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Dear A&S Alumni & Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I address you as the college’s new interim dean. Having served as associate dean of faculty for seven of the last 10 years, I am happy to return to the second floor of Patterson Office Tower and continue the forward momentum begun by former dean Steven Hoch.

With the start of a new academic year comes much promise of new beginnings and despite being faced with a smaller budget from the state, the college is poised to build on our past success and continue moving forward. We are already starting the process to hire 15 new faculty members and just welcomed more than 5,800 students.

Every fall we take time in Ampersand to thank and acknowledge those who help us achieve our goals—without contributions from alumni and friends, we wouldn’t be where we are today. Please take a moment to peruse the honor roll, contributions from alumni and friends; we wouldn’t be where we are today.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the College of Arts and Sciences. Your generous support makes a difference in the lives of our students, and for that I am grateful. I hope to see you in Lexington in October—Go Cats!

Sincerely,

Phil Harling
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
harling@uky.edu

Inspirational words lead to International Studies

By Joy Gonzalves

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES is as promising a program as sophomore Whitney Turientine is a young scholar.

“I’ve taken Spanish since second grade and was the one in our family who was always watching travel shows on TV,” Turientine said. “I’ve had questions about the world, politically, that no one’s been able to answer, which is why I’ve always wanted to be an International Studies major.

Not surprisingly, soon after hearing the International Studies program had been added to the College of Arts & Sciences, Turientine decided to change her political science major to a minor and keep Spanish as a second major.

The newness of the IS program didn’t deter her: “It’s growing and flexible,” she said, citing the wide scope of the major as a reason for its strong recruitment potential.

She also looks forward to an IS student organization in the near future, one whose members could form “more of a culture than a major.”

Thanks to supportive faculty like Emily Beaulieu, with whom Turientine was asked to conduct research, her vision is materializing. The two have been investigating boycotts and elections of major world countries from 1972 to the present. Turientine acknowledges that Beaulieu’s presence on the IS faculty committee has also assured her that her voice will be heard. She is grateful, too, for a helpful and informative IS listserv.

A Parker Scholar whose concentrations are in international development and Latin America, Turientine is eager to put the skills she’s been developing here at UK to the test. She participated in a service-learning study abroad opportunity in Peru last summer. In addition to taking classes, she joined the collaborative effort to build schools, install clean cookstoves and other projects that required an equal share of brains and brawn.

This resident adviser and politically-passionate student takes her decisiveness as a skill she learned from her father. “My dad taught us that in our house, you had a right to change your mind, but you had to make a decision.” Their morning ritual was no less important. Every day, she and her brother were required to recite their morning ritual was no less important. Every day, she and her brother were required to recite the “I am a leader, not a follower.”

“I can do anything I put my mind to.”

While Turientine admits there were days when she ratted them off to get herself out the door and on her way to school, she now sees they just might have brought her to college, too. And they’re still taking her places.

———

Whitney Turientine, an international studies senior, didn’t think twice about declaring the new major.
The Economics of Giving
By Brianna Bodine

Senior Mathematical Economics major Jeff Steller will never give you a laundry list of his activities, even though he is president of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, director of the Center for Community Outreach’s Placing Leaders Around Youth (PLAT) Program, tutoring coordinator at the East Seventh Street Center, and founder of Lexington’s local chapter of Respect, a program dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty through citizen empowerment.

“Jeff is incredibly humble,” Honors lecturer Lisa Brumme-Picce asserted. “He doesn’t hang on himself.”

But others will do plenty of bragging for him.

“He has a sort of ‘smart attack’ intellect,” Broom-Picce said. “He remains quiet and laid-back, and then all of a sudden he’ll make a comment that sums up everything that’s gone before and then advances the conversation to a new level.”

Honors lecturer Bruce Holle found Steller to be a rare breed of freshman that could write well and work hard without having to be “woken up” to the college learning expectations. “Jeff has some of the capabilities that one usually enjoys in a student – a questioning mind, one that’s based on thinking rather than just blurring off the first simplistic thought that bounces into his head,” Holle said. “He’s not a person that has to have himself speak to know he’s intelligent.”

When Steller came to the University of Kentucky he wanted the whole college experience, so he immediately became involved in the Student Volunteer Organization, now the Center for Community Outreach (CCO). More than 1,000 hours of community and volunteer service is testament to his dedication.

