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A Virtual Tour of WKU's Main Campus

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A VIRTUAL TOUR OF WKU'S MAIN CAMPUS

A Capstone Experience/Thesis Project

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with

Honors College Graduate Distinction at Western Kentucky University

By

Zachary Kline Ryle

Western Kentucky University
2012

CE/T Committee:

Professor Brad Pfranger, Advisor

Professor Corie Martin

Dr. Clay Motley

Approved by

Advisor

Broadcast Journalism Department

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2012

ABSTRACT

In my WKU Honors College Capstone Experience entitled “A Virtual Tour of WKU’s Main Campus,” my task was to create a virtual tour students across the state, country and even around the world could use to view WKU’s campus without ever setting foot in Bowling Green. Throughout this experience, I filmed myself giving individual tour of over 60 different locations on WKU’s campus, with a total of 72 buildings and locations earning markers on the campus map. This virtual tour was created during the summer of 2011 and was completed by November of that same year. Once completed, Admissions Counselors and International Counselors used this Virtual Tour to bring students to WKU. In this same time span (November 2011 to May 2012), the Virtual Tour received over 10,000 unique views, which is the number of IP addresses that log on to www.wku.edu/tour.

Keywords: Virtual Tour, Campus Tour, WKU, Western Kentucky University, Hilltoppers, Bowling Green

Dedicated to my parents, Greg and Sherry Ryle, my brother, Jake Ryle, my family and friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible if not for all the help I received in the making of this Virtual Tour. First, I would like to thank my second reader and boss, Corie Martin. Mrs. Martin not only recruited me to do this process, but also helped me when I needed it and provided amazing insight and wisdom into what was needed for this project to be the award-winning project it is today.

I would also like to thank my primary reader Brad Pfranger. Mr. Pfranger came in as a new professor at WKU and right off the bat was willing to assist me in the technical side of this project. Without his help, this project would not have looked as professional as it does today.

I would also like to thank the staff in the Public Affairs office at WKU. Every single person in that office helped form this Virtual Tour in some way and without the collective efforts or just kind words, this project would not have been completed.

I would also like to thank WKYU-PBS for their help, and specifically David Brinkley, Jessica Gibbs and Jordan Basham for their assistance with footage that I could not acquire, but they had.

I would like to thank all of my interview guests, including WKU President Dr. Gary Ransdell and Executive Director of the Honors College Craig Cobane, as well as all of the Deans interviewed, for their time and wisdom. This tour would not have been as insightful if not for their visions for their respective areas.

Finally I would like to thank my parents, Greg and Sherry Ryle, and my brother Jake Ryle. Family has been and always will be a large portion of my life and without their love and support, this project would not have been completed.

VITA

December 2nd, 1988..... Born-Cincinnati, OH
2003-2007.....Conner High School, Hebron, Kentucky
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March 2008-December 2011.....News Channel 12/The Extra Point
August 2009-May 2011.....WKU Office of Admissions Tour Guide
May 2011-December 2011.....WKU Virtual Tour Guide

FIELDS OF STUDY

Major Field: Broadcast News

Major Field: Sport Management

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CHAPTER 1

A VIRTUAL TOUR OF WKU'S MAIN CAMPUS

With more young people using the Internet everyday, colleges and universities across the nation are turning their focus to the web to reach out, recruit, and help their potential and current students. Western Kentucky University (here on out referred to as WKU) has been on the cutting edge of Internet usage among universities in the region. One area that is lacking however is a virtual tour of WKU's Main Campus.

A virtual tour of WKU's Main Campus provides an in-depth look at WKU's campus so anyone who is interested in WKU can see what WKU has to offer, whether they live in Bowling Green, in Kentucky, in the United States, or anywhere around the world. A virtual tour of campus allows everyone to see all parts of campus, both those seen by everyday students and those parts that are restricted. This virtual tour is meant for everyone, as mentioned earlier, but is more focused for potential students as a recruiting tool. So at the end of the day, my goal is to get more students on campus by viewing WKU's campus through their computer. I fully believe that once a student is on WKU's campus, the campus, along with the faculty, staff, and the community, will sell itself, so the key point to this project, and something that has WKU has lacked, is providing that connection to potential students.

