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KENTUCKY
College of Arts and Sciences

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**Magazine of the
College of Arts & Sciences**

the
future of
learning



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The A&S biology department is leading a revolution in biology education and student learning.



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This year's Passport to the World initiative focuses on China as we "Awaken the Past, Discover the Future."

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THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

INNOVATIONS IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION



The Magazine of
The UK College Of Arts & Sciences

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We'd like to hear from you. Send letters and story ideas to, Ampersand, at the address on back cover or by fax to (859) 323-1073.

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Front and back cover photo montage / illustration
Influx Studio

Photo of the A&S Wired Residential College taken by Dana Rogers.

& q&a with uk's president



Victor Sizemore—UK PR & Marketing

Dean Mark Lawrence Kornbluh talks with President Eli Capilouto about undergraduate education at UK. To listen to the full interview, visit www.as.uky.edu/video.



Mark Lawrence Kornbluh (MK): As you know, we're really excited about implementing a new basic undergraduate curriculum called UK CORE for this fall after over five years effort. I wonder if you'd tell us a little about what you think of the role of the College of Arts & Sciences in undergraduate education at UK.

First of all, let me compliment everybody who's worked so hard on the CORE curriculum. I think it represents a step forward that leading universities need to make given all the changes that are underway and given this millennial generation that we have a deep responsibility to educate. We're going to turn our future over to those who come through these doors over the next few years, and they've had an entirely different experience than your generation or mine. The other thing about the new CORE curriculum is the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. When you have that within a university, you're going to remain on the cutting-edge. I look forward to learning more about the curriculum, but to me it has some basic fundamentals that one has to have today. You need to further advance critical thinking skills, communication skills, and then within all of that, the notion of civic and social responsibility. So those are some of the hallmarks I noticed which have me quite excited.

MK: A&S is launching UK's first residential college this fall—A&S Wired. It's really for all students and is an attempt to link curricular and extra-curricular activities and get the faculty more engaged directly with students. What are your thoughts on the value of this type of residential experience for freshman?

I think our responsibility is to recognize the learning context that our new students are going to bring to UK. This generation has integrated technology into their lives more so than any we've seen, and it's not going to stop; so I think the creation of the Wired concept, a living-learning environment, and extending that to a wireless connection is a terrific way to recognize what kind of learners we have coming to our campus. It also allows us to design our curricula so they can realize, through those experiences and those broad connections with a vast array of faculty, their expectations and hopes for a 21st century learning experience.

MK: Let me ask you about another part of our undergraduate education. We provide a lot of opportunities for undergraduates to have research experiences. Why do you believe this component is important for these students?

I think that you need to provide opportunities for entrepreneurship for each individual student. It's not just what you learn in the classroom, but how you accumulate, synthesize, integrate and apply that knowledge in answering a question. And I know many people think of them in the traditional sense that somebody is working in a laboratory, for instance, but I have a feeling that across the College, you have opportunities for those students to apply their research skills and answer questions in a social context. These young, social entrepreneurs will be able to hone their skills so that they can apply them when they graduate from UK. The College of Arts & Sciences is unique and able to bring multiple disciplines together and apply them to tackle the issues of our day. Whether it be energy, the climate, water or food, those are the issues that make a university relevant and I think it's what our country wants—solutions provided by us and other great thinkers. &



Read **Rick Sellnow's** blog at <http://whatareyoureallychina.wordpress.com/>.

DISCOVERING TWO CHINAS

Scholarship brings history to life for undergraduate student as he travels China and blogs about his experiences.

By Guy Spriggs

Rick Sellnow has always loved history. Even as a child, Sellnow says he was more interested when learning history than reading works of fiction.

"I always found it more exciting to read real stories like those of Joan of Arc and the Sengoku Jidai than fabricated stories like 'The Lord of the Rings' or 'Harry Potter,'" he explained.

So when Sellnow was offered the chance to visit China last summer through the International Scholar Laureate Program and explore a country with such a deep and complex history, he took full advantage of that special opportunity.

"There's just so much to learn about China. They trace their history back an unbroken 5,000 years while America is only 300 years old," Sellnow said. "This program gave me a chance to go abroad to a place I might not be able to visit otherwise."

Sellnow, whose parents are both professors at UK, decided to study in the history department after visiting the campus and meeting with various faculty members. "UK has very accomplished faculty who are all great at what they do," he said.

Sellnow has found success in his three years at UK, earning recognition in multiple honor societies. In November 2010, Sellnow was notified of his nomination for the International Scholar Laureate Program and applied for the scholarship through the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

As part of his involvement with the program, Sellnow kept a blog where he wrote his summaries and thoughts on the cities he visited.

He was also loaned a camera by the College of Arts & Sciences to document his experiences in China through video.

Sellnow describes the trip as a "blitz." Once in China, his group visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Hong Kong—a trip of almost 2,500 miles—in just over two weeks. He visited such attractions as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall of China and The Summer Palace.

But what interested Sellnow the most was the conflation in the Chinese landscape of the old and the new, the West and the East. For instance, Sellnow visited an art museum in Xi'an where he viewed multiple paintings he had studied in Chinese history classes. But one stood out in particular.

"There was a painting of one of the Qing emperors, and an Italian painter captured him in the Renaissance style. It's this very Western art form forced on top of a very Eastern subject."

Sellnow also visited the Terracotta Warriors—a collection of sculptures depicting the army of China's first emperor—and couldn't overlook something that seemed out of place. "There is this massive shopping district that has arisen in front of the museum," he said. "As you get off the bus, you're walking toward this historic site and you have to walk through a shopping mall."

This spoke to what Sellnow says he expected to see on his trip: "two Chinas," the developed and the undeveloped, the Western and the traditional.

"I'm studying to be a historian, so it was amazing to actually be in these sites I had read about and experience them firsthand," he said.

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“It was nice to see a living China rather than just the inanimate China I read about.”

The trip was filled not only with visits to centuries-old palaces and famous landmarks, but also to universities and think-tanks. “That was interesting, since it was professors we were talking to, discussing pertinent global issues in regards to US-China relations,” he said.

Sellnow’s most memorable experiences came from interacting directly with the Chinese people. In particular, he recalls visiting English Corner in Beijing, a place where students and locals go to practice their English speaking skills.

“I went with my friends, and we just hoped they wanted to talk to us,” Sellnow said. “There was never a time when we were talking to less than 20 people. I had a crowd of 40 people and I would just talk and ask questions to the group.”

He also had an eye-opening experience when taking a tour of the Beijing Foreign Studies Institute campus with a student named Jack. Their conversation started with the global presence of the National Basketball Association and eventually turned to Jack’s views of the Chinese government.

Sellnow believed that those he spoke with at English Corner seemed to be repeating rehearsed lines regarding politics, but not Jack. “I was shocked that he would tell some American he just met about this. The American media tells us that the Chinese are clamped down, so it was even more shocking that Jack was so open,” Sellnow explained.

Although much of what Sellnow saw matched his expectations, his trip taught him a great deal about the Chinese people. “I have more respect for the Chinese than I did when I left. I have an increased desire to pick up Mandarin and return,” he said.

“There’s so much there that even the most avid and motivated intellectual could never become satiated even if he spent a lifetime studying it.” &

[Learn more about the College’s Year of China initiative on page 30.](#)



Cassie Hardin learns to roll dragon dumplings during the Dragon Boat Festival in Shanghai.

Photos provided by Cassie Hardin

FLIP OF THE COIN

Linguistics major studies the sounds of the world in Shanghai.

By Guy Spriggs

Cassie Hardin was sure that she wanted to explore her passion for studying languages after arriving at the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2008, but she also knew that she was getting tired of more traditional romance languages. She wanted something new; she wanted a new horizon.

So how did Hardin arrive at her decision to pursue courses in UK’s

Chinese Studies program? She left it up to chance.

“I wanted a new challenge, so I flipped a coin: did I want to do Japanese or did I want to do Chinese. It landed on Chinese, so I went with Chinese and I’m so glad.”

In the spring of 2010, Hardin was presented with a unique opportunity to travel to China for the Conversational Chinese in Shanghai Program through

Education Abroad at UK. The program, directed by A&S professor Liang Luo, was the inaugural exchange program for the new Confucius Institute at UK.

“Our teacher was the program director and she gave us the flyer in class one day. Our class is kind of small and it’s a tight-knit group, so we decided together,” Hardin said. “Having friends and close classmates to help make those kinds of decisions is a really big influence.”