Steller has been volunteering for two years at the East Seventh Street Center, an after-school program for youth and their families, where he is the primary coordinator of all tutoring services and faculty members.

In the northeast Lexington neighborhood that East Seventh Street calls home, the center is kaleidoscope of color, resounding with the noise of running feet, raucous laughter and pop tunes from an impressive game of musical chairs. Amid the smell of cooking hotdogs in the Kid’s Cafe, children and young adults can indulge in some well-deserved supervised after-school play, or take advantage of the free tutoring services and the Kolpak computer lab with free high-speed internet.

Steller has worked mostly with inner city kids and continues to focus on helping young people with fewer opportunities make it to college. “I always think of the kids who have been given a pretty tough hand in life,” Steller said. “Those are the people who believe in them.”

This genuine concern stems from honest self-reflection about both his family and teaching younger kids. “Once you’re in college, you’ve made it pretty far,” he said.

Steller has worked closely with the University of Kentucky’s campus outreach and service, teaching courses in economic analysis, taking it down to some- thing more basic,” he said. “I’m looking at district level outcomes at the district level, an approach he said he no one else has taken. “I’m looking at district level of analysis, taking it down to something more basic,” he said. “If you can show that there’s a connection, maybe education and economic development interventions can be targeted more specifically.”

College is the end result: There are a host of life experiences to undertaking and barriers to overcome before students ever make it to UK’s campus. According to Steller, the real work must be done with supporting, inspiring, motivating and teaching younger kids. “Once you’re in college, you’ve made it pretty far,” he said.

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Tragedy Spurs Student’s Passion
By Sara Cunningham

AMANDA HATTON’S HONESTY and passion shines as she talks about the challenges she’s faced and how those challenges have shaped her goals.

“Five years ago, I had a big setback in my life,” the psychology major said.

About a year ago, Hatton transferred to UK as a student in the College of Arts & Sciences so she could major in psychology. “I had taken one class in psychology before my accident and I liked it,” she said.

That initial interest turned into a mission for Hatton. “I was really interested in psychology but I didn’t know what part or really what I could do with it,” she said. “But now I know that I want to be involved in clinical work. I want to be there for other people as they go through what I went through.”

After she finishes her undergraduate work, Hatton plans to continue into a graduate program that concentrates on neuropsychology. She said, “I want to maybe open my own practice that treats people who have closed-hius injuries.”

Hatton “I want to be able to give back to other people who are going through all of this.”

Hatton’s academic advisor, Theresa Mickelweat, recently nominated Hatton for the Carol A. Adelstein Outstanding Student Award. The award recognizes students with disabilities who serve as inspirations for the UK community because of their academic, extracurricular and leadership qualities.

Hatton can’t wait to use what she’s learning to help others after she graduates, she said.

“When I woke up from the coma, I realized right away that I’d better make the most of my life because I was so grateful to still have my life,” Hatton said. “I want people to understand that just because you have an injury like this, your life is not over. Mine sure wasn’t. I’m just so happy to still be here.”

STUDENT VIEW

Jeff Steller, a mathematical economics senior, works with kids at East Seventh Street Center in downtown Lexington.

Lee Thomas

Amanda Hatton, a psychology junior, found passion after tragedy.
Taking Aim at Life’s Goals

By Brianna Bodine

When Professional Archer
Melissa Ash came to the University of Kentucky in Lexington, her first order of business was to find a place to train. She had taken a year off from the sport when her grandfather went to hospice and her grandmoth moved in with the family. The freshman psychology major was surprised by the reactions to her request for a practice area—no one wanted her to shoot arrows anywhere. Even. She was a liability.

“It was frustrating,” Ash said. “I’m not some girl trying to shoot pop cans off my back porch. I’m doing this as a profession, as an Olympic-style recurve shooter. I take it very seriously, and no one was listening because they didn’t know my story.”

Her story begins in 2002, when as an eighth-grade student at Woodford County Middle School in Versailles, Ky., a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) rekindled her lifelong fascination with bows and arrows. “When I was a kid, I loved Robin Hood,” Ash recalled. “I would bug my dad all the time to make an archery club.”

Ash took a break from her intensive training and turned down a scholarship to shoot with Columbia University, New York, so that she could be near her family while her grandfather was still alive. Her first semester at UK, she hoped to start by taking it very seriously, and no one was listening because they didn’t know my story.

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“I would bug my dad all the time to make an archery club,” Ash said.

