throughout the year, and helps pay for officers to attend the National Communication Association

Convention each year for the National LPH meeting.

Haunted Hill Tours take ghost-hunters around to seven eerie locations and tells them how each place became inhabited by their respective spirit or spirits. A bonus for this year was the 30th anniversary of John Carpenter's "Halloween," so tour-goers got to see the cabin where the WKU alumnus wrote his horrific scripts.

This year, the tours were an even bigger success than last year! We raised money far past our goal, and had an

even better quality of tours than ever before. Our success is largely contributed to a team effort by all of the members to put their best into the tours, dressed warmly, and entertained beyond what was asked of them.

Thanks also goes to the Communication Department for their continued support of Lambda Pi Eta. Be sure to look at the Communication Department's website in the month of October next year to find advertising and information on the tours!

- Hannah George

Extensive Poll Conducted of Bowling Green Voters

During the elections this year, Dr. Caillouet's graduate class in Survey Research Methods conducted an extensive poll of Bowling Green voters. The Survey focused on local issues and the mayor's race. Students prepared the questions and conducted 743 interviews with registered voters. The sample was taken from the Bowling Green voter registration list. Some results were predictable, but some were surprising. The survey found that among likely voters, 71.5% were in favor of the controversial proposed ban on smoking in all public places including restaurants and bars, while only 28.5% opposed it. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the finding that 59% of the voters favored giving priority to developing better public transportation in Bowling Green rather than expansion of streets. In a city unaccustomed to public transportation, few people would have estimated this much support for an unfamiliar mode of transportation.

**"The Gallup Poll
will never be
wrong again!"**

The students had heard Dr. Caillouet say "The Gallup Poll will never be wrong again!" regarding its final poll of voters in presidential elections. The question was then turned on the class: "Will we be correct in our survey?" In the only race that the class surveyed, they found that 61.5% of the voters planned to vote to re-elect Mayor Elaine Walker over challenger Brian Strow. The actual vote was 59.5% for Walker. The 2% error was well within the statistical margin of error.

The Daily News published a front page story with the results of the survey except for the mayor's race. Dr. Caillouet did not reveal those results to the paper and both candidates, who had been furnished the results of the survey before the newspaper received them, declined to reveal the poll statistics in the mayor's race.

- Larry Caillouet

Announcements

FACULTY PRESENTATION

Department of Communication
presents the

2008 Faculty Lecture Series

"I'm friends with him on
Facebook: The influence of the Internet on
Political Campaign Communication
and Young Voters"

by

Dr. Jenifer L. Lewis

Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar
WKU Department of Communication

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Russell Miller Theater

Gen Ed Revision Passes

Over the course of the Fall 2008 semester, Dr. Blair Thompson (Basic Course Director) presented a proposal to revise COMM 145: Public Speaking to a hybrid course which will continue to address public speaking skills, but also include skills development in listening, teamwork, and interpersonal communication contexts. The department believes strongly in this revision to COMM 145 because the successful college graduate

requires a communication skill set that includes not only public speaking, but also skills related to teamwork and interpersonal contexts. The hybrid course, COMM 145: Fundamentals of Public Speaking and Communication, received approval from a variety of committees across the university. The course will begin in the Fall 2009 semester.

- Blair Thompson, Ph.D.

Kentucky High School Speech League Has New Director

Professor Stacey Gish has been named the new executive director of the Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc. A former KHSSL participant as a Middle and High school student in Union County, Gish comes to the leadership position, where she is a member of the Department of Communication. She continues to teach Business & Professional Speaking courses.

KHSSL is the oldest high school organization in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to promoting speech, drama, and debate education in Kentucky schools. There

currently are 120 active schools in the league.

Gish, who has taught communication courses at WKU for four years, also has professional experience in corporate training, event planning, public relations, and sports journalism. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Northern Kentucky University and a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication from Western Kentucky University.

"The Kentucky High School Speech League is the cornerstone of speech education in the Commonwealth," Gish said.

"The coaches involved in this organization are some of the most dedicated educators I know. The Department of Communication and I are committed to helping the organization grow and encouraging students to gain the skills and abilities necessary to succeed in the 21st century."