While the main focus of my capstone experience is on the Virtual Tour, and rightfully so, I do believe it is important to talk about my past. As I look back on my undergraduate career, I see each position and step I took as one that built after the other and ended with the culmination of my undergraduate experience, the Virtual Tour. I started at WKU in 2007 and immediately joined the WKU Football team as a Student Video Assistant. Over the next two years, I filmed almost every practice, game and event the football team held. I learned many of the technical skills I have today through this position. I learned how to effectively obtain a white balance so that my colors will be as true as possible. I learned when to correctly use the filters on a camera based on the cloud cover of the day. The iris on a camera is very similar to the iris of the human eye. The camera's iris allows a certain amount of light in as to not flood the picture and makes the picture "hot" or too washed out with brightness; this is one more thing I learned while on this job. Not only did I learn much more about cameras than I ever did in high school, but I also learned how to more effectively edit on Adobe Premiere Pro. Every week, my job was to cut down the highlights of the previous game into a piece that could be viewed behind then Head Coach David Elson at his radio show. Every single thing I learned at this job proved to be vital when setting up the camera and editing the Virtual Tour.

While in this position, I also attended classes and worked toward my degree in Broadcast News. In my progress toward a degree, I began working with News Channel 12 in the spring of 2008. News Channel 12 is a student run live newscast that at the time aired three days a week. During the fall semester of 2008, a sport media class I

was in was granted the opportunity to create a half-hour sports show. This began something for me that I never thought would happen in college, as I became a founder of the Extra Point sports show. Over the next three and half years, I did everything from film highlights, produce the show, anchor the show, and was Executive Director for a year. Throughout this time, I learned a lot of broadcasting information that would become vital in the production of a Virtual Tour, however the most important thing to my ability of creating a Virtual Tour was the time I spent on camera as an anchor. It was in this position that I was able to hone my on camera skills and also learn a very important task, ad-libbing. Ad-libbing is the ability to talk off the script and continue on with a steady stream of information while not allowing the audience to know what you are doing. This became vital at times during the Virtual Tour, as I had no script with me, it just came from the experiences I have had on the Hill.

Which led into my next job as a WKU Campus Tour Guide. Following the 2009 Spring Semester when I resigned my position with WKU Football, I began work in the WKU Office of Admissions as a Tour Guide. Through this position, I learned the information that would become vital to creating a Virtual Tour. Over the next two years, I led a minimum of three tours a week to perspective students. This not only allowed me to know the campus extremely well, but also allowed me insight as to what students are looking for when they are coming into college.

The most important part of my time spent in the WKU Office of Admissions was the contact I made with then Communication Coordinator and now Director of Web Services Corie Martin. Mrs. Martin became a good friend while I was at the Admissions

Office my first year and often gave me sound advice. Mrs. Martin left the Office of Admissions to take the aforementioned Director of Web Services position in the WKU Public Affairs office. One day upon leaving the Office of Admissions, I ran into Mrs. Martin and after catching up, she explained to me that she had a position I would be perfect for; she said this position needed someone who was good on camera and could edit and produce as well. I was intrigued and at that point, the Virtual Tour was born.

Now that my personal history is done, we can get to the process at hand, and it is a lengthy one. Over the summer of 2011, I shot short videos on over 60 buildings on campus. This virtual tour would encompass each of the 15 Residence Halls on WKU's main campus as well as the vast majority of the Academic Buildings and the majority of WKU's athletic facilities.

The first step in this project is to take the written tour script from the WKU Office of Admissions and edit it into a web friendly piece. The original piece is chopped full of facts and history so that tour guides can be best prepared to answer the questions that could come from the tour guests. However, when putting together a Virtual Tour, I do not need that much information. The tour script however is less for me and more for the final product on the web. This script will be used in the boxes for each location to give a more detailed description of what is inside each building.