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“Most of us have taken another giant step in the process of becoming more than we were before. We have learned of other cultures, other disciplines, other ways of thought. In that experience of learning, we have learned more of ourselves.”

ZACH HARRIS, A&S 2008 Student of the Year addressing graduates at the 2008 A&S Recognition Ceremony
RECOMMENDED READING


Kentucky’s Future Looks ‘Super’

By Laura Sutton

Kentucky is not a prime area for archery as a professional sport, with mostly recreational or hunting clubs. “There are no coaches in Kentucky and no National Archery Association sanctioned clubs,” she said. “I was hoping we could start something at U.K. that could spread to surrounding college campuses, kind of spark some interest in different places.”

After speaking with the Center for Student Involvement and Campus Recreation, Ash started announcing her new club in her classes. Despite a positive response from students, she has all the paperwork, but none of the people. However, she held only a small percentage of students about the new club. After reaching more U.K. students, she expects the project to be successful. “Anyone can enjoy archery,” she said.

Ash said she has a selfish reason for starting the club, as well. She wants to be part of a team again – to have a place to practice, and to enjoy the competition and camaraderie. “I love shoot offs – the competition and excitement are some of the greatest highs I’ve ever had.” Passing that gift along to others motivates her to make this club work.

“Melissa just truly takes pleasure in giving and helping people,” says Nelly Evans, director of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, where Ash volunteers. “She lights up every time she talks about archery, or about teaching other people to enjoy it.”

Over the summer, Ash passed along her knowledge and expertise as an archery instructor to sixth graders at Centri-KID camp in Mississippi. “It’s kind of scarying me – all those little kids with lethal weapons,” she said with a laugh. “I just hope that I can give people the passion that I have for it. Archery is a life sport, and I’ll do it as long as I can.”

Continued from page 9

Superfund Grant     Advising Overhaul

The chemistry team, led by chemistry professor Sylvia Daunert, is part of a multidisciplinary group at the university that recently received its second consecutive five-year, $10 million National Institutes of Health Superfund Grant. The UK group, which is led by Dr. Bernhard Hennig of the College of Agriculture, supports the efforts of more than 50 scientists from agriculature, engineering, medicine and pharmacy, as well as the College of Arts & Sciences. The Superfund initiative came out of the discovery of toxic waste dumps such as Love Canal in the 1970s. In Kentucky, there are currently 14 hazardous sites on the national priority list compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the largest of which is the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Site. UK’s Superfund effort, which funds five projects relating to environmental pollutants, nutrition and diseases, was one of only two proposals selected for funding this year (the other was from Dartmouth), and places UK in an elite group of 13 universities with ongoing Superfund programs.

Daunert’s group, which includes seven researchers, is working on the detection of
news & endeavors

right: Sylvia Daunert is leading the chemistry team that received a Superfund Grant.

continued from page 11

Professor Yinan Wei, who came to UK two years ago from Brookhaven National Lab and is now one of four women faculty in the department, is working on the remediation end of the Superfund grant, which means that the is developing ways to remove the hazardous chemicals from the environment once they are detected. Wei is working to chemically remove chloride from the compound, a critical step in the process.

To accomplish this, Wei and Philip Bachas-Daunert, a student from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Ky., have essentially discovered a new protein from a gene found in algae that exists in a Japanese hot spring. They found that the protein can dehalogenase, or break down the halide-carbon bond in organic pollutants. The next step is to immobilize and support the protein so that it can be used in the field. One possibility is to incorporate the protein into filter paper.

When asked why UK’s Superfund group was chosen for funding over such institutions as Harvard University, Daunert cites UK’s record of success with previous grants, the novelty of the ideas and “the possibility of success.”

Beyond the obvious boon to science and the environment that the Superfund research is making possible, UK is also benefiting by providing valuable support and training for its students. Kendrick Turner, a fourth-year graduate student who works in Daunert’s lab, anticipates using his experience to launch a career in industry or a government lab. “A lot of what I do for my research involves biochemistry and environmental chemistry, so you get to see those two fields together,” says Turner, a Fancy Farm, Ky., native. “In the long run, you get exposure in analytical chemistry and in the really long run, when you get to the field with a portable [sensing] system, you would get expertise in engineering aspects.”

left: Nayasha Farrior, A&S academic advisor for English and linguistics, says the new advising structure has faculty and advisors working closely.

advising Center Overhaul

BEGINNING IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2007, THE COLLEGE of Arts & Sciences introduced sweeping changes to its advising system.