The League's headquarters is located in the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center on WKU's campus. Contact the KHSSL staff at khssl@wku.edu, 270-745-2384, or visit the website at www.wku.edu/khssl.

- Stacey Gish

HAUNTED HILL TOURS—LEARN ABOUT THE GHOSTS WHO HAUNT THE HILL



Tours are sponsored by Lambda Pi Eta
Communication Honor Society

Be prepared to
be scared . . .

Sunday, October 28th—6-10 p.m.

Monday, October 29th—6-10 p.m.

Tuesday, October 30th—6-10 p.m.

Starting at FAC Amphitheater
 Adults \$5
 Kids 12-under \$3
 WKU Students (with ID) \$3

Ghostly tours leave every 15 minutes & last an hour
 (Tours are given outside so dress warm)

Announcing the British Debate



VS.



Wednesday,
November 5, 2008
@ 4:00 p.m.

FAC Recital Hall

Student Organizations

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS



Donna Renaud
Faculty Advisor

2008 Heritage Regional Conference

Nicole Lyons, Lucy Clark, Shelley Arant and Dr. Carl Kell attended the 2008 Heritage Regional Conference in October. This was the first annual student conference and we three girls, were proud to represent WKU.

The students were able to attend their own sessions which focused on areas like graduating and applying critical thinking to real companies. The students were also able to socialize with professionals during joint sessions.

We made several connections and boosted our resume during our trip.

We were able to do a lot of speed networking sessions where you were forced to communicate with many different business professionals. These networking sessions resulted in the exchange of our resumes, excellent career advice and new contacts with different organizations.

The second night of the conference everyone was invited to sign up for a

dine around dinner. One individual hosted a dinner at a local restaurant where a maximum of about fifteen people could sign up. It was a great experience because you went to dinner with lots of professionals in various organizations. Being in this laid back environment allowed us to network with these various business professionals in a more informal style.

This conference was very beneficial to the students overall. I feel like we learned a lot about what it is like to work in the real world along with forming strong professional contacts.

- Shelley Arant & Lucy Clark



IABC News

Students at IABC are looking forward to an exciting Spring 2009 semester. The beginning of the semester will feature a new membership drive, led by

Amanda Belcher, VP of Membership. Shelley Arant, Fundraising Chair, is organizing a fundraiser to sell bracelets to defray trip expenses. Plans are in the works to take two mini trips during the semester. The first trip planned is Nashville, TN for two days of corporate company tours. Members plan



IABC

IABC plans to visit Louisville and tour the Churchill Downs museum during the racing season. In February, IABC Nashville will host a career night for students, a wonderful opportunity to network with seasoned professionals at top organizations, such as: Caterpillar, Genesco, Life ways, StagePost, TV Channel 5, and WSM.

Many companies headquartered in Nashville also have IABC members, a great opportunity for WKU students to network for future internships and jobs. In addition, IABC will have regular monthly meetings in February and March, with officer elections in April for the 2009-2010 year. Membership applications can be picked up in the Department of Communication, or by contacting donna.renaud@wku.edu.

- Donna Renaud



Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN

LAMBDA PI ETA (ΛΠΗ)



Jennifer Mize Smith
Faculty Advisor

Currently, Lambda Pi Eta has 24 active members, including 7 new members who joined during the fall 2008 recruitment week: Danielle Averill, Christopher Drury, Elizabeth Foster, Dianna Fuda, Allison McClure, Meredith Schulz, and Morgan Wickline. Initiation for these members will be held in the spring.

Lambda Pi Eta members support departmental activities as well as host chapter events and programs. This semester, several members represented the department of Communication at WKU recruitment functions in Owensboro, Elizabethtown, and Louisville, as well as participated in the Majors/Minors Fair on WKU's campus in October.

For the past 4 years, lambda Pi Eta has hosted Haunted Hill Tours during the week of Halloween. Students and community members are invited to explore the ghost-ridden buildings on campus, including Van Meter Hall, McLean Hall, the

Kentucky Building, and Schneider Hall. This event is the chapter's only fundraiser each year, and the 2008 tours generated a record breaking \$580.