At Shanghai University, Hardin and her classmates in the study abroad program were completely immersed in the Chinese language. “We would go to class at 8 o’clock, and we took classes in Chinese. It was very efficient in

terms of training our ears and getting us used to hearing the Chinese language.”

In addition to the in-class education she received, Hardin took advantage of free afternoons by exploring Shanghai and experiencing Chinese culture first-hand. “Shanghai has a multicultural history, there’s so much foreign influence: Japanese, French, English, American, Swedish. Different sections of the city have different historical backgrounds,” Hardin explained.

“Shanghai is completely different from Lexington,” she added. “There are about 20 million people there right now. I am at a complete loss for words when I try to describe it.”

Hardin visited pavilions filled with cultural exhibits at the World Expo—called the Olympics Games of the economy, science and technology—and toured the scenic areas of Hangzhou and Suzhou to Shanghai’s south with other students on the trip.

Hardin says that Shanghai is set up to welcome Western visitors, but trips outside metropolitan areas really revealed her cultural education in China to be a two-way street.

“There are a lot of people from the country in China who haven’t really seen Westerners before,” she said. “People would come up to me and say, ‘Here, hold my baby. Take a picture with my baby.’ It was a bit of a culture shock.”

After the summer term at Shanghai University was over, Hardin stayed for six more days and was able to take part in ceremonies celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival. As part of the celebration, she was taught to roll dragon dumplings by locals and even took part in a boat race as a member of the team representing Shanghai University.

“The whole thing was so eye-opening. I feel like I’m a more cultured person now.”

But the greatest long-term benefit of the trip, Hardin says, is her improved

understanding of Chinese as a result of her immersion in the language and culture of Shanghai. “I’m planning on including Chinese in my career, and my Chinese got a lot better. I feel much more comfortable being in social situations where I would have to use my Chinese.”



Hardin is currently an International Studies major, but her experiences in Lexington and Shanghai have motivated her to include Chinese Studies in her curriculum. “I’ve been learning the importance and practical uses of the language. I’m very interested in diplomacy and I would love to play a role in the recent improvement of US-China relations.”

And while her education through UK’s Chinese Studies program and trip to Shanghai were the result of flipping a coin, Hardin has found purposeful direction through her studies and doesn’t encourage others to leave such valuable opportunities to chance. “I want to encourage others to participate in UK’s Chinese program. I advocate both Chinese and studying abroad to others.”

“To anyone who is considering studying abroad: just do it. If you’re unsure, just close your eyes and leap. You will have fun, you will learn—and you will be a better person afterwards.” &

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Several new A&S faculty members offer insights into their fields and interests.

Compiled by Guy Spriggs and Colleen Glenn

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

“One of the most important ingredients to maintaining a successful relationship is _____.”



Commitment.

Commitment is one of the strongest predictors of relationship length. People who are committed to their romantic partners are more likely to view their partner's actions in a positive light and are less likely to be tempted by alternatives to their current partner.

—Saul Miller, Assistant Professor, Psychology

SAUL MILLER received his doctorate in social psychology from Florida State University. Using an evolutionary perspective on psychology, he examines the biological and psychological processes that help us successfully attain a variety of social goals (e.g., forming romantic relationships, maintaining friendships, protecting ourselves from harm). In his spare time, he can likely be found outside, either hiking mountains or rappelling underground.

FAST FACT

“Humans are among the most significant “geomorphic agents” on Earth. Can you think of any other species that modifies the Earth’s surface more than we do?”

—Kevin M. Yeager, Associate Professor, Earth & Environmental Sciences



KEVIN YEAGER earned his doctorate in geology and geophysics from Texas A&M University in 2002. His research focuses on the interface between humans and the Earth's surface, in particular on contemporary and geologically “young” sedimentary systems (less than 10,000 years old), including river floodplains, lakes, coastal estuaries, bays, lagoons and marshes, as well as coastal oceans and the deep sea. A facet of his research includes studying the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on sedimentary ecosystems throughout the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

“My favorite element on the periodic table is _____.”



Carbon.

Carbon is the building block of many materials, both in nature and in human-designed compounds for pharmaceutical and materials science applications. You name it, and it can be made from carbon (with a little help from the rest of the periodic table).

—Susan Odom, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

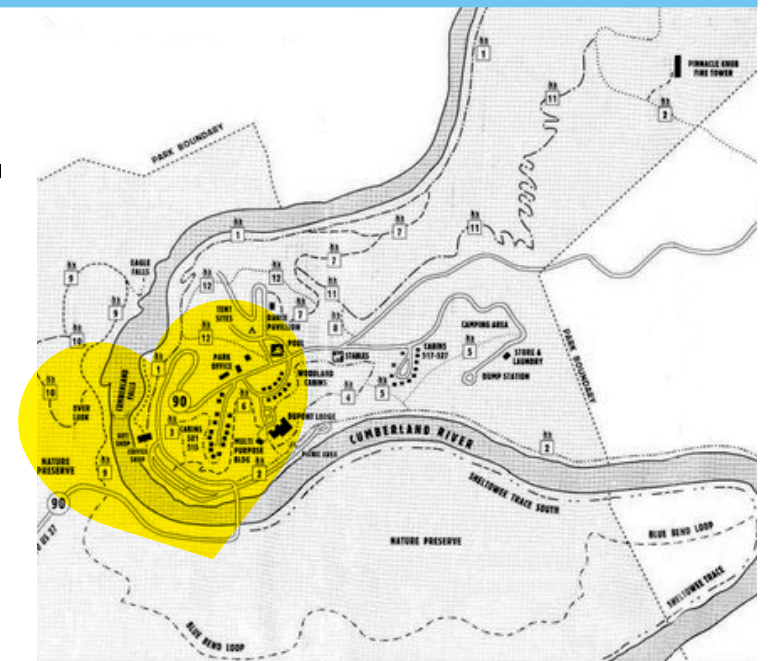
SUSAN ODOM attended UK as an undergraduate, receiving a bachelor's in chemistry in 2003. She obtained her doctorate in chemistry from Georgia Tech in 2008 and spent the last three years conducting postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While there, she researched self-healing electronics and successfully developed a conductive metal ink that can repair itself, a discovery that could drastically change our relationship to technology.

TOP FOUR ALMODÓVAR FILMS:

- WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?** (1984)
- DARK HABITS** (1984)
- LABYRINTH OF PASSION** (1982)
- VOLVER** (2006)

—Carlos de la Torre, Professor, Sociology and International Studies Program Director

CARLOS DE LA TORRE is a sociologist specializing in issues of racism and citizenship in Latin America and in the relationship between populism and democracy. A graduate of the New School for Social Research, de la Torre has written extensively on Latin American politics. His most recent book, “Populist Seduction in Latin America,” was published in a second edition in 2010. Carlos de la Torre is a fan of celebrated Spanish film director Pedro Almodóvar.



FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

“Dr. Kingsolver believes that Kentucky has the loveliest state parks in the country. Her favorite park is _____.”

A Tie...

.... between **BLUE LICKS STATE PARK**, because it was close to my home growing up and the museum has information about Native American communities and prehistoric mammoths, and **CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK** because of the trails and the Civilian Conservation Corps architecture from the 1930s.

—Ann Kingsolver, Professor, Anthropology and UK Appalachian Center Director

ANN KINGSOLVER earned her doctorate in anthropology at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, and has taught in Wisconsin, California, Sri Lanka and South Carolina. A native of Nicholas County, Kingsolver will return to Kentucky in the fall of 2011 as an anthropology professor at UK and as director of the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program. Her fourth book, “Tobacco Town Futures: Global Encounters in Rural Kentucky” (2011), is based on long-term fieldwork in her hometown.



Mark Cornelison

\$600,000

A&S's **Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences (EES)** has partnered with Dallas-based Pioneer Natural Resources Company to secure a \$600,000 gift through Pioneer Vice-President Tom Spalding, who is a UK alumnus ('80, '82). The gift, which is intended to be spread out over the next 3 years, will fund the Pioneer Natural Resources Research Professorship in Stratigraphy. The money will not only support the new faculty member's research program, but will also fund graduate and undergraduate student research.



Did you know...