Once the tour script was edited and complete, the next step was to acquire a camera for the summer. My first step was to go to WKU's Technology Resource Center. They were very helpful in providing me with a camera and tri-pod along with a wireless microphone to allow me to complete the project for the summer. Once returning to the

office however, I was told they would prefer the video be in high definition, which the TRC camera could not shoot. This is when I turned to an old job and an old friend to help me out. Hank Wilson was a senior video assistant my freshman year with the WKU Football Team. Since his graduation, Hank had been to UCLA as their top paid assistant for video and returned back to WKU to be the Head Video Coordinator on the Hill.

Hank opened loved the task that was ahead of me, and literally offered his whole arsenal to help me complete this project. The first thing he offered me was a Panasonic HVX-200. This camera is a high definition camera that can shoot up to 1080p. This camera shoots on to P2 cards, which are essentially miniaturized hard drives. Along with the camera, Hank allowed me to use 4-16 gigabyte cards, which allowed me to shoot almost a week's worth of stops without importing the video into my computer. This camera also boasts multiple audio jacks, which came in hand when I had to complete interviews for this project. The tripod provided would also be considered a high-end tripod, as it allowed for me to counterbalance the weight of this camera to shoot steady while panning or zooming the camera.

For each location, I set up the camera and tripod in a scenic location for the building. I used the wireless microphone provided to me by the Technology Resource Center, which allowed me to walk and talk while not close to the camera. This is very beneficial as when I would press record, I could take my time, get into position, and then deliver the 30-second to one-minute information pitch on the building at hand. The process of shooting a piece, along with the reporting, editing, and producing of the piece, is known in Broadcast Journalism as "one man banding."

One-man banding is a challenge in itself. Most stories that are one-man banded are short stories that are not crucial to the success of a newscast. Stations that one-man band are also typically smaller stations because they cannot afford the cameramen and editors necessary to correctly produce a product. This also typically means that their audience on the small side. When comparing this to my project, my audience is not small. On any given day hundreds of people could watch a portion or all of the virtual tour to help make a decision on where they would like to attend school, or just to understand what a building on campus offers. Also, the work that I produced will be on WKU's website for several years to come, so perfection is not only important, it is essential and expected. If a normal one-man band journalist screws up, it's only one story. This means he has a new slate tomorrow to try again. I feel it is very important to understand the weight of shooting all of this by myself, as without this context, it may seem to those who aren't in the profession that this happens daily. It truly does not.

Following the recording of the videos, the next step is to import them into a computer. For this project, I bought a 2 terabyte hard drive, which is the equivalent to 2,000 gigabytes. Upon my arrival in Public Affairs, Mrs. Martin worked hard to acquire me a computer that would be able to handle the rigors of the project that was at my hands. We worked with Graphic Design Artist Scott French to acquire a Mac desktop computer. This computer was then equipped with the Final Cut Pro studio, and from that point, I was good to start editing. Each week, as I had filmed pieces of the campus, I brought them back to the computer on Friday and used a basic Firewire cable to import them into Final Cut Pro. I would then take those videos and back them up on not

only the server in Public Affairs, but also my personal hard drive. After I made sure they were secured, I deleted the information from the cards so I could shoot the next week.

Editing this project was the second most-timely process in this Virtual Tour. If I had a weakness entering into this job, it was definitely my editing skills. Entering into this project, I had previously learned Adobe Premiere Pro and Avid; Final Cut Pro was not a part of the systems I know. The similarities between these systems however allowed for me to pick up the terms and shortcuts quickly and allowed for me to learn the system within a matter of days by myself. The first step in the editing process is the one I eluded to earlier, the importing of the video. Once the video is imported, then I created a folder for each individual spot on campus so that I would not lose any information or videos. Following the import and organization stage, the next actually drop each individual clip into the sequence, or timeline, for the video. This clip that I have dropped down is the "A-Roll." In broadcasting, an "A-Roll" is the primary thing that was shot and typically includes a stand-up, which is anything shot on camera by the reporter where they are talking. Following the laying of the "A-Roll" you will have the "B-Roll" phase. This portion of the editing is to cover any mistakes you made during your "A-Roll" or is used to just add different interesting shot to a piece. For instance, in the Environmental Science and Technology piece, I used video of WKU's robotic arm moving when Dr. Bruce Kessler talked about the arm. This is an example of effective "B-Roll"