LPH members worked hard to plan and promote the event, and many volunteered their time to ensure its success.

In November, LPH will host its first-ever "Life After Graduation" seminar. This event is a free service for all communica-

tion students who may be wondering what to do with their communication degree. A representative from Graduate Studies program will discuss graduate school options and Charlotte Elder will discuss other career alternatives.

Lambda Pi Eta is administrated by the National Communication Association (NCA). Consequently, LPH members are invited to attend the annual NCA conference. This year, three LPH officers will travel to San Diego November 20-24 to attend the national LPH meeting and network with other LPH chapters. Those attending include Danielle England (President), Ryan Warren (Vice President), and Miranda Shipley (Secretary/ Treasurer), and Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith, WKU LPH advisor.

- Jennifer Mize Smith

COMMUNICATION AMBASSADORS



Jessica McClanahan
Faculty Advisor

The 2008-2009 Communication Ambassadors have been quite busy this semester with various recruitment endeavors, including The Majors Fair, and Debate Watch '08. In

a recent memo to the group regarding their recruiting efforts, Dr. Carl Kell commented, "Money cannot buy what you are doing for our department." Recruitment will continue to be the major emphasis in the upcoming spring '09 semester through events such as ATP. The Ambassadors are chosen by interview format during the spring semester of each year, and accept a maximum of 20 members. This year,

we are pleased to have the following members: Colleen Mathews (Chair), Hannah George (Vice Chair), Aarika Hutton (Secretary/Treasurer), Lorin Isaacs (Faculty Liason), Daymond Walton (Public Relations), Colton Wherry (Community Liason), Allison McClure, Caroline Ramsey, Danielle Averill, Stefanie Ford, Jane Shubrooks and Kayla Nall. Jessica McClanahan is the Faculty Advisor.

The Department of Communication would like to say "Thank You" to all the students who participate in the student organizations and for the service you provide the Department and community.

Student Engagement

Communication helps students Get on the Bus

When WKU needed to Get On The Bus, Dr. Sally Ray found a bus.



Ray, Head of the Department of Communication when planning began and now Assistant Dean of Potter College of Arts and Letters, is a leader of the group which planned student engagement activities for Western Kentucky University students and faculty during the 2008 Presidential campaign. She and Special Events Coordinator, Rachel Manning, had led what was considered a very successful Debate Watch in 2008 and were asked to plan this one. "How do we top what we did in 2004?" Ray and Manning asked themselves.

After much brainstorming, they came up with the "Get On The Bus" theme. "There's something about this election that makes people want to wear their political opinions on their sleeve, or post a sign in

their yard, or maybe buy a big van and cover it with Obama/Biden stickers," reporter Jennifer Brooks wrote in the Oct. 22 issue of The Tennessean newspaper. The WKU plan was to get a great big van, a bus in fact. The problem was where to get the bus.

Ray resourcefully came up with a used bus for the project. "After about five phone calls, we bought an old surplus bus from the Warren County Board of Education. I guess I'm a bargain shopper. We only paid a dollar for it," Ray says with a laugh. Although the minimal sale



Faculty members from Art & Communication Departments

price helped the budget considerably, Ray still had to work on getting insurance, license, storage place, a driver, and a paint job. They all fell in place.

Kaleidoscope, a community youth arts group, worked with Ray and oth-

ers in getting the bus primed with a base white and in doing some of the art work to follow Ray's vision of a psychedelic look from the 1960s and '70s. WKU

M.A.S.T.E.R Plan freshmen and art guild students did some of the expressive painting during an evening of orientation week activities.

Kentucky Museum personnel created a series of photos, newspapers and posters of historic movements and moments in American political history as a reminder of some of the major issues Americans have dealt with over the decades. In fact, those passing through could dial designated numbers on their cell phones and listen

to the music of a particular era, helping recreate the essence of the time frame.

The bus made several appearances during the historic campaign, including being available for

touring outside Diddle Arena during Debate Watch activities Oct. 7.

"Students embraced the bus as a wonderful engagement opportunity," Dr. Ray says.