The College of Arts & Sciences is well-connected! You can now find links for us on **Twitter, Facebook, Vimeo, Flickr and iTunes U**. Our new website also has plenty of exciting blogs, interesting podcasts, and great pictures and videos from faculty, students, and alumni. To find out info on the latest A&S events and to stay connected, join the conversation at www.as.uky.edu. See you on the web!

22 UK biology professor **Ann Morris** was chosen as one of 22 Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences for her innovative and groundbreaking retinal research with zebrafish. Her research will explore the mechanisms that drive the development and regeneration of retinal photoreceptors over the next four years. To date, the Pew program has invested more than \$125 million to fund more than 500 scholars. It is a rigorously competitive program where recipients receive \$240,000 over four years to pursue their research without restriction. Applicants who work in all areas of physical and life sciences related to biomedical study must be nominated by an invited institution and demonstrate both excellence and innovation in their research.

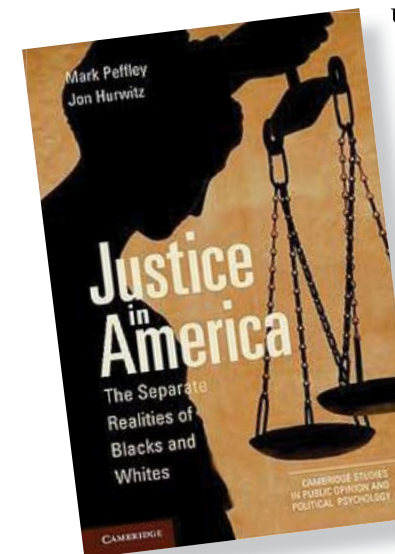


Kim Edwards and **Bobbie Ann Mason** from the A&S Department of English have both released new books. Edwards' latest novel, "The Lake of Dreams," is the story of a woman's return home, a family secret and the old house that holds the key to her true ancestral legacy. Bobbie Ann Mason's new book, "The Girl in the Blue Beret," follows a World War II crash survivor as he sets out to find the people who risked their lives to help him.



Richie Wireman

\$2.3 UK's Ecological Research Facility (ERF) has greatly expanded in recent years due to new research space and lab sessions, and, thanks to a gift from Lexmark, a \$2.3M renovation project will allow the old Northside Library Building to be the site of further ERF-related research. Department of Biology professors were also awarded funding for a three-year National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant to be centered at ERF starting in 2012.



UK political science professor **Mark Peffley's** most recent publication, "Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites," was awarded the Robert Lane Award from the Political Psychology Section of the American Political Science Association. Available from Cambridge University Press, the book is co-authored with Professor Jon Hurwitz of the University of Pittsburgh. Peffley & Hurwitz's research uses innovative survey experiments to uncover how whites and blacks formulate and use their widely differing views of the fairness of the justice system in the US.



EIGHT COOL NEW THINGS TO CHECK OUT IN LEXINGTON

- 1 THE LEGACY TRAIL**
Connecting **downtown Lexington to the Kentucky Horse Park**, the Legacy Trail spans 12 miles and provides scenic views of central Kentucky. Opened in September 2010, the trail has become the latest hotspot for biking and walking in Lexington.
- 2 THE 5/3 PAVILION**
The Fifth Third Pavilion, located at Cheapside Park, is now **home of the farmers' market**, which features a wide variety of local produce and products on Saturdays. Stop by in the summer for **Thursday Night Live** — where Lexingtonians gather for music, food and drinks.
- 3 JEFFERSON STREET**
You may be surprised to find that the hippest street downtown is now Jefferson Street. Boasting everything from **good eats to a gourmet wine and cheese shop to a dive bar**, Jefferson Street is the place to head on weekends.
- 4 MARCH MADNESS MARCHING BAND**
Parades in Lexington haven't been the same since the March Madness Marching Band came on the scene a couple of years ago. An eclectic and talented group, they have a reputation for **spontaneous bursts of melody and dancing**. Not to be missed! Keep track of future appearances at www.m-m-m-b.com.
- 5 LIMESTONE AVENUE**
(between UK and Maxwell)
Newly renovated with trees and wide sidewalks, the revamped block of Limestone features tried and true classics like Pazzo's Pizza and our independent record store, CD Central, along with several new ethnic restaurants that make for tasty lunches near campus.
- 6 WINDY CORNER MARKET**
For those who love **Wallace Station**, the north side of town is now the home of its **sister restaurant**, the Windy Corner Market, featuring gourmet Po' Boys and scrumptious salads. Local, fresh ingredients, a creative menu and live music have made this venue a fast favorite.
- 7 BEAUMONT AMPHITHEATRE**
A beautiful new amphitheater in Beaumont Centre opened last fall providing Lexington its latest performance arts venue. From theatre to summer movie nights, Beaumont Amphitheatre is filled with families looking for outdoor fun.
- 8 BUSTER'S / DISTILLERY DISTRICT**
One of Lexington's mainstays on Main Street for years, Buster's Billiards & Backroom has relocated to Manchester Street and became the anchor of what is now called the "Distillery District." On busy weekend nights, the district's art galleries and studios buzz with music lovers and gallery-hoppers.

the wired experience

BY COLLEEN GLENN

PHOTOS BY SHAUN RING AND DANA ROGERS

> It's almost time for class and you're still in your dorm room.
But you're not going to be late. There's plenty of time to walk downstairs. > > > > >

Imagine what residence halls will be like in 2020. That's what the College of Arts & Sciences did when they created a new living and learning community at Keeneland Hall. Debuted this fall, "a&s wired" houses almost 200 freshmen in a unique interactive space that combines education and residence life.



JESSI FLANERY, Raceland, KY.
"The iPad is a good gimmick to get people in, but when I started reading about it, it seemed like a really interesting program to be a part of. The technology and the social interaction with classmates and teachers are what drew my attention."

CARLO CONTE, Lexington, KY.
"I thought it would be an excellent experience to join a living and learning community and be able to study with the people I live with. I just thought it would be a good way to start freshmen year."

"As we envisioned what education would be like for students starting college in 2020, we knew advanced technology would be a critical component," said Adrienne McMahan, assistant dean of undergraduate affairs in the College of Arts & Sciences.

A&S Wired features a technology-infused curriculum designed around the concept of a 21st century liberal arts education. Students take two or three of the same courses, including eight-week interdisciplinary "Wired" courses and a first-year writing course, as part of a shared academic program that promotes communal learning.

Each student involved in A&S Wired received an iPad, but "it's not all just about technology," said faculty co-director Cristina Alcalde. The idea, she explained, is that students will learn new skills using the technology with which they're already familiar.

While students are learning new ways to employ technology, professors are finding that Wired courses give them freedom to be innovative with their pedagogy. Many of the courses offered in A&S Wired are non-traditional in that they venture beyond the walls of the classroom.

For instance, students in Gerald Smith's class this fall, "The African-American Experience in Kentucky," will visit several historical sites in Kentucky that have been central to the black experience. In the spring semester, Professor of Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Media Jeff Rice, one of the three co-directors of Wired, will teach "Eating Kentucky," a course that will encourage students to become acquainted with the "food moments" that define Kentucky culture.

"Part of the vision behind Wired is to provide a liberal arts education within the context of a research university," said

Alcalde, who, in addition to co-directing Wired is a professor in the Department of Gender & Women's Studies. "One of the reasons that I became involved in Wired—why I'm so excited about it—is that it brings the resources of a large university like UK into a really small environment."

Critical to that vision is establishing meaningful connections with faculty.

A&S Wired faculty won't just come to class, lecture and leave. They will hold office hours—both real and virtual—in the residence hall, and will be available to students through

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THE TOP

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TECH TRENDS

NOAH ADLER, Director of Development and Research Computing at the College of Arts & Sciences, weighs in on technology trends to watch for. Check out the links for more information.

