

# RESEARCH BRIEFS

## WKU Faculty Scholarship Grant Funds Feature-length Horror Film Production



**Ron DeMarse**  
*School of Journalism  
and Broadcasting*

Using funds from a recently awarded Faculty Scholarship (WKU's internal grants program), Ron DeMarse will be producing a feature-length horror film this summer. DeMarse is writing the script

and will engage WKU students in all areas of preparation, production, and post-production.

The project will provide students an experience similar to a professional,

independent film-making venture. Students are already involved in script revisions, casting, and location scouting. Later, they will design sets, costumes and special effects, capture all of the images and audio, perform as actors, and finally edit the movie. Upon completion, the film will be submitted to a variety of national film festivals and competitions.

DeMarse is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Broadcasting. He regularly teaches courses in film and video production and post-production, as well as news videography.



## National Science Foundation Grant Funds Math & Science Partnership



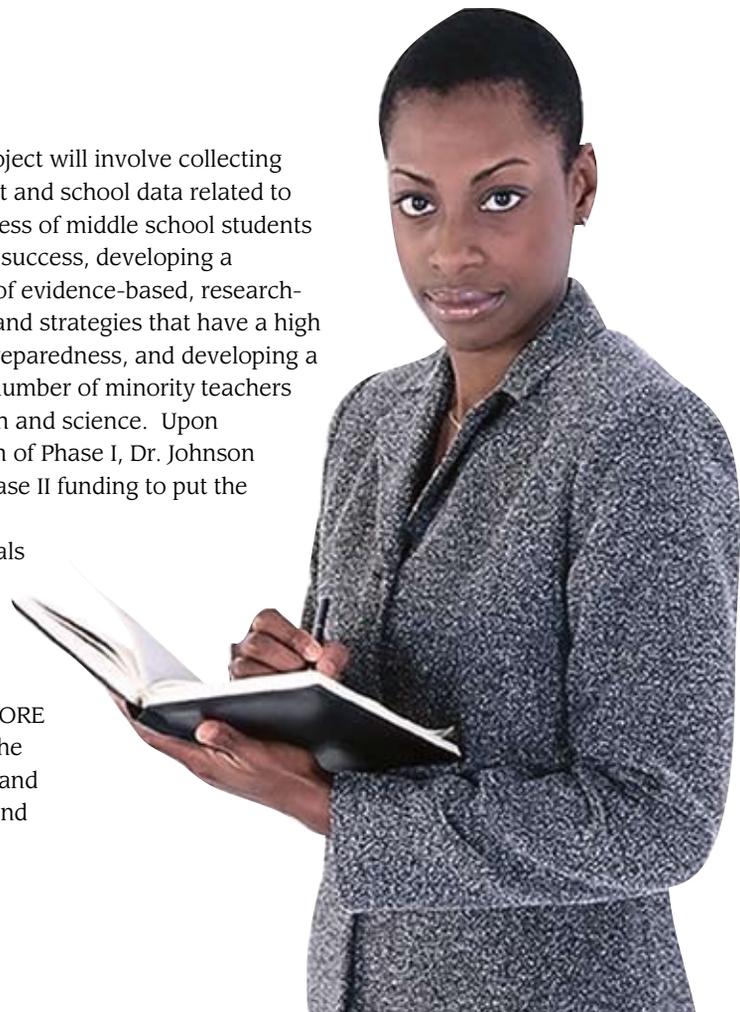
**Dr. Heather Johnson**  
*Department of Biology*

The National Science Foundation has awarded Heather Johnson of WKU's Biology Department a Phase I grant through its Math Science Partnership (MSP) program.

Dr. Johnson will lead a consortium of thirty-two local school districts in Kentucky, two regional community colleges, the WKU main campus, and the three WKU regional campuses to develop improved methods for teaching and learning in middle school classrooms to ensure future access for all students to rigorous high school math and science courses.

The MSP-Start project will involve collecting and analyzing student and school data related to the lack of preparedness of middle school students for math and science success, developing a comprehensive plan of evidence-based, research-supported programs and strategies that have a high potential to ensure preparedness, and developing a plan to increase the number of minority teachers of middle school math and science. Upon successful completion of Phase I, Dr. Johnson will be eligible for Phase II funding to put the plan into action.

The long-term goals of the project will be measured by Kentucky's Education Planning System that administers the EXPLORE test in eighth grade, the PLAN in tenth grade, and the ACT in eleventh and twelfth grade.



## FIPSE Grant Funds Student Exchange Program



**Dr. Dan Myers**  
*Department of Economics*

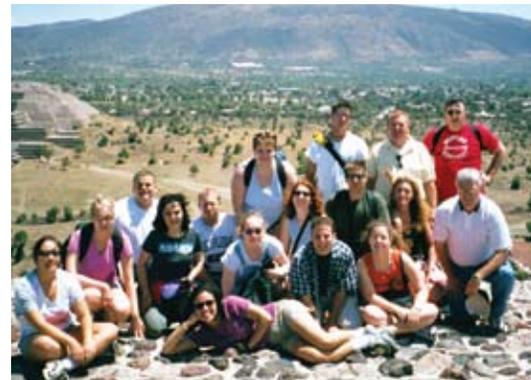
A grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education is allowing WKU faculty and students from the Gordon Ford College of

Business to develop relationships with students and faculty in partner schools in Mexico and Canada. This four-year grant project will train students to serve as resources to entrepreneurs in a cross cultural setting.

The Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education is

designed to foster student exchange and curricular development. Partner schools are in the process of identifying joint research projects and developing a summer institute. Beginning in the fall of 2009, participating students will receive a \$2,500 stipend to study at one of the participating partner schools.

WKU is one of only nine applicants for this grant to be funded in the 2008 competition. Dr. Daniel Myers, a professor of economics in the Gordon Ford College of Business, is the project director. Working with him are Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation faculty members Dr. Matthew Marvel, Dr. Dawn Bolton, and Dr. Wil Clouse.



*Students from the Gordon Ford College of Business visit Mexico.*

## P.E.O. Scholar Award Funds Study of Asian American and Native American Fiction



**Jeanne Sokolowski**  
*Office of Scholar Development*

Jeanne Sokolowski currently serves as the Fulbright Application Coordinator with the Office of Scholar Development. She comes to the position having been a junior Fulbright scholar herself in South Korea, and with significant experience from having lived and worked abroad in England, Japan, and China.

Currently a Ph.D. candidate in English at Indiana University Bloomington, Sokolowski's research asks important questions about place and identity. A Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Scholar Award for the 2008-2009 academic year has allowed Sokolowski to work full time on her dissertation, which links contemporary Asian American and Native American fiction. This comparative ethnic study brings the

two minority literatures into dialogue with one another rather than comparing them to "canonical" texts by EuroAmerican authors.

Both Asian American and Native American literature challenge ways scholars tend to think about "the nation" as a large group of people linked to a particular territory. These groups, after all, occupy opposite positions in relation to the nation: Asian Americans are often situated as immigrants and members of the transnational class, while the Native community comprise its displaced indigenous population. While Asian American texts explore the implications of globalization on identity, Native American Studies attempts to redefine itself through calls for "intellectual sovereignty" and "literary separatism." Both literatures force readers to question how they understand the categories of "American" and "national" literature.