“One receiving advising evaluations that suggested a need for change in the overall system, the College of Arts & Sciences decided to place professional advisors in each department,” said Cindy Iten, director of advising in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The new system implemented by the college moved 14 professional advisors into academic departments in Arts & Sciences, philosophy, topical studies and economics majors.

“Professional advisors work with students to explore and set academic and career goals, assess academic performance, identify campus resources and support activities, identify social activities, explore student interests, assist in the understanding and navigation of the university system, and encourage students to pursue research and internships.”

“Faculty and advisors also work together as part of an early warning system to increase student retention and keep students from falling through the cracks,” said Nayasha Farrior, academic advisor for English and linguistics.

“I have also learned the areas of specialty for faculty members in my department and am able to refer students with interests in that area to the appropriate professor.”

Another important aspect of the new professional advising system is career development.

“The advisors are now putting together career workshops targeted for majors in each department, which is something new,” Iten said. The college recently welcomed its first assigned career counselor, Jamie Johnson, who is working closely with each professional advisor in developing career materials, workshops and presentations.

“I was able to host one career workshop this semester and we had a great response with close to 30 students attending,” Farrior said. “As a result of attending this workshop, one student heard about a career fair on campus and went to it. After he left the career fair, he received an internship at a company that will likely hire him after his graduation. Not only do I plan to have additional workshops during the semester, I would also like to start some type of club/organization for undergraduate students which would meet regularly and have faculty members come in and speak.”

With this type of response, both Hume and Farrior say the new advising structure has faculty and advisors working closely.

advising is more than schedule building,” said Kathi Hume, assistant professor in English and linguistics. “It is not uncommon to have advisors in the departments, another important aspect of our students,” Hume said. “The arts & Sciences student population is an exciting and challenging group of young people.”

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From developing sensors to detect environmental pollutants to studying environmental changes due to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, research in the College of Arts & Sciences is impacting the world. In the next few pages you will read about only a few of the many ways A&S faculty and students are working to make a difference as they “think green.”
Most people don’t worry about their drinking water causing cancer, brittle bones or neurological diseases. Even fewer know that efforts are underway on the third floor of the Chemistry-Physics building to remove these and other contaminants from water.

Since 2000, chemistry professor David Atwood and his student researchers have been working to remove elemental contaminants from water — and they have been successful. “Most people don’t realize their direct effect on the quality of our water and our air,” said Lisa Blue, a chemistry graduate student working in Atwood’s lab. “We have certain things we can’t live without, such as water and air, and I want to be part of the solution in taking care of those necessities.”

Atwood and his team have designed compounds that trap and remove contaminants from water. Water is filtered through the compound, which grabs onto the contaminant permanently. The filtered water then comes out clean.

The research taking place on UK’s campus has repercussions around the world. Arsenic contamination of drinking water is a large problem in India and Bangladesh and even poses problems in the U.S in several western states and on the East Coast. “I have measured arsenic levels in India’s drinking water as high as 220 parts of arsenic per billion,” Blue said. “The World Health Organization recommends under 10 parts per billion as safe. After filtering the water through our treatment, there was less than five parts per billion, which was the detection limit on that set of runs.”

The next step for Atwood and his team is to develop water treatment devices for personal use in homes. “We are working to get the water treatment in homes at an affordable cost,” Atwood said.

Cleaning up drinking water isn’t Atwood’s only environmental pursuit. Since 2005, he has been working to create a real-time sensor for detecting environmental contaminants. “The real-time sensor is based on a quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) and can be coated with different compounds to detect different contaminants.”

UK researcher is working to make the Earth’s water supply safer to drink.

By Jennifer T. Allen
We are collaborating with a Lexington company, Quansor, Inc., who holds the QCM patents. My lab is responsible for creating the contaminant-specific coating to be used in the QCM.

“In one application we demonstrate the ability of the sensor to detect inorganic mercury in soil samples,” Atwood said. “This is important for ocean-going vessels where the amount of oil they release to the ocean is strictly regulated.”

The sensor is based on changes of mass and could be expanded to monitor groundwater, nerve agents and pesticides. Atwood and Quansor are also working to interface the monitors with wireless electronic data transmission, which would allow results from the sensors to be transmitted through cell phones or satellite technology. This aspect of the work is being conducted by another Lexington company, Knight Electronic Design, LLC.