DIY BIOTECH:

Biotechnology will no longer be relegated to scientific laboratories. Advancements and availability in homebrew hardware will make projects such as DNA sequencing possible for regular people in their own homes.
<http://openpcr.org/>

INFOGRAPHICS:

This emerging field, a mixture of graphic design, statistics and story-telling, continues to produce new tools for making sense of data. From interactive maps and flowcharts, to as-yet-unimagined visualizations, infographics is transforming the way we gain insight into our data-rich world.
<http://flowingdata.com>

DIGITAL CURRENCY:

A decade ago, Napster shed light on how peer-to-peer technology could change the

exchange of music. The opening of that Pandora's Box is a well-known tale today. If that was the first unabashed revolution of Internet culture, the relative popularity of BitCoin, a peer-to-peer digital currency, may be the harbinger of an even more disruptive change. Ease of use is still a concern, but those problems will be worked around over time, until someday we may all be using numbers as currency instead of coins or bills.
www.bitcoin.org

SPACE EXPLORATION:

The shuttle program may have come to its conclusion, but the miniaturization of space exploration is just starting. CubeSats and TubeSats are tiny satellites developed initially for university courses, but they have proven so popular that now NASA is sending them into space,

coupling them with another commodity technology: the smartphone. While these launches lack the media spectacle of a shuttle launch, this puts space exploration squarely in the DIY realm.
www.kentuckyspace.com

KINETIC USER INTERFACES:

The backlash against computers' contributions to sedentary life started with Nintendo's Wii, and was soon followed with brilliant products like Microsoft Kinect. Accelerometers in smart phones make gestural control a fun and convenient way to exchange information through apps like Hoccer and Bump. At last year's NIME (New Interfaces for Musical Expression) conference, the top prize went to a music-generating beach ball with sounds that reacted to the audience's touch.
<http://hoccer.com>

A&S TECHNOLOGY STAFF shares their favorite apps:

LIFELIKE

CRAIGSLIST:

Flip through Craigslist like a newspaper, saving your favorite searches.

PAGEONCE:

Track your spending and bills.

FLIPBOARD:

Catch up on news and social media networks in magazine-style format.

TED:

Talks from the world's most fascinating people at your fingertips.

SHOWME:

Learn and teach anything online.



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a variety of informal activities, such as Wednesday afternoon coffee chats.

"A&S Wired is all about building connections with people—with faculty, other students, and the community," said Nathan DeWall, a professor of psychology and a co-director of Wired.

In fact, extracurricular activities—designed to encourage getting to know classmates—are an important component of the Wired program. "A lot of the activities sound crazy but they're going to be so fun," DeWall said.

He and several students have committed to writing a novel in a month, while professor Anna Bosch is leading a group that uses their iPads to read local newspapers and those from around the globe.

"Nationally, there's a lot of effort to create spaces where students can live together and study together, to create environments where the social and academic come together," Rice added.

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APPS



CORA BRADLEY, Owensboro, KY:
"Wired is a really great way to connect with other people on campus."

DAVID FISH, Louisville, KY:
"I like the fact that the classes will be in the dorm. It's different than what my friends, who are living elsewhere, will experience."

ALLYSON LOUGH, New Market, VA:
"I'm coming from really far away—about 8 hours—so I wanted to find a community to live in and this one seemed like a good fit. I love the arts, I love science, and I am excited to work with technology. I'm excited!"

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Such efforts at universities across the nation have demonstrated that communities similar to Wired helped with retention rates of freshmen, who often find themselves lost in large lecture courses at research universities.

"There's going to be a built-in network of peer mentors that will be checking in with students, and faculty will be very accessible to students, so there'll be a built-in network of support," Alcalde said.

The 65-year-old Keeneland Hall has undergone extensive renovation in its conversion from ordinary dorm to the home

of A&S Wired. Outfitted with state-of-the-art technology to enhance the learning experience, Keeneland Hall now features two modern classrooms equipped with new media that incorporate smart media and a collaborative infrastructure. An interactive digital bulletin board in the lobby—with live streaming capability—enables students to post messages and plan activities with others, and a large movie screen in the public space is used for the student-planned movie nights.

The freshmen who are living at A&S Wired have a unique opportunity to experience a modern model for college

education. But the Wired directors make it clear that this will not be a one-way experience—the College fully expects that this group of students will help them to develop new ways of teaching and learning.

"What A&S wired is poised to do is to fundamentally change the first-year college experience here at UK by fostering these connections and by offering students opportunities that will redefine what they think a first-year educational experience can be," said DeWall. &



Lexington

BY GUY SPRIGGS

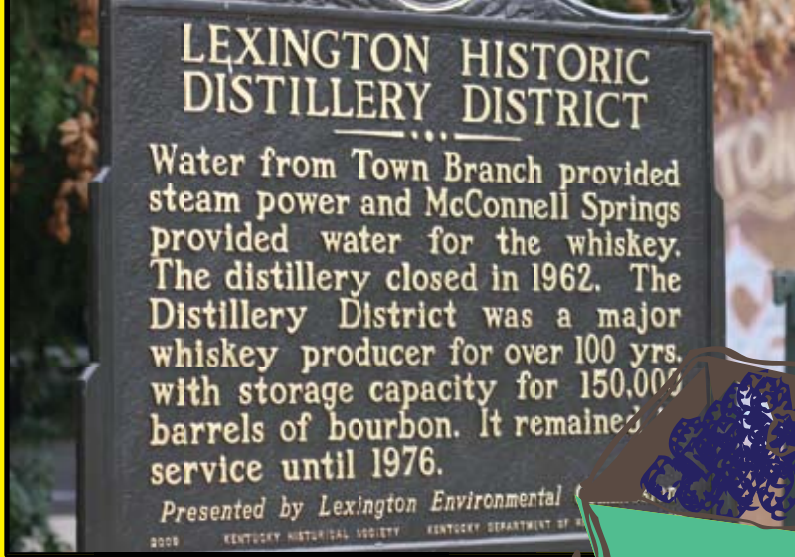
Starting this fall, Arts & Sciences is launching Community 101. This innovative class will allow undergraduate students to learn about and engage with the local community.

Illustration by Influx Studio

Welcome to



The Lyric Theater



LEXINGTON HISTORIC DISTILLERY DISTRICT
 Water from Town Branch provided steam power and McConnell Springs provided water for the whiskey. The distillery closed in 1962. The Distillery District was a major whiskey producer for over 100 yrs. with storage capacity for 150,000 barrels of bourbon. It remained in service until 1976.
 Presented by Lexington Environmental
 2008 KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF



Renovated Limestone



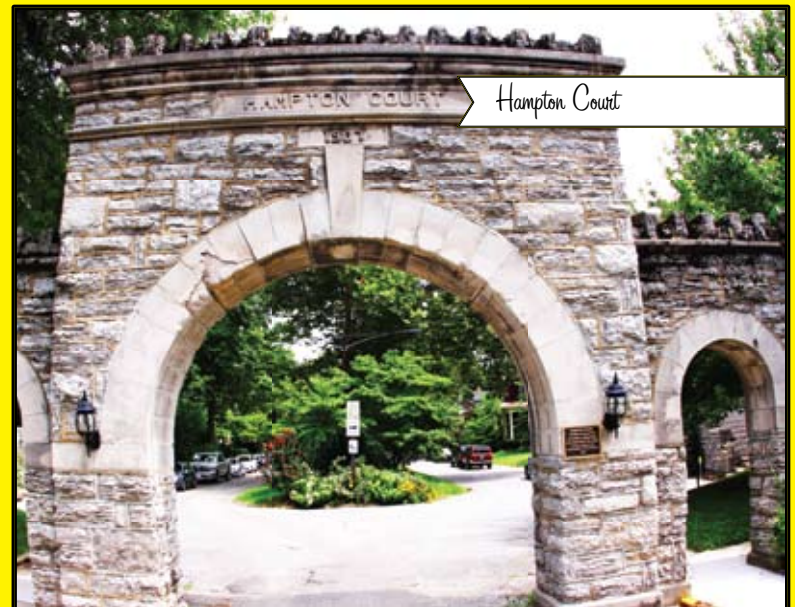
Ashland Henry Clay Estate



Raceland Park



Old Courthouse Farmers' Market



Hampton Court



The Hunt Morgan House

As a cultural geographer, professor Rich Schein does research on the American cultural landscape, investigating the history, functionality and meaning of what we all see when we look out the window onto the city.

"I ask questions about how our interaction with landscapes contributes to the ongoing formulations of everyday life," Schein explained.

Schein's interest in the interaction between individuals and the surrounding landscape led to his involvement with a new course in the College of Arts & Sciences – Community 101, which is designed so students can learn about and participate in the local environment.

"My goal is for students to not see the University of Kentucky as a sort of four-year hiatus from the real world," Schein said. "The university is the real world. It's about becoming aware of how you live

in a city presenting students with opportunities for becoming engaged with it."