- Jim Turner

WKU Communication Expertise On Display At National Meeting

Western Kentucky University's reputation in speech and debate has earned the communication program another spot on the national stage.

On September 3 in Louisville, four WKU communication experts will lead a speechwriting boot camp for the National Conference of State Legislatures. The session begins a four-day professional development seminar for the NCSL's Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section and the National Association of Legislative Information Technology.

"Our objective was to equip them with the strategies and tools that will help them develop more effective speakers," said Dr. Sally Ray, head of WKU's Communication Department.

Dr. Ray was joined by Judy Woodring, director of WKU's award-winning forensic program; Dr. Larry Caillouet, associate professor of communication; and

Jace Lux, communication instructor and a debate coach. Rusty Chevront, who served as communications director for former Governor Paul Patton,

with the tools to effectively write and prepare messages for another person."

The seminar will attract NCSL members from across the country.

"This program is a great opportunity for us to represent the communication department and the forensics

program," Dr. Ray said. "People in forensics and in Kentucky know about our program but this is an opportunity to create an awareness at a national level of the expertise we have here at Western Kentucky University."

Dr. Ray and Dr. Blair Thompson, assistant professor of communication, presented "Going the Extra Mile," a session on improving oral presentations, on September 4.

"People in forensics and in Kentucky know about our program but this is an opportunity to create an awareness at a national level of the expertise we have here at Western Kentucky University."

was also on the panel. Topics for the daylong boot camp will include how to use anecdotes, humor and personal experiences; how to use powerful persuasion techniques; how to deal with challenges such as writer's block or a boss who says he needs a speech but leaves out most of the details; and how to coach people on delivery.

"We're hoping to take the speechwriters to the next level and enhance their abilities to coach eloquent speakers," Dr. Ray said. "We provided them

- Tommy Newton

Congratulations!

Dan Cline named to Academic All-District IV Team

It was announced on Thursday, November 6, 2008, that for the second straight year, Western Kentucky University senior defensive lineman Dan Cline has been named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District IV Football Team.



Dan Cline

Photo by J.S. Robinson

Cline, a native of Centerville, Ohio, was a first-team honoree in 2007, and earned a spot on the second time this season.

A corporate and organizational communication major, Cline has been one of the leaders on the field for the Topper defense over the past two seasons. A starter in 19 consecutive games entering Saturday's contest at Troy, Cline has registered 19 total tackles so far this season, including a sack and four tackles for loss. He also has been credited with a pass breakup and a fumble recovery. He also blocked a kick last week against North Texas. For his career, Cline has recorded 61

total tackles, including 11.5 behind the line of scrimmage.

To be eligible for academic honors, individuals must be at least a sophomore academically and athletically — freshmen and first-year transfers cannot be nominated — and a starter or key reserve with a minimum 3.30 cumulative grade-point average.

Congratulations!

Karoline Johnson

Recipient of the 2008-09

Ed Robertson Scholarship

Communication graduate elected to senate—(cont'd from page 1)

Greensburg. He was instrumental in researching, structuring and launching the farmer-directed gourmet beef marketing enterprise.

Givens is also treasurer of the Agribusiness Association of Kentucky; a founding board member of the Green County Agricultural Development Council; a founding director and current member of the Green County Cattlemen's Association and a member of the Green County Extension Council. "The corporate and organizational skills I acquired at WKU have helped me lead the Cattleman's Association," he says.

"Western helped me in many ways, including meeting my wife there," he says. He credits now-retired professor Dr. Judith Hoover for making him realize that studying Communication is more than just a way to get a masters degree. "I was enrolled in her Values in Leadership class," he re-

members. "The first night I was in the course the light bulb came on. I realized what this could mean to me." He also says Dr. Sally Ray, who is the former Department of Communication head, has "been very helpful and a close friend."



Dr. Ray says the feeling is mutual: "In 18 years of teaching, David is clearly one of the strongest students I've had in the graduate program. You have students who stand out, and he is one of them. What you see is what you get. He's very solid, just a very good person."

The name of David Givens has long been on a plaque in the Department of

Communication offices. He was a recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student award upon completing his masters degree.

