This year’s Passport to the World initiative focuses on China as we “Awaken the Past, Discover the Future.”

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   Nathan DeWall, Department of Psychology & A&S Wired Faculty Co-Director

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

Students are connecting to the community through a new class, Community 101 — part of the College’s Campus & Community initiative.

The Wired Experience
New high-tech residential college welcomed more than 170 freshman to newly renovated Keenland Hall

Campus & Community
New class connects students to Lexington

Focusing on a STEM Education
A&S biology program gets a facelift

Year of China
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Our Future in Focus
Envisioning Arts & Sciences in 2020

Q&A
Nathan DeWall, Department of Psychology & A&S Wired Faculty Co-Director

THE FUTURE OF LEARNING
INNOVATIONS IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

A&S launches the first UK residential college focused on providing students a 2020 education today.
Dean Mark Lawrence Kornbluh (MK): As you know, we’re really excited about implementing a new basic undergraduate curriculum called UK CORE 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 the tremulous generation that we have a deep responsibility to educate. We’re going to turn our future over to those who come through those 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 connections with a vast array of faculty, their expectations and hopes for a 21st century learning experience.

MK: A&S is launching UK’s first residential college this fall—A&S Wired. It’s really for all students and an attempt to mix 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 freshmen?

I think our responsibility is to recognize the learning content that our new students are going to bring to UK. This generation has integrated technology into their lives more so than anyone’s ever seen, and it’s not going to stop; so I think the creation of the Wired concept, a dorm-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, or mine. The other thing about the new CORE curriculum is 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.
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 those sites I had read about and experience them firsthand,” he said. continued on page 6
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 hung out with them,” Sellnow said. “There was always a crowd of 40 people and I would just kind of walk around and talk to people.”

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 Chinese government 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 he would tell some American he just met about this,” 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.”

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. I wanted to do Japanese or I wanted to do Chinese. I flipped a coin, 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 AES professor Lanqiao Lao, 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, “Our teacher and all our classmates were good with making jokes of decisions of the really big influences.

At Shanghai University, Hardin and her classmates in the study abroad program were completely immersed in the Chinese language. "We would go to classes 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 firsthand. "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 prefectures filled with cultural exhibits at the World Expo—called the Olympic Games of the economic, science and technology—and toured the scenic areas of Huangpu and Shanghainese to Shanghai’s south with other students on the trip. ‘

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

“There are a lot of people from the countryside 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 boat 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.”
**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 ______”

—Saul Miller, Assistant Professor, Psychology

**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

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK**

“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

**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

**SUSAN ODOM** attended UK as an undergrad, 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.

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK**

“My favorite element on the periodic table is ______”

—Susan Odorn, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

**CARLOS DE LA TORRE** is a sociologist specializing in issues of racism and citizenship in Latin America and in the relationship between popular and democratic. A graduate of the New School for Social Research, de la Torre has written extensively on Latin American politics. His most recent book, “Propiedad 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 ______”

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

**ANN KINGSOVER** 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.

**TOP FOUR ALMODOVAR FILMS:**

**WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?** (1984)

**DARK HABITS** (1986)

**LABYRINTH OF PASSION** (1982)

**VOYVER** (2006)

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

**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

**CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK**

...because of the trails and the Civilian Conservation Corps architecture from the 1930s.

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**BLUE LICKS STATE PARK**

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**HERE & NOW**

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK**

“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 Odorn, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

**FAST-FACT**

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 Odorn, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

**COMPILERS**

Compiled by Guy Spriggs and Colleen Glenn

**FALL 2011**
A&S’s Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences (E&S) has partnered with Dallas-based Pioneer Natural Resources Company to award a $600,000 gift through Pioneer Vice-President Tom Spalding, who is a UK alumnus. 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!
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.
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.

“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 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.

“It’s not just about gimmicks 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,”

— JESSI FLANERY, Raceland, KY.

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— CARLO CONTE, Lexington, KY.

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Carlo Conte, Lexington, KY.

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DIY BIOTECH: Biotechnology will no longer be relegated to scientific laboratories. Advancements and availability in affordable 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 storytelling, continues to produce new tools for making sense of data. From interactive maps and flowcharts, to smartly designed visualizations, infographics is transforming the way we gain insight into our data-rich world. http://flowingdata.com

DIGITAL CURRENCY: A decade ago, Napster proved so popular that it was initially for university students only. However, it was soon followed by other P2P technologies. BitCoin, a peer-to-peer currency instead of 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 smartphones. While these launches lack the media spectacle of a shuttle launch, this 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.kentuckyspace.com

KINETIC USER INTERFACES: The backlash against computer's contributions to sedentary life started with Nintendo's Wii, and was soon followed with brilliant products like Microsoft Kinect. 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.