According to Schein, Community 101 offers great benefits to both students and the city for three reasons. First, since the class begins halfway through the semester, it allows students with dropped classes to make up credit hours. Second, the course introduces students to Lexington and helps them learn how cities work. And third, Community 101 increases undergraduate awareness of their place in the community.

"It's a win-win-win," Schein said. "It helps with retention and time-to-degree, it builds good urban citizens and it helps students understand they are a part of this place. We live in urban places. Even if you live in the countryside you're connected to the urban world through the Internet, computers and smart phones."

For the eleven-week class, Schein plans to split time between in-class lectures about topics such as local food supply or cultural economy and activities like panel discussions and group trips to places in the city. Schein plans to visit the Lyric Theatre, the farmer's market, the horse park and house museums such as the Mary Todd Lincoln House and John Hunt Morgan House.

Schein also hopes the class will be visited by members of Lexington's communities and organizations.

"Why not facilitate a conversation between students and neighborhood associations and find out how they view each other? I'd love to have Jim Gray visit and talk to students about how he views the place of the university in Lexington."

Any course could serve the purpose of helping with time-to-degree, Schein says, but Community 101 offers students a unique opportunity to learn about and engage with the communities that surround them. After all, landscapes are not just built environments, but also symbolize and contribute to a community's history, geography and people.

"One of the goals of a land grant institution like Kentucky in the 21st century has to involve thinking about how the university and its students become good urban citizens." &



UK BIOLOGY PROGRAM GETS A FACELIFT

BY ERIN HOLADAY ZIEGLER
PHOTOS BY MARK CORNELISON

Biology is one of the top majors at the University of Kentucky. Students emerge from UK's programming prepared to take on the many challenges of the 21st century—from biochemistry to biotechnology, medicine to dentistry. However, there are incoming students who are increasingly unprepared to meet the challenges of this popular curriculum.

"It's become increasingly clear that students are not prepared for college work," said Vincent Cassone, Chair of UK's Department of Biology in the College of Arts & Sciences. "They can't write professionally, they lack math skills and it's only getting worse."

Combine these less prepared students with increased college costs and a staid 1950s-era biology curriculum, and you have a crisis.

When Cassone arrived on campus three years ago, A&S faculty in the department began revamping the curriculum in an attempt to free up resources and update coursework in an ever-changing era of science.

"So much information has been accumulated within our discipline that it's hard to see the forest through the trees," said Cassone, who renovated Texas A&M's biology curriculum in 2003.

"We're really pushing for a conceptual base in biology in our department, with the integration of math and physical science, rather than just memorizing facts."

A&S's Department of Biology is leading a revolution in biology education and student learning, recognizing the serious problems that studies from biology educators, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, have continued to indicate.

"Students have to think critically," Cassone said. "We want our students to understand that everything is related to everything else, and that evolutionary biology plays an important role."

The department completed a total coursework overhaul for biology majors, and after a year of pilot programs, the revised curriculum will take full effect this fall.

Students will focus on the basics during their first year: information literacy. "What's the difference between a journal article and Wikipedia and why is this important to know?" said Ruth Beattie, associate professor of biology and director of undergraduate studies. "Students aren't arriving on campus with these types of skills."

Learning how to find, read and use information will be essential to A&S biology students in their first year. With the massive amount of scientific data at a researcher's fingertips, introductory biology majors will also focus on bioinformatics—the manipulation of scientific information on DNA and RNA databases.

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A CHEMICAL CHANGE: Upgrading chemistry curriculum and lab space

BY ERIN HOLADAY ZIEGLER

While A&S's Department of Chemistry does not possess the curriculum leeway of biology, due to American Chemistry Society regulations, it too has plans for course changes and lab upgrades this year and in the future.

"We provide a large service component to non-chemistry majors at the university, but we can't forget about our own students," said Mark Meier, chair of the chemistry department. "It's a challenging balance, but with energetic faculty and the support of Dean Kornbluh, I have high expectations."

The department, following a national trend in chemistry higher education, is currently piloting a recitation program for Chemistry 105 students. Recitation sessions typically include a review of difficult concepts, weekly quizzes based on homework and time for questions.

Last fall, students in a 60-member pilot were divided up into two groups of 30 for weekly, one-hour recitations with a graduate student teaching assistant.

According to chemistry professor and general chemistry director Stephen Testa, students taking a course including recitation had a DEW rate [D, E or Withdrawal] for Chemistry 105 of 20 percent, compared to the departmental average of 30 percent.

"We're happy about it. We don't want to teach the course that keeps students from fulfilling their dreams," Testa said. "Students can do this; they just come in a little lost with lots of other academic burdens."

Testa also followed the 60 students into their second semester of chemistry, where they did better on average on exams and received better final course grades.

While the small pilot was a big success, this year Testa will be testing out the recitation program on a normal-sized chemistry class of 250 students. This class will be divided up into nine groups of 30.

The department hopes to offer recitation for all students beginning fall 2012.

Chemistry provides many courses to non-chemistry majors, and recognizing the relevance of classes like organic chemistry is also a part of course renovations.

"So many students see organic as a course that weeds students out - a course with information that they don't really need to know," Meier said. "We are working to make our lecture courses more relevant to the life sciences."

Assistant chemistry professor Susan Odom, who will be teaching Organic Chemistry I this fall, hopes to make a subject known for extraneous memorization more applicable in subject matter for her students.

"I'd like to examine human health and environmental issues further than they are typically addressed in the course," she said. "I want to make the material relevant to students' lives so they are more motivated to understand the material."

While upper level courses for chemistry majors won't be changing too much, Meier hopes to update labs and curriculum for the times.

"These courses haven't gotten as much attention in the past, due to the initial crush of students," he explained. "We're addressing equipment issues, but also really making the upper-division labs cool."

Meier hopes to give students more time to interpret data, instead of waiting.

"Let's get to the science, instead of watching a thermometer heat up for an hour," he said. "Working on the time management and equipment upgrades really makes a difference."

continued from page 26

"We have the ability to look at the sequence of the human genome and compare human genes to other organisms," said Beattie. "But even with this capability, we have to show students how to use the technology."

Science writing skills will play a large role for first-year biology majors as well, with peer-to-peer reviews and criticism. "Writing and peer review are a major part of scientific work," said Beattie. "But scientific writing is not something that kids come into college with."

As biology majors continue through the program, they will experience more embedded labs in genetics, ecology, plant physiology, cell biology and anatomy/physiology along the way.

A&S Associate Professor of Biology Pete Mirabito has transformed the department's lecture-only genetics course, BIO 304, typically put off by majors until their senior year, to a sophomore lecture and lab class, where students learn about inheritance and variation by working with fruit flies, yeast, E. coli and plants.

"A genetics lab is a big step. We used to teach this course with pictures," said Mirabito. "This is the first exposure our students will have to real research. We're no longer dealing with abstract ideas."

According to Mirabito, genetics is foundational to many biological concepts. "Everything in biology starts in genetics," he explained. "It's not just inheritance; genetics provides the basic tools that students need to study anything in biology."

The lab, which includes Smart Boards and Echo360 audio technology, as well as the latest in research tools, also encourages a different style of student learning—less memorization and more application.

"We're taking what a student would learn in a lecture and making it an experience," said Mirabito. "You aren't just memorizing the material. You're proving it to yourself."

This type of learning might be challenging for students, as they typically are more focused on the answer to a question than on the question itself, Mirabito explained.

"This is inquiry-based teaching," he said. "Students are thinking more about less. For an engaged student, there will be lots of opportunity to apply knowledge and consider new concepts."

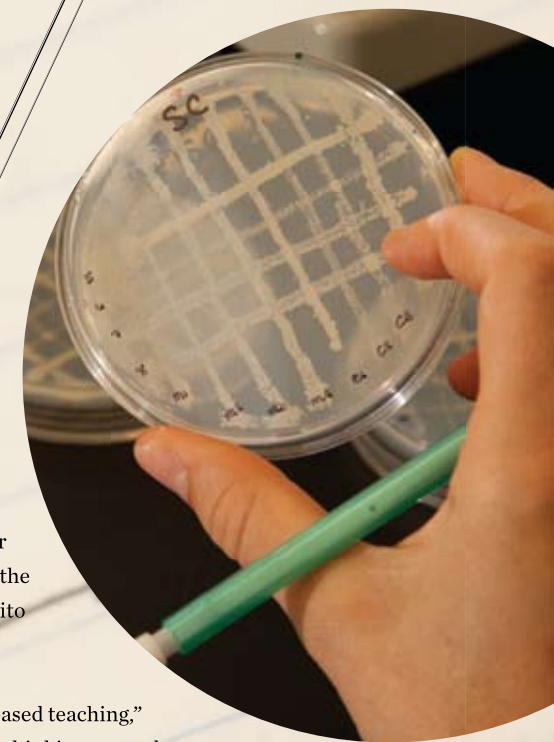
In addition to the curriculum changes, biology will also offer a Bachelor of Arts, in addition to its Bachelor of Science degree. The BS will have more calculus, chemistry and physics, while the BA will provide a strong foundation in biology. Students pursuing a BA will be required to minor in anything other than biology.