“Right now we don’t have a way to monitor water continuously,” Atwood said. “With this technology, we can submerge sensors in water at different depths and basically have a map of the sensors telling you every two minutes the identity and quantity of the contaminants that are present and where.”

The technology can go beyond monitoring water. “I could see nerve agent monitors at the Bluegrass Army Depot located outside of Richmond, Ky., in New York City, or even on vehicles in Iraq or Afghanistan. One class of compounds we’ve created can decontaminate nerve agents, turning them into non-hazardous solids that would be easy to handle and dispose of,” Atwood said. “One use of the continuous monitoring system would be to place sensors around large metropolitan areas on a grid. Not only would you be able to know when a contaminant has been released into the air, but you would be able to know which way it was moving and could plan evacuation procedures accordingly.”

As Atwood looks to the future, he wants to find more compounds that can neutralize toxins in the environment. “If there is a contaminant in water, I am confident my group can create something to take it out,” he said.

He would also like to venture into biological contaminants, such as E. coli, viruses and anthrax, and find ways to capture them before they infect people. With the growth of the nuclear industry, Atwood also sees growth in radionuclides and detecting and capturing radioactive elements in the water and air.

“I chose to focus my research on environmental chemistry because I can apply fundamental inorganic chemistry to problems that have direct human impact,” Atwood said. “I really enjoy using our basic research applied to environmental problems that are important to the average person.”

ABOUT DAVID ATWOOD

David Atwood came to the University of Kentucky Chemistry Department in 1999 after spending five years in the Main Group Center at North Dakota State University. He has been conducting environmental research since 1996 and has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles. He is the editor of Main Group Chemistry (a journal he created), and an editorial board member of the Encyclopedia of Inorganic Chemistry and Wiley’s textbook series in Inorganic Chemistry. There are currently seven graduate students and several undergraduates working in Atwood’s lab. Atwood and his students have seven patents issued or pending, with many more in the works.

Top water is more closely monitored and regulated than bottled water; however, a federal appeals court on Feb. 8, 2008, invalidated the CAIR because it did not require sufficient mandatory reductions in mercury. You can expect more stringent rules providing greater protection from the element in the near future.

A federal appeals court on Feb. 8, 2008, invalidated the CAIR because it did not require sufficient mandatory reductions in mercury.

Clean water is expected to become more precious than oil in the coming decades. UK is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in arsenic research with faculty studying this element in the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts & Sciences and Engineering, and in the School of Public Health.

DID YOU KNOW?

UK is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in arsenic research with faculty studying this element in the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts & Sciences and Engineering, and in the School of Public Health.

Leonidas Bachas is designing sensors for the detection of environmental pollutants as well as manufactured catalysts that can be used to degrade organic pollutants.

Dwight Billings and Will Samson recently completed research on Evangelical responses to mountaintop removal mining in Central Appalachia.

Renae Romani analyzes botanical remains from archaeological sites to determine past environmental changes and human subsistence strategies in relation to such factors.
Going with the Flow
Texas native finds niche studying Kentucky ground water

By Allison L. Elliott

James Ward grew up in a part of Texas where water is more likely to come from the ground than the sky. In Balmorhea, a small town located at the junction of the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains in west Texas, Ward and his sister were raised as sixth-generation farmers and ranchers in the Tran Pecos region. Water is always scarce in that part of Texas, with an average rainfall of only nine inches per year. The Wards relied on springs to water their cattle and irrigate their crops of alfalfa hay. During James’ childhood an 18-year drought hit the region and his family hard, so when he graduated from high school (in a class of 18), he followed his interests in water toward the Wards relied on springs to water their castle and irrigate their crops of alfalfa hay. During James’ childhood an 18-year drought hit the region and his family hard, so when he graduated from high school (in a class of 18), he followed his interests in water toward bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geology from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, and ultimately a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Kentucky. Today Ward is going with the flowing and looking for entrepreneurial ways to assure groundwater quality for the people in his adopted Bluegrass home.