LIFELIKE CRAIGSLIST: Flip through Craigslist like a newspaper, saving your favorite searches. http://craigslist.org

PAGEONE: Track your spending and bills. http://pageonce.com

FLIPBOARD: Catch up on news and social media networks in magazine-style format. http://flipboard.com

SHOWME: Learn and teach anything online. http://showme.com

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

Rice added. "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 interest to create spaces where students can live together and study together, to create environments where the social and academic come together," Rice added.
“Wired is a really great way to connect with other people on campus.”

“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 and math.”

“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.”

“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.
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.
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 landscapes 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 this 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 symbolic 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.”

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“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. continue on page 29
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, and recognizing the relevance of classes like organic chemistry is also a part of course renovations,” said assistant chemistry professor Susan Odom, who will be teaching Organic Chemistry I this fall, hoping to make students see organic as a course that means students need to take, they don’t really need to know,” Odom 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 the subject known for extraneous material. “I would 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 non-chemistry majors won’t be changing too much, Odom 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,” she explained. “We’re addressing equipment issues, as well as really looking the upper-division labs cool.”

Odom 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 biggest upgrades really makes a difference.”

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

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According to chemistry professor and general chemistry director Stephen Taito, students taking a course including recitation had a 99% rate (B, C, D, or Withdrawal) for Chemistry 105 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,” Taito said. “Students can do this, they just can’t get their heads lost with lots of other academic burdens.”

Taito 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 Taito will be testing the recitation program in a normal sized chemistry class of 250 students. This class will be divided up into nine groups of 30.

Fall 2011
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 Colgate Art, Exhibition featuring works of Joel Feldman, depicting Beijing and Hong Kong icons. Lexington Art League, Department of Visual and Performing Arts. sponsored by the Asia Center, College of Arts & Sciences, and Department of Art.

THE MONKEY KING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30pm Opening night event, featuring Chinese food, calligraphy, and more. Performance begins at 7:30pm. Sagamol Lobato, Singletary Center for the Arts. Sponsored by the Department of Theatre.

CONTESTED GROUND
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 6pm Keynote lecture by Eugene Wang, Harvard University. President's Room, Singletary Center for the Arts. Sponsored by the Confucius Institute, College of Arts & Sciences, and Department of Art.

2011/12 LECTURE SERIES

OCT 11
MATTHEW WELLS
Assistant Professor, Division of Russian and Eastern Studies, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures

OCT 13
EUGENE WANG
Abby Adcock Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art, East Asian Art History Program, Harvard University

OCT 27
CARMA HINTON
Director of film “Morning Sun” and President of Visual Culture and Chinese Art, George Mason University

NOV 3
JULIA CHANG BLOCH
Founding President of US-China Education Trust, former US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal

NOV 10
VANESSA FONG
Associate Professor of Education, Harvard University

Sponsored by the Asia Center. Spring lectures held 5-6:40pm Classroom Building, Room 118 University of Kentucky.

FILM SERIES

Fall films held 5-6:40pm 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

MARCH 20
DREAMS OF TIBET

MARCH 27
THE WARRIORS OF CUIGANG

APRIL 3
DEMOLITION

APRIL 10
AUTUMN GEM

APRIL 17
THE OTHER HALF
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 knew, 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 grooving 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. 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.

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by watching the sunset from atop a cliff. You really can’t find anyone more than Bedouins. Their tragic 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 society.

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 at the beauty of 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 the night at a dance party and dinner that night. 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!

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.

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 participate 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.

ENVISION 2020
DIGGING KENTUCKY’S HISTORY

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

By Erin Vivian Zagler

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) and Voyageur Media Group, Inc., earned 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 (KHC) and 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 producers David Pollack and Gaynor 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 KAS 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 the Old Frankfort Cemetery; Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park; Battery Hooper; and Battery Hooper 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 KAS adjunct anthropology professor. “Research is important, but archaeologists also have a responsibility to let the public know what we learn from those 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 steering 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.

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

While Scharfer’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 Middle East and will enrich hearts and minds back home,” she said. “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 was also shocked by the TV film was made possible with support from the Federal Highway Administration and the Kentucky Transportation Council.

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Nathan DeWall
Psychology

interview by Guy Spriggs

6: 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 motivations 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.

6: 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.

6: 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 as 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 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.

6: 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 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 to me.

6: 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.