"I see someone in pharmaceutical sales getting the BA in biology, along with a minor in business or accounting," said Beattie. "It's also good for students going into education. There's a lot of flexibility."

The math, chemistry and physics classes that biology students take will also be more relevant to their studies. "Students don't realize that math principles apply to biology principles," said Cassone. "Integrated curriculum is very important for our students."

Cassone and his arsenal of talented biology education experts are relentless in their pursuit of a better curriculum. Every class will be assessed, and every lab looked over.

"My most basic hope is that our students will graduate with the ability to evaluate conflicting scientific principles and look with a critical eye as to whether someone is posing ideas for political gain," said Cassone. "And I really hope that some of our students have a grasp of how to make sense of all of this information and really take us to the next level." &





PASSPORT TO THE WORLD:

YEAR OF CHINA

awaken the past / discover the future

THE COLLEGE OFFERS EXCITING INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING each academic year connecting A&S, the university and the Commonwealth to the world. The focus of this year's highly intercollegiate initiative is Year of China: Awaken the Past, Discover the Future. Festivities began with a kick-off event that featured an open house highlighting programs and initiatives from several areas of UK's campus, including the Asia Center, UK Libraries, UK Catering, the Confucius Institute, College of Fine Arts, and Education Abroad. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Jeffery Wasserstrom, professor of history at the University of California-Irvine and author of "China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know," also visited campus during the kick-off to meet with faculty, students, and the community. ¶ The Year of China initiative features many exciting ways to learn more about this fascinating country and culture. A film and lecture series will be open to the public throughout the fall semester as well as a series of exhibits and events. A&S will host an online book club featuring a different title each month along with lively discussions. Please join us on campus and online at <http://china.as.uky.edu>.

YEAR OF CHINA

SEPT 16 - NOV 11

JOEL FELDMAN

The Culture Flux Exhibition featuring works of Joel Feldman depicting Beijing and Hong Kong icons. *Lexington Art League, Downtown Gallery, 200 East Main Street, Mezzanine (2nd floor)*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 5-8pm

Exhibition reception, Gallery Hop

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5pm

Artist's Lecture. *Niles Gallery, Lucille Little Fine Arts Library, University of Kentucky*

Sponsored by Lexington Art League, Confucius Institute, College of Arts & Sciences and Department of Art

SEPT 21

GUIDE TO CHINA

"All About China: An Electronic Guide to Information Resources on China" is available on the UK Libraries website, starting September 21. <http://china.as.uky.edu>

Sponsored by Toni Geider and the W.F. Young Library

CHILDRENS' THEATER

THE MONKEY KING

Family-friendly, classic Chinese tale of adventure and mayhem. Directed by Jennifer Goodlander.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6-7:30pm

Opening night event, featuring Chinese food, calligraphy, brush painting, music and more. Performance begins at 7:30pm.

Guignol Lobby, Singletary Center for the Arts

OCTOBER 6-8 & 13-15, 7:30pm

Guignol Lobby, Singletary Center for the Arts

OCTOBER 16, 2pm

Guignol Lobby, Singletary Center for the Arts

Sponsored by the Department of Theatre

OCT 14 - 15

CONTESTED GROUND

Symposium about visual culture in China after 1989.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 5pm

Keynote lecture by Eugene Wang, Harvard University. *President's Room, Singletary Center for the Arts*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9am-5:30pm

The Briggs Theater, Fine Arts Building

Sponsored by the Confucius Institute, College of Arts & Sciences, Asia Center, and Department of Art

SEPT. 28-OCT. 17

CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZHANG FUQUAN

Beautiful and intriguing scenes of ordinary Chinese rural life, including weddings, and street performances

President's Room, Singletary Center for the Arts, University of Kentucky

Sponsored by the Asia Center

2011/12 LECTURE SERIES

FALL 2011 SEMESTER

OCT 11

MATTHEW WELLS

Assistant Professor, Division of Russian and Eastern Studies Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures & Culture

OCT 13

EUGENE WANG

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art, East Asian Art History Program, Harvard University

OCT 27

CARMA HINTON

Director of film "Morning Sun" and Robinson Professor of Visual Culture and Chinese Art, George Mason University

NOV 3

JULIA CHANG BLOCH

Founder and President of US-China Education Trust, former US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal

NOV 29

VANESSA FONG

Associate Professor of Education, Harvard University

Fall lectures held 5-6:40pm Classroom Building, Room 118 University of Kentucky

SPRING 2012 SEMESTER

MAR 1

ANTHONY CLARK

Associate Professor of History, Whitworth University

MAR 22

SHU-MEI SHIH

Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures and Asian American Studies, UCLA

APRIL 12

LIANG LUO

Assistant Professor, Division of Russian and Eastern Studies, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures & Culture

APRIL 19

KEIKO TANAKA

Associate Professor of Sociology, Dr. and Mrs. C. Milton Coughenour Sociology Professor in Agriculture & Natural Resources, Director of the Asia Center

Spring lectures held 6-7:40pm Classroom Building, Room 118 University of Kentucky

FILM SERIES

*Fall films held 5-6:40pm
Spring films held 6-7:40pm
Classroom Building, Room 118*

OCT 18

YELLOW EARTH

OCT 25

MORNING SUN

NOV 1

2 MILLION MINUTES

NOV 8

LAST TRAIN HOME

NOV 15

BEIJING OR BUST

FEB 28

RELIGION

MARCH 6

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME

MAR 20

DREAMS OF TIBET

MAR 27

THE WARRIORS OF QUIGANG

APRIL 3

DEMOLITION

DISCUSSION WITH FILM DIRECTOR J.P. SNIADACKI

APRIL 10

AUTUMN GEM

APRIL 17

THE OTHER HALF

Air Jordan

CONNECTIVITY

Photos provided by Gwendolyn Schaefer

A&S STUDENT CONNECTS READERS TO THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH HER BLOG

By Erin Holaday Ziegler, Alicia Brab, and Gwendolyn Schaefer

This was not a summer by the pool for A&S junior **Gwendolyn Schaefer**, who participated in a seven-month study abroad experience in Amman, Jordan, with AMIDEAST, a leading American nonprofit organization engaged in international education, training and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Schaefer, an international studies and geography major, began the summer session in intensive Arabic language classes and will continue through the fall with Middle East and North African studies. She has created a blog about her experiences, and the following are highlighted online excerpts:

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011

"I cannot begin to describe how excited I am about this new adventure in my life. Granted, now that the departure date is right around the corner (one week away), the nerves are setting in. I view nerves, however, as a healthy dose of reality. Although I have no doubt that this will indeed be the experience of a lifetime, I also know that it will be the most challenging. My adventures will be great, but my primary purpose is to be a student, and this summer will especially be quite rigorous as I take Arabic lessons for five hours a day, five days a week.

In addition to the Arabic instruction that I'll be receiving in the classroom, I've chosen to live with a host family throughout my stay, meaning that they'll only be speaking Arabic to me. I chose to live with a host family rather than live in student apartments because

aside from the language benefit, I cannot truly understand the Arab culture unless I immerse myself into every aspect of their lives. Most importantly, though, I am thrilled about getting to volunteer in the community, for there is honestly no greater feeling than giving back to others and I hope to one day make a career out of improving the lives of others."

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

"After a very long week of grueling Arabic classes and infinite homework, this past weekend (Friday and Saturday in the Arab world) I finally got to put on my hiking boots and see the country.

The adventures started in Amman Thursday night when a group of us girls headed down to Rainbow Street, which houses a really nice cafe/art scene. I had visited the area several evenings before, but since we had heard

that a film festival would be occurring, we had to check it out! After eating some scrumptious cake at a cafe across the street, we headed over to the Royal Film Institute for the film festival.