After the A and B Rolls have been laid out, then I trimmed down the actual clips. This phase is where I trim down the video until it is exactly what I needed to say and was

at the correct length. Along with the trimming of the clip, I also worked with the audio levels to make sure they were uniform for each of my clips. This is very important, as you don't want your user to be annoyed by having to turn up and down the audio for different stops. The main focus should always be on what I am saying and not any outside influence, like the audio levels or what I am wearing. Next step was to add lower thirds for all of the interview guests and myself. A lower third is what is also called an indicator. This will typically show on the lower third of the television screen and allows for the viewer to know the name of the person speaking and their title. For instance, mine would be Zack Ryle on the main line and the sub-line would be Virtual Tour Guide. I cannot however take credit for the creation of these lower thirds, as my roommate and friend Drew Bennett helped me with their production. The editing of the lower thirds into the video though is a task that I undertook.

After checking the audio levels and inserting the lower thirds, I would be sure to put transitions on the beginning and the end of each clip so that it has a professional look. Transitions were another area that took extra thought, as there are a ton of transitions that could be used, however I thought it would be more professional and less distracting if I used simple cross-dissolves, which fade the thing in front to the thing behind on the sequence. At this point, the editing for the individual stop on the tour is done. Multiply this process, which could take up to a few hours, by 60 and you will have the time spent to edit.

About halfway through this project, Director of Web Services Corie Martin came to me to discuss adding an element to the videos she believed would spice them up.

The concept: interview leaders on campus to give a different perspective on the Hill as a whole. I loved this idea and took it on full force. My first task was working with Senior Administrative Assistant to the President Julia McDonald to schedule President Ransdell. Following scheduling that interview, I sent emails to the individual deans to try and get their takes on their individual colleges. After hearing responses from most deans, I was able to schedule the following individuals for interviews: WKU President Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, Executive Director of the Honors College Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Sam Evans, Dean of the University College Dr. Dennis George, Dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business Dr. Jeff Katz, and Associate Dean of the Ogden College Dr. Bruce Kessler. I was in charge of not only the scheduling of these interviews, but also the writing of the questions, the shooting of the interview sessions and also the editing of the pieces. In retrospect, this may have been the single greatest addition that could have been made to the tour, as it allowed those who are in charge of different aspects of WKU to explain better than I ever could what is going on in their departments from their point of view.

After the interviews were recorded and edited, the most time-consuming part of the tour is set to begin, and this is production and post-production. Once each of the individual videos is done, the next step is to have them ready for viewing online, which is the production and post-production stages. First step is to render the videos. Rendering the videos basically takes all the little cuts and changes and additions and smoothes it out into one condensed piece. A common theme with most things in the production stage, but the longer the video the longer the time needed to do this step.

So a 45 second piece would only take a few minutes, however those pieces that were seven minutes could take up to a couple hours to fully render.

The next step in the process is to export the video. Just like the import stage, now I needed to export the video out of Final Cut Pro and stored it on the desktop, the server and my personal hard drive. I did three locations in case one goes down, I know I still have two more to be safe. This is another case of the shorter the video, the quicker the export time, so this is another example of a couple minutes to a couple hours per video. The one thing that did make this process a little longer is how Broadcasting Professor Brad Pfranger and I worked the export settings so that I had the highest quality possible to show online. This was a very tricky task and did involve a lot of guessing and second-guessing, but the specs were finally secured and I was able to proceed with effective exports.