All of this has come together this year in his election as a Republican during a year that favored Democrats across the nation. He has already been promised the chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a rarity for freshmen legislators.

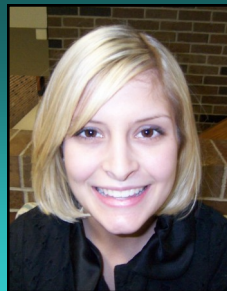
Givens literally ran against the media, or at least media moguls, in both the primary and general elections. Finishing second to him in the Republican primary was Jeff Jobe, who owns several newspapers in the district. His general election opponent was Democrat Steve Newberry, president and CEO of Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation, which owns prominent radio stations in the Glasgow and Bowling Green areas.

- Jim Turner

Fall 2008 Student Workers



Lorin Isaacs



Aarika Hutton



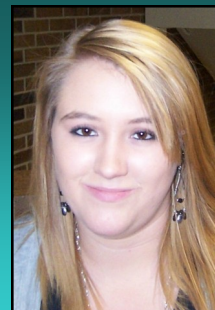
Jessica Paulsen



Shane Webb



Anne-Taylor Wilson



Lauren Stamps

Faculty News

Carl L. Kell, Ph.D.

The States Advisory Council, a participating organization affiliated with the National Communication Association, the communication discipline's national scholarly organization, has selected Dr. Carl L. Kell as the 2008 Scholar of the Year. Dr.

Kell's groundbreaking research on the rhetorical history of the takeover of The Southern Baptist Convention has resulted in three books: *In the Name of the Father – The Rhetoric of the New Southern Baptist Convention* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1999); *Exiled – Voices of the Southern Baptist Convention Holy War* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006), and

Against the Wind: The Moderate Voice in Baptist Life (University of Tennessee Press, 2009). A fourth book *Exiled II – The Lost Generation* will be forthcoming from the University of Tennessee Press.

Jenifer Lewis, Ph.D.

Dr. Lewis served as the Political Analyst for WBKO-TV on Election night in November. Her expertise in Political Communication was used during the 6pm & 10pm newscasts as well as during cut-ins that were done every half hour from 7pm-10pm. She was also busy collecting data during the campaign cycle that will be

used in upcoming scholarship and publications. Dr. Lewis will be speaking on campus on December 2 with a presentation entitled "I'm Friends with him on Facebook: The Influence of the Internet on Political Campaign Communication and Young Voters." The lecture will take place in Russell Miller Theater at 7:00pm.

Blair Thompson, Ph.D.

Dr. Thompson published an article in *RCA Vestnik* entitled "Applying social information processing theory to parent-teacher relationships."

Dr. Jenifer Lewis Appointed Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar



Dr. Barbara Burch, WKU Provost has selected Dr. Jenifer Lewis, Assistant Professor of Communication and Dr. Sandra Ardrey, Department Head of Political Engagement Scholars based on their demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service related to political engagement.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching launched the Political Engagement Project (PEP) to strengthen undergraduate education and foster student engagement in their communities, public policies, and electoral politics. Western Kentucky University is one of the eight participating PEP institutions. As part of this initiative, Dr. Burch created Western Kentucky University Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar program to appoint campus leaders to integrate political engagement across the university curriculum and cre-

ate sustainable links between the campus and broader community.

Along with the Carnegie Scholar designation, Drs. Lewis and Ardrey will receive professional development funds, course release time for pursuing engagement projects, and the opportunity to conduct research in residence at the Carnegie Foundation at Stanford University. When asked about the appointment, Dr. Lewis stated, "I am excited about being named a Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar and am pleased that the work I'm doing is being recognized with such a prestigious designation. I'm looking forward to collaborating with the other Carnegie scholars from our partnering institutions and with the Carnegie Foundation in advancing our understanding of the political engagement of young people. My passion is to see young people step up as engaged citizens with voices that demand to be heard by our politicians. I hope my research can help us design programs to teach students the skills to communicate within the political realm and foster their desire to be active, engaged members of their communities."