Alan Fryar, associate professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, worked with Ward on his doctoral research and dissertation. Fryar studies hydrogeology, the area of geology that deals with the movement of water beneath the earth’s surface. Together he and Ward looked specifically at water quality in karst terrain. Karst refers to an area in which the soil is underlain by a matrix of soluble bedrock through which underground streams can flow. Large areas of Kentucky are composed of limestone karst, as is 40 percent of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

As rain seeps into the earth it can dissolve the limestone, creating conduits and changing the flow of groundwater. As the stone dissolves, sinkholes form and contaminants can enter the water supply directly without first being filtered through layers of soil. Ward and Fryar found a site in nearby Versailles where just that appeared to be happening, and set out to find a way to track contaminants in groundwater.

Ward found a high level of coliform bacteria in a spring near downtown Versailles. The spring also happened to be very near the local sewage treatment plant, so he suspected a leak in the sewer pipes. But other sources had to be considered. There were nearby farm animals, wild animals and geese in a local park. Any of these could be sources of bacteria entering the open spring. Tracking bacteria in groundwater is not a simple matter. For starters, the water dives under layers of soil and rock, only to resurface hundreds of yards or even miles away. Underground streams can merge, and it’s extremely challenging to track the travel of bacteria invisible to the naked eye. Faced with this problem, Ward came up with an innovative solution.

Ward first ran a few tests with salt and dyes (after receiving government approval and warning the locals not to be alarmed if their water turned fuchsia). The best time to track groundwater flow in karst is during and after a storm surge. So when thunderstorms rolled in, Ward threw on his waders and stepped into the streams to collect samples. After dyed he moved on to experimenting with latex microspheres, which are roughly the same size as coliform bacteria. Theoretically the spheres should move in the same way as the bacteria he wanted to track. But there was no way to be certain that they were. The only thing that moves like a bacterium is an identical bacterium. Nobody was really keen on the idea of injecting additional coliform – better known as E. coli – into the spring. They needed a way to track the bacteria already in the water.

Ward developed a method of removing bacteria from the spring and isotopically tagging them. The process, which involves growing the bacteria in the laboratory on a special medium, is unique and currently under intellectual property consideration. The tagged bacteria are injected into the groundwater at key points, along with salt, dye and latex microspheres to aid in tracking. When Ward pulls water samples (automatically and by hand) he can tell by looking for his tagged bacteria where the underground water sources flow, diverge and run into contaminants.

The water research was an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional effort. Professor Gail Bryan in the UK colleges of Engineering and Public Health developed the AC/TC ratio technique. A board member of the UK Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment and also a member of the Hoosier Valley Conservation Task Force, which works to protect the ecology of the Bluegrass Cave system in Kentucky.

Lisa Conley examines how the religious beliefs and theological positions held by a variety of religious leaders relate to their attitudes regarding environmental movements and the natural world.

Phil Crowley is an evolutionary ecologist using game theory to understand organismal traits and their implications in populations and communities.

Alan Fryar focuses on hydrogeology as it relates to the fate and transport of contaminants in surface and ground water.
Scott Gleeson is a plant ecologist working in ecosystem restoration (Bluegrass savanna, vernal wetland, tropical pasture).

Karen Greenough studies among mobile pastoralists and agropastoralists in the Republic of Niger, West Africa.

N. Thomas Hakansson is currently studying how intensive cultivation is likely to have emerged and persisted as a result of regional and world-systems processes rather than from population pressure.

Cynthia Lambourn’s research seeks to broaden our understanding of human responses to environmental risk through an ethnographic study of “sustainable” consumers in Sweden.

John Johnson seeks to get a better understanding of what kinds of organizational culture changes can be made to increase sustainability efforts on college campuses.

P.P. Kesan studies the environmental impacts of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the environmental transformation of the Tibetan Plateau, and the environment, land use and economy of the Himalayas.

James Krupa is a field biologist, ecologist and naturalist.

Bert Lynn is developing mass spectrometry methods for the detection of organic compounds in environmental samples.

OPPOSITE PAGE: (TOP) Ward down streaming water quality measurements from a data logger at spring SP-2 (UK Animal Research Center, Woodford County).

(BOTTOM, LEFT) Ward gauging the flow rate at Blue Hole Spring during a dye-tracing experiment.