After the videos were exported to the desktop, the next step was to import them into a Vimeo account. When we began this process, we started with YouTube, however the quality is very low on YouTube and we made the decision to go with the more professional Vimeo website. Public Affairs bought the premium package from Vimeo, so I was able to upload up to 5 gigabytes of video a week to their server. This part is very important because several of the videos were right at 5 gigabytes, so there was no way possible for me to upload them without this package. The upload times were also faster on the premium package, which was another bonus to the deal.

After they were fully imported into Vimeo, I then had to take the codes given by Vimeo and import them into the interface we were using for the entire tour called

NuCloud. Before I arrived at Public Affairs, the office purchased a package from NuCloud that would allow us to create the Virtual Tour that I have told you about up to this point. I did not do much with this product until we got to the post-production stage, but once I got to this stage, I would say I became very fluent in how to use the NuCloud interface. After I got the codes for each video, I put them into the digital library or vault of NuCloud. After the codes were entered into the library, I was then able to go to the three-dimensional map made for this tour and start plotting the points. To be fair again, I had no part in creating the actual map. This map was hired out to an outside contractor and done offsite. Plotting the points was as simple as clicking on or next to the building and inserting one of the red numbered markers. Once this was placed, I then went in and edited the name of the location, the description (which is where we put the tour script talked about earlier), and then inserted pictures and my videos in to each of the sliders. Once the videos were in the sliders, I would click publish to map and the Virtual Tour for that location would be live.

This project was completed from May of 2011 to November of 2011, with most parts of the Virtual Tour being live in October. In the beginning of my capstone, I fully expected students to be the primary audience, and they have been. However a few secondary audiences arose that I was not expecting. Among these audiences include potential faculty and staff to the hill, guest speakers, and potential donors. I have heard stories of how departments are using the virtual tour in some for to draw in potential faculty, staff and guest speakers to build interest in their programs and then guiding donors from across the United States to watch the tours before they arrive on campus.

I never expected this type of result. As of April 1, 2012, there had been almost 10,000 unique views to www.wku.edu/tour, which is where the Virtual Tour is housed. This number may seem low, but to understand this, you must understand what a unique view is. A unique view registers to each individual computer, so I logged in several hundred times over the months of October and November to check and make sure changes I was making to the NuCloud system were being uploaded correctly. Instead of each of my views being counted, I only was counted as one. This is because a unique view only takes into account that your individual computer visited the site, not how many times you have visited it. So in essence, 10,000 people have seen the virtual tour around the world.

The Virtual Tour has only been in use for a relatively short time, but as you can see from the aforementioned topic, it has been a hit. I never imagined when I started this project this many people would view my Virtual Tour by April 2012. On top of those views, which are the real reason I did this tour, I was humbled to learn that the Virtual Tour received the 2011 CASE-KY Grand Champion Award for World Wide Web and Electronic Communications and the Grand Champion Award for DVD, Flash Publications and Other Electronic Communications.

In summation, when I entered college, a Capstone was explained to me as a paper or piece of work that encompassed all of what you learned while I was an undergraduate student. I can say confidently the following statement: this Virtual Tour took every single thing I have learned in the classroom, and several things out of the classroom, to complete. Whether it is the shooting, the editing, the reporting, the

interview skills, or the ability to improvise, all were challenged and used effectively to pursue a brand new Virtual Tour for WKU's Campus.

This Virtual Tour should not be seen as a replacement to a physical tour of campus, but instead as a compliment and a predecessor to a physical tour. When I started this Tour, my intentions were for this tour to be another step in the decision process for a student pursuing their higher education at Western Kentucky University.

To conclude, this virtual tour is able to recruit in areas that our Admissions Counselors cannot. This virtual tour, in its broadest sense, has helped further Dr. Ransdell's vision of "A Leading American University with International Reach" by putting our beautiful campus on camera and being able to show it to the world. This Virtual Tour now allows students to see our campus through their computers as if they were standing at Dr. Cherry's Statue. For the simple fact that my Capstone project of a "Virtual Tour of WKU's Main Campus" is bringing people to WKU and potentially changing futures and lives, I cannot say I am more proud of the work I have completed.