One film in particular stood out in my mind because it focused on the notion of honor. The director interviewed many people of diverse backgrounds in a shopping area that I visit every day. Some of the responses from pedestrians were quite haunting, as a few of them believed violence was the only way to avenge dishonor, particularly female dishonor. I am not saying whatsoever that Jordanians as a whole believe in honor killings, the fact that people from different parts of the world believe that honor killing is justified means that much more awareness and work need to be devoted to this cause.

After arriving home very late from the film festival, my head barely hit the pillow

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→ The College of Arts & Sciences believes in innovation, creativity, connectivity and action, all of which represent our vision for the future of the college. These values have been brought together in an initiative we call, **Envision 2020**. Through Envision 2020 we have developed creative multidisciplinary research projects, active community engagement programs and new ways to expand our global outreach – all for the benefit of our students, faculty and alumni.

INNOVATION

A&S Wired Residential College

Debuting this fall, A&S Wired is a cutting-edge residential college located in Keeneland Hall that blends the latest technologies with a 21st century liberal arts education. Find out more on page 14, and online at <http://wired.as.uky.edu>

CREATIVITY

STEM Education

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum up-grades and new course additions with a community focus are also ongoing this fall. Readers can explore new STEM curriculum on pages 24–29.

CONNECTIVITY

As part of the College's yearly international programming, students, faculty, and alumni are invited to experience the Year of China. Check out pages 30–33 for a calendar of events highlighting this year's intercollegiate Passport to the World or visit the initiative at <http://china.as.uky.edu>.



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before I had to get up again, for I was about to embark on a bus ride to Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba. Petra is, without a doubt, the most famous landmark of Jordan, as it receives roughly 3,000 visitors a day during peak season. It is essentially an ancient city, once inhabited by the Nabateans in the middle of the Shara Mountains. It a breathtaking site to witness. Wadi Rum is most known for being the film location of "Lawrence of Arabia" and it was just

announced today that it will be included as a World Heritage Site. I honestly could not begin to describe how timeless and beautiful the landscape was.

In addition to merely experiencing the desert landscape, one also gets a dose of Bedouin culture when visiting, as our small group did a jeep tour through the area (most fun I've ever had) and sat around drinking tea with some Bedouins for a while, then finished

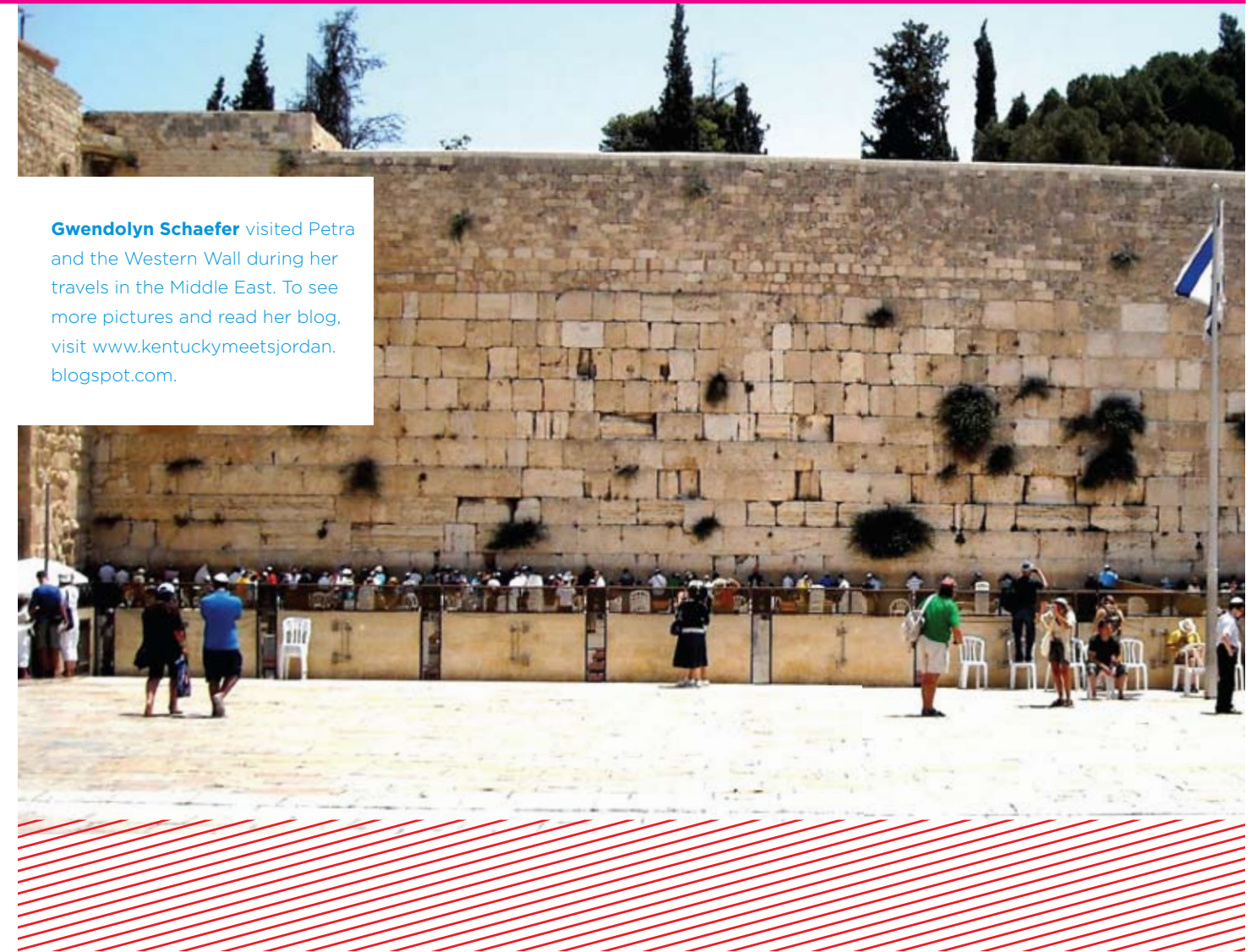
by watching the sunset from atop a cliff. You really can't find anyone nicer than Bedouins. Their fragile lifestyle is extremely simplistic but more giving than with any American you'd meet on the street. Camping out in Bedouin tents for the night was a new experience, to say the least, but it was such a great time. The camp organized a dance party and dinner that night, and as the definite minority present, I can honestly say the experience was an authentic Arab culture immersion. And yes, I got out on the dance floor!

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2011

"Although it seems surreal, I have already been in Jordan for two whole weeks now and life keeps on presenting new and exciting opportunities. I decided to dedicate today's post to everyday life in Amman and Jordanian society in general. I can only hope to give you a mere taste of what it is like to live in such a unique and intricate setting.

Driving into the heart of Amman, one can witness gigantic Roman ruins, Hellenistic art and Ottoman influence on just one street. Last night I went to a concert and was taken aback when I looked up at the neighboring hill and saw actual Roman pillars looming over me and soaking up the glory of a perfect sunset. Seeing the lasting impressions of ancient civilizations on a daily basis is something that I will never get used to. Growing up in the U.S., where there is no trace of the Byzantines, makes you fully appreciate the countries that do possess lasting figures of greatness of antiquity.

Contrary to popular belief, Jordan is not composed entirely of Muslims. Various sects of Christianity account for 6-8 percent of the total population. Although there are indeed practicing Christians and numerous churches, it is apparent that the title "Christian" is much more of a social category. After all, the ID card that all Jordanians are required to carry



Gwendolyn Schaefer visited Petra and the Western Wall during her travels in the Middle East. To see more pictures and read her blog, visit www.kentuckymeetsjordan.blogspot.com.

even states whether the person is Christian or Muslim. Let me specify that although Christians are indeed a minority here, daily relations between Christians and Muslims are perfectly normal. I'm sure that on a certain level discrimination does occur on both sides, but it's not like there is fighting in the street or Christians can't achieve high levels of power, because that's simply not the truth. Living with a Catholic host family is an extremely interesting experience, for although they are not outwardly against Muslims in any fashion, there are occasional undertones of injustice and definite differences of opinion.