(BOTTOM, RIGHT) Ward filtering water samples in the lab to collect bacteria.
Tlayton taught to respect the environment by his parents, geography senior Taylor Shelton wanted to find an organization that would challenge him to step out of his comfort zone. “If I had to pick a label for myself when I was a freshman in college, ‘progressive environmentalist’ would not have been the first one I would’ve thrown out,” Shelton said. Concerned over issues regarding renewable energy and sustainability on UK’s campus, Shelton joined Greenthumb, Kentucky’s largest student environmental organization, when he was a sophomore. “Greenthumb was a group on campus that was being really proactive on issues such as renewable energy,” Shelton said. “I attended other meetups for other clubs but I found that this group was doing things I thought a campus organization should be doing.”

The basic goals set forth in Greenthumb’s online mission statement are straightforward: celebrate our environment; educate those around us about environmental issues and methods to make our environment a better place to live; promote environmental awareness and sustainability on our campus and in our community; and make lifestyle choices that reflect our commitment to environmentally responsible actions.

This broad mission statement makes it easy for students from all walks of life to join. “We want the organization to be as inclusive as possible and to have the voice it deserves regarding university issues,” Shelton said. The inclusive atmosphere appears to be paying off. According to Shelton, there are 15 to 20 people who regularly attend meetings, but they have had as many as 60 people present.

Shelton was impressed by the variety of activities and tough issues tackled by Greenthumb. “I decided to take on a leadership position and was chosen as co-coordinator by friends and colleagues,” he said. “Sometimes people lack the spirit to go against the grain but I think we all need to think about the issues and take an active role.”

As a co-coordinator of Greenthumb, Shelton is extensively involved with planning a long list of activities and events the organization sponsors. During the fall semester, Greenthumb holds movie screenings and lectures on various environmental issues. Shelton proudly noted that Greenthumb also partners with larger environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

For Shelton and Greenthumb, April is one of the busiest months on campus. Greenthumb, along with residence life recycling and the Environmental Studies Program, organized the annual Earth Days in the Bluegrass to promote sustainability, responsible global citizenship, and the power of local action.

Earth Days is jam-packed with events such as gardening workshops, films, art and community service projects, and a bike trek through campus and Lexington. "Sometimes people lack the spirit to go against the grain but I think we all need to think about the issues and take an active role.

Sarah Lyon’s research is on shade-grown and organic coffee and the ways in which certification systems can promote environmentally sustainable production practices among Latin American smallholders.

Nicholas McLetchie is an ecologist working on sex-specific traits in plants and the impact of these traits on spatial segregation of the sexes in nature, and consequently sexual reproduction.

Anne-Frances Miller studies the mechanisms of enzymes that degrade nitrated compounds, research that has implications in the decontamination of environmental samples containing residues of explosive compounds.

Brent Palmer is a comparative reproductive biologist working to understand how environmental factors influence reproduction in wildlife.

Jonathan Phillips is researching the coevolution of landforms, soils and ecosystems in conjunction with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service’s ecosystem restoration programs in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma; researching water flows and withdrawals in the Sabine, TX.

Lynn Phillips recently taught a class that addressed city and regional planning and building sustainable cities.
can reduce their carbon footprint and become more involved in their communities.

For students, faculty and staff looking for ways to become more environmentally conscious throughout the year, Shelton offered several ideas. “First of all, recycle – it’s one of the easiest things to do,” Shelton said. “If you live in a dorm room you are given a recycle bin, so that is all ready there for you. If you live off campus and would like a recycle bin, you can call the city and they will deliver one to your home. Once you get into the habit, it becomes second nature and is vitally important in the reduction of waste.”

Shelton also pointed to the Wildcat Wheels Bicycle Library which loans bicycles to students, faculty and staff at UK. After a summer internship working on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Shelton, along with other Greenthumb members, volunteered some of their time with this eco-friendly group.

“Riding a bicycle to class, especially if you live off campus, is a big difference,” Shelton said. “Not only is it more environmentally friendly, but it is more practical because anyone who drives a car knows it is impossible to find a spot on campus, not to mention the high gas prices.”

“I know it is harder for students on a budget, but eating locally grown foods from the co-op also makes an impact,” Shelton said. “This not only helps green the university by purchasing healthier food grown less than 50 miles away, but you are also creating a livelihood for someone in the local economy. I would take pride in being able to grow food and make sure someone else had a happy and healthy life.”

As a UK senior, Shelton hopes that Greenthumb continues to grow, educate and raise awareness on tough environmental issues.