CHAPTER 2

TRANSCRIPT FOR WKU VIDEOS

1. KENTUCKY BUILDING

Hi and welcome to WKU's virtual tour. I am Zack Ryle and I will be your tour guide throughout this process. To start today we are starting in the Kentucky Building. The Kentucky Building has several different departments inside of it, but what it is most known for is the Kentucky Museum. Inside of the museum we have four different exhibits, including a Western 100 exhibit, which shows the history of WKU, A Civil War exhibit, a Duncan Hines exhibit, and a Horses in Kentucky exhibit.

Another part of the Kentucky Building is the Western Room, which I stand in right now. This is the official starting point for any of the Office of Admissions tours here at WKU. The tours by the Admissions Office are bus tours, which are led by our friendly bus driver Steve and an experienced tour guide. Also along with the tours you will get an informational session that is led by an Admissions Counselor. This Counselor will go over all the requirements from academic requirements and financial aid all the way through to scholarships. This can be the first step in you becoming a WKU Hilltopper here on the Hill.

2. FELTS LOG CABIN

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is here at the Felt's Log Cabin. This log cabin was built in the mid 1800's and saw over three generations of Felt's families live just inside these doors. This building was originally built in Logan County, but has since been moved to WKU and now has become an official part of WKU's campus as an extension of the Kentucky Museum in the Kentucky Building.

3. CRAIG ALUMNI CENTER

No Video

4. CHANDLER CHAPEL AND COLUMBARIUM

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is the Chandler Chapel and Columbarium. This building was built in May of 2010 and is an inter-faith, non-denominational chapel here on the Hill. Basically it is a place of prayer meditation and worship for anyone who needs it. This building was funded completely through private donations and the Columbarium just outside these walls is for those Hilltopper Alums who want to have their final resting place here on the Hill.

5. VAN METER OVERLOOK

If you are looking to your sweetheart and looking for a place on WKU's campus, listen up! This is the "I Do" portion of WKU's Virtual Tour. I am standing at one of those locations right now; this is the Guthrie-Van Meter Overlook. This area provides a very panoramic view around WKU's campus and you will see everything from weddings, to wedding pictures, all the way through to that point where you drop down on one ring and give her the ring. Around our campus there are several locations just like this, including the Chandler Chapel, the Guthrie Bell Tower, South Lawn, Diddle Park, the Old Fort, the Kissing Bridge. There are just plenty of places here at WKU that if you do want to propose or have a wedding here as well. One favorite spot for those larger weddings would be the W.L. Terry Colonnade. With plenty of seating, you could have a whole stadium watching you on your big day.

6. VAN METER HALL

Van Meter Hall is our next stop here on WKU's Virtual Tour. Van Meter is the oldest building on WKU's campus. Originally built in 1911, it saw its Centennial Birthday in 2011. This building has seen several renovations since its original completion date, including one in 2010 that the university spent over 13 million dollars on to make this a state-of-the-art amphitheater and auditorium. A fun little historical side note, this building was the original chapel here on the Hill that Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry used while he was in office.

Now inside of these doors, there are a lot of things that are brand new. That would include the seating for all of the guests and visitors to watch anything from Dave Barnes put on a concert all the way through to the Beauty and the Beast put on by our Theater and Drama and our Music Departments. So a lot of different things can happen inside of this building, but there are still more renovations at hand, whether that is the state-of-the-art lighting or the sound equipment. So if you are sitting there watching a performance, you are going to see it and hear it as best as you can. (Along with these

additions are) new backgrounds and a new lift, which allows the actors and actresses to enter the stage with no one seeing them.

7. GORDON WILSON HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual tour is Gordon Wilson Hall. Gordon Wilson Hall is one of the oldest buildings on WKU's campus, and is set up for the Theater and Drama Departments, and Dance.