Dr. Lewis researches youth and politics, voter identification, technology use, and political comedy. She is also a member of the UVote research team, which spans nine universities and collects data during presidential election years. Dr. Lewis' research

supports her classroom teaching in many ways, including class trips to Washington, D.C., thematic seminars in Political Communication (COMM/PS 488), participation in Constitution Week and the recent university "Teach In" related to global warming.

Students say her classes involve active learning and that she challenges them to state opinions, hear other points of view, and be better informed through research. According to Kate Salyers, a student in COMM 488, "Dr. Lewis has taught me that it's my job as an American to be informed about politics and to take advantage of my right to vote. I have learned to keep an open mind about the candidates regardless of political affiliation and to view them from outside my box."

As a WKU Carnegie Political Engagement Scholar, Dr. Lewis will seek grant money to support her research on youth political engagement, facilitate Debate Watch (a campus-wide viewing of the presidential debates) for the 2008 election, and develop political engagement assignments and units across the curriculum. She will hold the position through December 2009 at which time she can apply for reappointment. Congratulations Dr. Lewis!

- Dr. Holly Payne

Alumni Updates

Katie Breiwa, 2005—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Katie has just left a position with Bockorny Group in Washington, DC and has moved to Austin, Texas where she has entered the Communication Studies Masters program at the University of Texas. She will be specializing in Interpersonal Communication and will work as a teaching assistant.

Scott Burnley, 2008—B.A. Communication Studies—gained a job as Regional Sales Manager for Home City Ice. Scott will manage the territories of Louisville, Lexington, and Bowling Green area. In the future he hopes to continue his education and earn a Graduate degree..

Lindsay Chapman, 2007—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—is currently working at Enterprise Rent-A-Car Division as a Management Assistant.

Andrea Collins, 2008—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Andrea graduated from WKU and quickly gained a position at Sony BMG. After beating out 60 other applicants, she earned a position as a Production Coordinator, where she is responsible for all Sony BMG -Nashville country artists.

Sam Ford, 2005—B.A. Communication Studies—is currently Director of Customer Insights with public relations agency

Peppercom, where he is consulting with Peppercom and its clients, writing and speaking about audience-related trends, and continuing to do research and writing as a research affiliate of C3 through MIT.

Michael Kaelin, 2007—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—is currently working at Fruit of the Loom as an account executive in the Customer Service Department.

Jade McKenzie, 2007 - B.A. Corporate and Organizational Communication is currently the Human Resources Assistant at Flaget Memorial Hospital in Bardstown, Kentucky.

Brittney Maslowski, 2004—M.A. Communication—is currently a clinical training coordinator for Gyrus ACMI, a surgical instrument manufacturing company., where she is handling all of the logistics for their national trainings.

Tara Ohning, 2005—B.A. Corporation & Organizational Communication—Tara has been promoted to Corporate Relations Manager at Pan-Oston in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Vanessa Pierrard, 2007—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—is currently working at Advisory Board Academies in Washington, DC where she has already received a promotion as Senior Marketing Associate .

The Department of
Communication would like to
reconnect with you.

Please update your information on our web site:
[http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/Communication/
alumni/information_form.html](http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/Communication/alumni/information_form.html)

We look forward to
hearing from you!

Western Kentucky
University
Department of
Communication

130 Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center
1906 College Heights Blvd. #21029
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Phone: 270-745-3296
Fax: 270-745-3295

We're on the Web!
www.wku.edu/Communication



Centennial Fountain—outside Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center

Fall 2008 Activities:

August 19, 2008 Paint That Bus! - 6:00 p.m.

October 28-30, 2008 Haunted Hills Tours—6:00-10:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society

November 5, 2008 **British Debate**—FAC Recital Hall—4:00 p.m.
Sponsored by WKU Forensics Team

November 10, 2008 Comedy on the Hill—Stand-up Comedy Contest—7:00 p.m. @ MMTH Auditorium
Sponsored by Communication Ambassadors

December 2, 2008 Scholar Presentation—**Dr. Jenifer L. Lewis**
7:00 p.m. @ Russell Miller Theater in FAC
*"I'm friends with him on Facebook: The influence of the Internet on Political Campaign
Communication and Young Voters."*

December 10, 2008 K.H.S.S.L. Drama Festival—9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