“Greenthumb is and should continue to be an activist organization and will hopefully be the guiding light on UK’s campus for doing things that are in accordance with sustainability theory. We should all be really willing to devote time and energy and put ourselves into making those things happen.” &
Jerrad Howard woke up at 2 a.m. on a cold September morning in 2007 with someone frantically banging on the front door to his apartment. After running outside, he turned to watch everything he owned go up in flames—literally. The next week, Howard, a political science and accounting senior with a Japanese minor, discovered he was the recipient of the Tippett Scholarship in the College of Arts & Sciences.

“Timing of Scholarship Uplifts Student in Need

By Jennifer T. Allen

Jerrad Howard woke up at 2 a.m. on a cold September morning in 2007 with someone frantically banging on the front door to his apartment. After running outside, he turned to watch everything he owned go up in flames—literally. The next week, Howard, a political science and accounting senior with a Japanese minor, discovered he was the recipient of the Tippett Scholarship in the College of Arts & Sciences.

“The scholarship really alleviated some of the financial burdens I was facing,” Howard said. “Not everyone realizes that when students come to the university there are more financial burdens than just tuition; that draws attention away from your studies.”

Howard came to Lexington from Calhoun, Ky., a small farming community with one stoplight, three gas stations, one bank and seven churches.

“When I was in middle school, I just knew I wanted to be an attorney,” Howard said. “I’ll be the first person in my family to go past a bachelor’s degree.”

With aspirations of becoming an attorney that specializes in intellectual property and corporate law, Howard strategically chose his double major and minor.

“Political science gives me a good foundation for law school and the Japanese minor makes me marketable since it is a non-Latin-based language. The accounting degree gives me a business background and rounds everything out,” he said. “I’ve organized my degree to maximize my marketing potential.”
They designed the Quantum Tutors based on several ideals: to provide students with meaningful and significant practice, to show them how to work through problems, to give feedback on the problem-solving process and to respect students' interests.

"Self-efficacy is important to motivate students," Holder said. "Students have to feel some sense of accomplishment or success in what they are doing to keep them interested in a subject." They Tutor apps mimic the fluid problem process of students confronted with an actual person, and it also stops step-by-step instruction, rather than a simple right or wrong qualification. Instead of using a set of rigid predetermined questions and answers, the program allows students to bring their work to the computer and get helpful, interactive feedback.

"Personal connection and one-on-one teaching is the best way to learn," Johnson said. "Understanding is nothing without practical applications. Understanding comes from practice, from struggle, from application, that makes the concepts real." To mirror this philosophy in the Quantum Tutor design, Johnson relied on Holder, his high school chemistry professor and mentor.

"My job was to supply the academic aspect," Holder said. "We structured the computer interface to maintain a conversational and learning conducive environment. I think that comes through in the software, which is unusual." They Tutor apps...
Major Gifts & Endowments

Major gifts begin at $10,000. They can be present gifts, pledged gifts or endowed gifts. Endowment gifts create a lasting legacy by creating or contributing to a restricted fund. An endowment at UK provides perpetual funding for a specific program or department in the college because the initial gift becomes part of the university’s investment portfolio. Only the interest earned is used to support the fund’s purpose, which means that the fund will exist in perpetuity.

Endowed funds can be used to support a wide range of purposes, including undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty positions such as professorships and chairs, research, special programs and the maintenance of facilities. Endowments and major gifts may be named for the donor and/or individuals the donor wishes to honor or memorialize. Many thanks to our friends listed.

Dean’s Circle

The Dean’s Circle, founded in 2005, leads the College of Arts and Sciences annual giving effort. It is comprised of alumni and friends who support the college and its departments through yearly leadership gifts. These continual thoughtful gifts provide the college with scholarships for talented students, fund field trip opportunities and support lectures by visiting scholars—all which bring to life textbook and classroom lessons. Members also receive a variety of benefits—such as VIP receptions and yearly visits with college leadership. The Dean’s Circle offers four giving categories.
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alumni news&notes

fall 2008
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a. tippett Scholarship in arts & letters, established the thomas M. and Jeri A. Tippett Scholarship at UK in 1996, which provides financial support for the Arts & Letters program at UK. The scholarship honors the memory of Tom Tippett, a successful 39-year business career executive who passed away in 2004. Tippett was a role model for success in the business world and was a political science degree, tom Frey out of UK in 1961 With a female and five children, he began his career with Allstate — which took him to Cleveland and then back to his native Louisville to serve as a regional manager. He later became a national field manager and eventually a president of the company. He retired from Allstate in 2004.

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