8. CHERRY HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual tour is Cherry Hall. If you have made it to this point on WKU's campus, congratulations! You have made it to the official summit of the Hill. It's named Cherry Hall because of the man who stands just behind me, Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry. Dr. Cherry was the founder and first President of WKU. Inside of Cherry Hall you have several departments, including the English Department, History Department, the Religious Studies Department, and the African American Studies Department.

Dr. Gary A Ransdell, WKU's 9th President

Our Spirit, our energy, that magic that our students begin to feel once they arrive here and certainly embrace over their course of their time here and leave here with a special spirit that's behind our motto "The Spirit Makes the Master," but its much more than that. It's a confidence, it's self-esteem, it's a capacity to lead, and it's all of those intangibles that give one the intangibles to succeed. It's all about success in life and achievement but that has to start with a strong sense of self-confidence and self-esteem, and that is nurtured through the personality of this university. It's a university of high energy and focus and our students pick up on that while they are here and leave with that spirit deep seeded into they heart as well as their head. So in a word the Spirit Makes the Master, means one has a heart as well as a strong mind and it's that confidence in both that allows our students to succeed more than most students from most other universities. That's the intangible.

The tangible is the physical campus itself, with the Hill, the architecture, the buildings themselves, the trees, the rocks, the lawns, and the beds. All of these things give this campus personality and character and a strong sense of pleasantness that our students embrace. First of all, it's the strong first impression that young people get when they first visit this place in the making of the decision to become a Hilltopper and then spending their undergraduate or graduate or both of their higher education

careers here. Head and the Heart combined with the place itself gives us a dynamic that few universities can match.

Every university has a personality. A student who is making the decision on where they want to spend their higher education career needs to think about the personality of those institutions. What do those institutions, what does this institution have that will allow that student to achieve his or her full intellectual, social, cultural, and emotional potential? We believe that the combination of the intangible spirit that is embedded deep into the psyche and the personality of this institution combined with the physical place itself and the quality of our faculty will cause a student to choose WKU every time. So it's a combination of those things that make this university unique. You know its interesting nothing is contrived here. We didn't hire some PR firm to make up, well lets put it on top of a hill or to create the Red Towel or create Big Red or the things that are uniquely WKU. Those things naturally evolved over time in the minds and hearts of our students and the characters that have built the character in this institution over many generations. So what you see here naturally evolved through this university family to create our uniqueness's and to define the personality that is WKU.

9. ROCK HOUSE

No Video

10. COLLEGE HIGH HALL

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is here at College High Hall. College High Hall got its name because it actually used to be a high school here on the hill known as College High School. WKU used to be the teaching college for the state of Kentucky so when the students came here to get a degree they came to here (College High Hall) to their practicum teaching before heading to the real world. But don't worry; you won't see any high school students here now. This is now home to the Department of Mathematics as well as the Dean's Office for the Ogden College of Science.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean-Ogden College

This is actually a very historic building to the home of College High, which was a high school. We have a number of people who went to school Kindergarten through their senior year in this very building and had a playground just out back here. Supreme Court Justice John Minton and several well-known folks around town went to school here. We just moved into this building about a year and a half ago. They basically gutted the building, put in an elevator and brought it up to code. This building houses

Mathematics upstairs, the Dean's Office, and the Annex has classrooms and research space for Engineering faculty and students.

The thing that I believe is unique about the Ogden College, ever here on campus, is our determination to get your hands dirty. You can show up, take your classes, get your grades and graduate and never really do anything else in your major and you can survive that way. But you are really leaving stuff on the table. The faculty is determined to work with students and get them involved in their research. That is free; you don't pay tuition for that. A lot of times they will pay you off the grants. You can get a student job working at the library or whatever it is, or you can work in the faculty member's lab and you could possibly leave here with publications on your resume as you apply to graduate schools or go looking for a job. We don't charge you tuition for that and that is where we are carving our niche. We get the best of our students involved in our research and getting them active in the discipline. We really believe that is where a lot of the heavy-duty learning takes place. It's one thing to work on problems where the answers are in the back of the book. It's a whole different thing to work on problems where the answer is not in the back of any book, its not known. So figuring out those answers with a faculty members guiding you, that's a great opportunity.

