



The Western Scholar is published semiannually for members of the public interested in Western Kentucky University scholarship and research.

Produced by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, the Office of Sponsored Programs, University Libraries, and the Office of University Relations.

Western Kentucky University,
1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY
42101-3576

CO-EDITORS

Dr. Gay Helen Perkins
University Libraries
<gay.perkins@wku.edu>

Dr. Phillip E. Myers
Office of Sponsored Programs
<phillip.myers@wku.edu>

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ms. Pamela Napier
Office of Sponsored Programs
<pamela.napier@wku.edu>

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Elmer Gray, Co-Chair
Dean of Graduate Studies
and Research
Dr. Phillip E. Myers, Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Brown
Dr. Kenneth Crawford
Dr. Lloyd Davies
Dr. Marilyn Gardner
Dr. Brian Goff
Dr. George Kontos
Mr. Greg Mills
Dr. Elizabeth Lemerise
Dr. Gay Helen Perkins
Dr. Raymond Poff
Dr. Julia Link Roberts
Dr. Mary Wolinski

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Mr. Bob Skipper

ART DIRECTOR

Mr. Tom Meacham

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ms. Carol Cummings
Mr. Tommy Newton
Mr. Bob Skipper

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mrs. Sheryl Hagan-Booth
Mrs. LaDonna Harmon

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

Mr. Marcus Dukes,
Senior Designer
Mr. Dewaker Dhandapani
Ms. Inga Dora Gudmundsdottir
Ms. April Petty
Mr. Brian Sachleben

The Western SCHOLAR

THE SPIRIT OF SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

2 *Age Effects in Learning and Judgment*

By Bob Skipper

While our waning ability to make judgments may be a natural effect of aging, Dr. Sharon Mutter wants to find out why these changes happen.

6 *Children in Robes*

by Carol Cummings

Dr. Jeffrey Samuels wants to know why most Buddhist monks enter the monastery as children.



10 *Doing the Dirty Work*

by Tommy Newton

The saying "It's a dirty job but someone has to do it" could apply to Dr. Kunlei Liu's career in clean coal research.

14 *Hillbilly: An American Icon*

by Carol Cummings

Dr. Anthony Harkins has spent much of his career researching the concept and history of the hillbilly.



18 *Kessler's Compression*

by Tommy Newton

Growth in digital technology has driven Dr. Bruce Kessler's research in applying fractal functions to image compression.

20 *Rediscovering a Lost Generation of East German Film Directors*

by Bob Skipper

Dr. Laura McGee is looking at the last generation of film directors educated in East Germany before the Berlin Wall fell.



24 *Body Beautiful?*

by Carol Cummings

We know unrealistic ideals for women's bodies affect women's self-esteem. But have you thought about the effect of unrealistic male body images? Dr. Rick Grieve has.



27 *Enjoying the Process*

by Bob Skipper

"I enjoy the whole research-teaching process," Dr. Johnny Chan said. "It's amazing and fun. And I get paid to do it."

30 *Research Briefs*

Increasing Student Learning, Knotty Problems, Improving on Wood, New Researcher

About the Cover

Photograph by Sheryl Hagan-Booth