King’s College received two of nine Innovation Investments awarded in the second round of Wall Street West funding. Innovation Investments help sustain Wall Street West’s goal of building a stronger financial services sector in northeastern Pennsylvania through a qualified workforce. They also support workforce development organizations in relationship building, education, training, and economic development in the financial services industry.

The two Innovation Investments received by King’s total almost $196,000 of the more than $500,000 awarded in the recent round of funding.

A grant of $103,928 will fund a week-long summer institute for high school junior and senior mathematics teachers to broaden teachers’ knowledge of the financial services industry, including the stock and bond market, mutual funds, unit investment and real estate investment trusts, portfolio diversification, asset allocation and variable and fixed annuities. The purpose is to educate high school juniors and seniors students to become competitive in back-up, disaster recovery, and back-office operations of New York City-based financial institutions. A grant totaling $91,988 will fund the development and delivery of an Economics Certificate program for non-traditional students to prepare them for careers in the financial services industry. The proposed 18-credit certificate program, which will be administered by the King’s Center for Lifelong Learning, will use a blended format of classroom and on-line courses and integrated field study including internship opportunities provided by Prudential Retirement Services.

Co-designed by King’s faculty and senior managers of Prudential Retirement (a business of Prudential Financial), the certificate courses will be eight weeks in length. The program can be completed in one year, with two courses offered in the fall, spring and summer semesters. Students in the program will be strongly encouraged to apply for an internship with Prudential Retirement located in Moosic. If a student is not able to participate in an internship due to family obligations or workplace conflicts, an alternative field study and research project will be required.

Based on a combination of generational and demographic factors, college counseling centers across the country have seen a sharp increase in the demand for services, according to a paper co-written by King’s College senior Sarah Lacey and Dr. Charles Blewitt.

The paper, “An Uneasy Stasis: Increased Service Demands of Generation Y Students Seeking College Counseling Services,” was recently presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston. Founded in 1896, the Eastern Psychological Association is the oldest of the regional Psychological Associations in the United States.

Lacey, a resident of Beaumont majoring in psychology and neuroscience, teamed with Blewitt to research and write the paper as part of an internship for college credit. Blewitt is an employee of Scranton Counseling Center and is contracted by the College to provide counseling services.

Their research found that students currently attending college, members of Generation Y (born between 1978 and 1989), are more likely than any previous generation to enter college with a history of psychological involvement. Members of this group are also more likely to enter college with a documented history of using psychotropic medications. “Recent campus tragedies, increasing levels of depression, anxiety, and usage of psychotropic medications, have prompted a closer look at the role of counseling centers. The increase has been attributed to societal factors, large amounts of stress and the increased number of students now attending college. However, many college counseling centers have not kept pace with this increase and continue to have a limited number of counseling hours and staff available,” Lacey and Blewitt wrote in the paper’s abstract.
King’s welcome pair of noted speakers to campus

A pair of renowned speakers will visit campus in April to present free lectures for the campus community. Novelist, journalist, and social critic James Howard Kunstler will discuss his vision of a post-oil future and author Paul A. Cantor will speak on Shakespeare and popular culture.

As this year’s Ethics Center lecturer, Kunstler will lecture at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, in Burke Auditorium. Kunstler will provide insight on his vision of a post-oil future by exploring how the terminal decline of oil production has the potential to put industrial civilization out of business. The lecture will be based on his book “The Long Emergency: Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century.” The lecture is sponsored by the College’s Center for Ethics and Public Life, in cooperation with the Office of Academic Affairs, The Institute for Public Policy, The McGowan School of Business, and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Kunstler has written seven novels and countless articles and essays. His most recent work is “World Made By Hand,” a novel of the Long Emergency set in upstate New York in the not distant future. The book was published by The Atlantic Monthly Press in February.


He has lectured extensively about urban design, energy issues, and new economies for a number of professional organizations, such as The TED Conference, Google, and The National Association of Science and Technology, as well as at numerous colleges and universities, including Yale, Harvard, and MIT.

Shakespeare and the term “popular culture” seem to be contradictory, yet, during the Elizabethan Age, Shakespeare was a vital part of the popular culture. What can Shakespeare teach us about popular culture in our age? And what can popular culture today teach us about Shakespeare?

Paul A. Cantor, Clifton Waller Barrett Professor of English at the University of Virginia and visiting professor of government at Harvard University, will provide insight on the subject as the keynote speaker for the presentation, entitled “TV or Not TV: Shakespeare and Popular Culture.”

Cantor will deliver the 2008 Rev. Donald Grimes, C.S.C., Annual Divine Wisdom Lecture at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center.

Cantor is known for his work on Shakespeare in several books and numerous essays, including “Shakespeare’s Rome: Republic and Empire” and the “Hamlet” volume in the Cambridge Landmarks of World Literature series.

In recent years he has also become known for his work on American popular culture, especially his book, “Gillian Unbound: Pop Culture in the Age of Globalization,” which was named by the “LA Times” one of the best non-fiction works of 2001. He has also written essays on “South Park”, “24”, Martin Scorsese, film noir, and many other pop culture subjects.

Since 2006, the name of the Annual Divine Wisdom Lecture was changed to honor the late Rev. Donald Grimes, C.S.C., Professed Religious in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The lecture is sponsored by the Honors Program. For more information, contact Dr. William Irwin, Director of the Honors Program, at ext. 5493.

Choir set to sing for spring

The arrival of spring is something to sing about, and the King’s College choir will perform a program of classical and contemporary, sacred, and secular choral music during their annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, in the J. Carroll McCormick Campus Ministry Center.

Cantores Christi Regis, the 27-member choral group of King’s, under the direction of Robert Yenkowski, has performed widely at campus celebrations and special local programs. This spring’s selections include “Alleluia” by Randall Thompson, “Daemon Irrepit Callidus” by Gyorgy Orban, and “I Love My Love” by Gustav Hoist.

The Cantores Christi Regis Spring Concert is free and open to the King’s community. For information, visit “Experiencing the Arts Calendar” on the Web or contact Rob Yenkowski at 6044.

Last call for creative works

King’s College’s Campion Society will hold the final open reading of the academic year at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center.

King’s students, faculty, and staff as well as the local community are invited to share creative works including poems, short stories, drama, and creative nonfiction.

Guests can bring original works or the work of published authors to read in a relaxed atmosphere.

The event is free for King’s students, faculty, and staff. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact Jennifer Yonkoski at ext. 5487 or e-mail JenniferYonkoski@kings.edu.

People at King’s

Several faculty members presented papers at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education 2008 International conference in Nevada:

Dr. Joyce Armstrong and Dr. Denise Reboli - “Introducing Video Streaming Technologies to Meet the Needs of All Learners: Pre-Professional and Graduate Student Experiences”

Dr. Laurie Ayre and Dr. Martha Hanlon - “Expanding Student Teaching Opportunities with Video Conferencing”

Dr. Joyce Armstrong - “E-Literacy for ESL Students: An After-School Internet Technology Program”

Heather Critchson - “Integrating Technology for Success in Early Childhood Programs”

Dr. Keith Dils - “Fast Track Distance Education Certification Program”

Dr. Claire G. Gilmore, professor of finance, recently presented a paper coauthored with Dr. Marian Boscia, associate professor of accounting, and Brian Lucey (Trinity College, Dublin) at the Midwest Finance Conference in San Antonio.

Dr. Joel Shuman, chair of the theology department and director of the Center for Ethics and Public Life, has had his first book, “The Body of Compassion: Ethics, Medicine, and the Church”, published in Spanish translation as “El Cuerpo de la Compassion”, published by Editorial Nuevo Inicio in Granada, Spain.