Politics is another topic that simply can't be avoided in Jordan. Although I do not participate in political discussions with random

Jordanians, one can't avoid hearing the political news in and around Jordan. At home, I would purposefully have to pull up a website to read the daily headlines about the region, but now, I just have to keep my ears open. The simple fact of the matter is that Jordanians are just more informed than the average American and they care much more about global and regional issues. Americans can live in their little bubble of ignorance because there are two oceans on either side of the continent separating the nation from the conflict in the Middle East. In Jordan, however, the war in Iraq is directly to the east and Israel/Palestine is directly to the west and it receives enormous numbers of refugees from both sides. Jordanians have no choice but to be politically and globally aware.

As an American traveling in Jordan, I do not receive open hostility. Although Jordanians hardly agree with American foreign policy, they do not hate all Americans. In fact, that is anything but the truth because Jordanians are the most hospitable people around. There are also signs of American pop culture and American business everywhere you go. Yes, there are McDonald's here (Mac is very popular) but I can walk down the road and shop at The Gap after grabbing some Starbucks. Granted, I refuse to partake in any of these activities because I don't see the point in doing something I could do at home while abroad, but if you need to be comforted by something familiar, you don't have to go very far to do so.

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I was also shocked by the TV programs here. It is absolutely surreal to watch Nickelodeon or “The Smurfs” dubbed in Arabic. I was in a taxi the other day and the driver was listening to a channel that solely played American music and then when Lady Gaga came on the radio, he turned it way up and we all started jamming. Definitely didn’t expect that experience to happen. Some Jordanians also have the weirdest taste in American music, for there is some profound love for extremely sentimental and sappy music. As I mentioned in my last post, I sang along with a bus of Jordanians to Celine Dion. I don’t anticipate that ever happening back home.

The most challenging aspect of Jordanian society is, without a doubt, gender relations. Harassment towards women, American women in particular, is more annoying than it is dangerous. I can honestly say that since I’ve been here, I’ve never once felt endangered. However, all of the cars honking and hearing the phrase “Welcome to Jordan!” from passing men is starting to get really old.

While Schaefer’s blog has been mainly a point of contact for her family and friends back home, she hopes to help educate her readers about the real Middle East.

“It is my sincerest hope that this blog can open the eyes of Americans to the Middle East and will enrich hearts and minds along the way,” Schaefer said. “There have been setbacks trying to get to Jordan, but setbacks are just a set of life’s challenges that we all must go through in one shape or another. Some rise to the occasion, others fall wayside. I like to think that I passed the test.” &



Archaeologists documented a profile at Portland Wharf in Louisville. FAR RIGHT: Forensic reconstruction of an African American male

Photos courtesy of David Pollack

ACTION

DIGGING KENTUCKY’S HISTORY

KAS film wins awards and educates Kentucky citizens on rich heritage of the state

By Erin Holaday Ziegler

A Kentucky-produced educational film on the state’s archaeology did more than just debut on the West Coast.

“Historic Archaeology: Beneath Kentucky’s Fields and Streets,” produced by the Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS) the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) and Voyageur Media Group, Inc., garnered three awards at the 8th Annual Archaeology Channel International Film and Video Festival in Eugene, Ore. The KAS, which is jointly administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office and A&S’s Department of Anthropology, was excited about the third volume in the council’s popular “Kentucky Archaeology” series. The film was made possible with support from

the Federal Highway Administration and the Kentucky Transportation Council.

Chosen as one of only 18 films screened in front of judges and an audience during this year’s festival, the film won for Best Script and Best Public Education Value, and was one of three finalists in the Most Inspirational category.

The Archaeological Channel (TAC) Film Festival presented documentaries from production companies creating programs for such international networks as the Tokyo Broadcasting System and WGBH/NOVA (PBS), according to executive producers **David Pollack** and **Gwynn Henderson** of the KAS. Producers and distributors from 20 countries worldwide submitted 69 film entries to the festival, which

is one of approximately eight competitive festivals featuring archaeology-related films worldwide and the only one in the Western Hemisphere.

“A jury of five professionals recognized that our film was the best in those categories,” said Henderson, KAS Education Coordinator and A&S adjunct anthropology professor. “And it all goes back to collaboration between scholars and the folks who are producing, directing and editing.”

“The ‘Kentucky Archaeology’ series is successful because so many scholars—with diverse perspectives and skills—collaborate in the development process, from concept meetings through script development to the final program,” said Voyageur Media Group President Tom Law. “We are pleased to see that this prestigious international film festival also recognizes the vital role scholars play in the creation of quality educational media.”

“Historic Archaeology: Beneath Kentucky’s Fields and Streets” examines what

archaeologists have learned about the daily lives of Euro-American settlers, slaves, laborers, and immigrants during the late 1700s and 1800s. The one-hour documentary travels to historic sites across Kentucky, merging interviews with archaeologists, videos of archaeologists working in the field and laboratory, archival photographs and original animation.

Sites highlighted in the film include Boonesborough State Park; Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate; Farmington Historic Plantation; Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremens Landing; the Old Frankfort Cemetery; Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park; Battery Hooper; and Portland Wharf Historic Park.

The Public Education award is very significant to those involved in the film, as education is one of the primary goals of the series.

“Our main mission at KAS is public education and specifically, educating Kentucky citizens about their rich cultural heritage,” said Pollack, director of the KAS and A&S adjunct anthropology professor. “Research is important,

but archaeologists also have a responsibility to let the public know what we learn from these studies, and this award means that we’re achieving our goal.”

Henderson has seen a growing interest in archaeology, as well as Kentucky history and prehistory in her work throughout the state. “People are interested, because there’s a connection to the past,” she said. “The subject has its own bells and whistles.”

The film, which is available on DVD from the KHC, has been broadcast on KET and in local Kentucky schools. KET will distribute the DVD, along with lessons KAS developed to accompany the program, to arts and social studies teachers during a professional development academy at KET.

Visit www.ket.org/cgi-bin/tvschedules/index.pl to search for TV listing times and to watch the film online. &



A&S Wired Faculty Co-Director
Nathan DeWall

Psychology

interview by Guy Spriggs



&: Your psychology lab examines social exclusion and acceptance. What makes this an important topic for research?

Really, we study relationships. For the past nine years we've been looking at what happens when relationships go awry. This threatens the basic motivation people have to have positive and lasting relationships: we call it the "need to belong." We think that a lot of what hinders psychological functioning and relationship functioning is when people feel threatened in terms of feeling connected and accepted by others.

&: You recently published a study regarding the potential of acetaminophen to ease psychological pain. What led you to pursue this?

We've been doing all this research on exclusion leading to behavioral consequences – emotions, thoughts, and things like that – and we saw that exclusion seems to have a similar effect as physical pain. There's behavioral similarity and there's also linguistic similarity. When people talk about being excluded they often use the same words that you use to describe physical pain, and it's not limited to the English language. But the most extensive evidence comes from neuroscience; instead of creating a new system to respond to socially painful events, evolution co-opted the existing system for physical pain. If that's true, then if I numb people to physical pain through acetaminophen, it will numb them to social pain. Nobody had done it before. So we did it, and it worked.

&: You are the Co-Director of the A&S Wired Residential College. What does your involvement with Wired entail?

It's all about fostering connections. We're trying to do that with the students so they connect with each other, faculty and their community locally, nationally and globally. We've been working to develop activities and classes that will really fit that vision. We'll also have a research laboratory where students can get hands-on experience with research from their first day of being a UK undergraduate. The potential is very exciting for students, faculty, the university and the community because I think a lot of students come here and think they have no connections. We're going to bust that myth.

&: You see a lot of opportunities to create new experiences through Wired. Is that what motivated your decision to participate?

I'm deeply committed to education and to finding new ways to reach students and connect them with each other. I want to use the research I've been doing on the importance of human connection and apply it in a real way. The potential to work with other exciting, hardworking people in this new thing is going to really push me to the limits of things that I've never tried before as an educator. Blending research and all of these activities in this underlying vision of social connection is very appealing for me.

&: What expectations do you have for the A&S Wired Residential College?

The biggest thing I expect is that we are going to really touch students. We're going to take a first-year experience that is scary and can be lonely and filled with disconnection, and we're going to flip it around and show the students how connected they really are, that this can be a very enjoyable transition filled with lots of surprises and that they're going to want to come back for more. I hope we can use this as sort of a pilot program to really have a much bigger impact at the university level, all with the goal of increasing how connected people feel to the UK family and really understanding what that is, not just intellectually but also experientially. &