11. HONORS COLLEGE

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is a very unique place here on the Hill, and it is the WKU Honors College. I say this is a very unique place because in fact there is no other school in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that has their own Honors College. You may see Honors Programs, but WKU is the only one to have a self-sustained college, just like any other college here on the Hill. This provides several unique opportunities for students, but most importantly it provides those students the opportunity to really challenge themselves inside of the college curriculum.

Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Executive Director of WKU's Honors College

We know that there are a lot of advantages to going to small private liberal arts schools and there are advantages to going to large state public institutions, with opportunities ranging from many more departments to a variety of programs. What an Honors College does is it provides all the advantages of a small private institution (small classes and personalized attention) with all of the advantages of a large public state institution. Basically an Honors College functions as a prestigious private institution in the middle of a public institution here at WKU. WKU's Honors College is unique itself. The Honors College at WKU is the only Honors College in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That right there sets us apart from every other institution in the state of

Kentucky. What we do is we have opportunities for students to study abroad, advanced research as undergraduates, and compete with anyone in the country for graduate schools, law schools and med schools. What we have done is put together an entire range of study abroad opportunities. We have full semesters at a castle that we have a partnership in Great Britain called Harlaxton Manor. We send about 80 students a year and they spend a semester living and studying in the manor house while traveling all over Europe. It is an unbelievable experience to be prince or princess of your very own castle.

We also have a great partnership with Semester at Sea which the University of Virginia owns. It is basically a converted cruise ship that circumnavigates the globe. So over your 15 weeks, your semester, you will go around the world. You will be part .0004 percent of the world's population that circumnavigated the globe. In the process, you will visit 12-14 countries and earn 15 credit hours of college classes. Both of these experiences, as you can imagine, are quite expensive, but because of the partnerships we have set up, students can do either one of these experiences at basically the cost of being at WKU plus a little bit more. It's a very affordable experience.

If a full semester or full year is not what you are looking for, we have short programs that may go to Harlaxton for two weeks, go to Kenya for two weeks, go to China for a couple weeks. There are plenty of opportunities just depending on your academic plan.

In addition, we have one of nine federally funded Chinese Flagship Programs in the United States. This takes a student who has never studied Chinese from zero all the way to superior fluency. This means that you can negotiate million dollar contracts in Chinese. Over your four to five years in the program, you will go to China at least four times. It is a real difference maker as we look at the growth of the Chinese economy and where a lot of the jobs in the world are being created. This is another thing that sets WKU's Honors College apart from any other educational experience in the Commonwealth.

As we talk to students who are looking at universities (high achieving students), often they are a little put off by their AP, their international baccalaureate, or their high school honors experience which is often defined by more work-harder work. In the Honors College, we don't actively pursue what we call "punitive pedagogy." We don't punish students just because they are high achievers. What we do is create a different type of academic environment. It may be more research based, more directed readings, a lot more class discussion or field trips. Students engage in the more legitimate

academic work instead of taking multiple choice or true and false exams. Our students like that a lot more and feel they get a lot more out of their college experience.

President Ransdell's vision for WKU is to be "A Leading American University with International Reach." Part of that vision is to create a world class Honors College, not just rhetorically strong Honors College, but an Honors College that would attract students from across the United States and around the world. What does that entail? In many regards, we function like a small high-end prestigious private liberal arts school. We have our own Residence Halls, which about 70 percent of our students can live in and are some of the best Residence Halls on campus. The students get a range of different opportunities afforded to them, which allows them to get more things done during their four years at WKU. It may be undergraduate research, study abroad, or applying for some of the country's most prestigious scholarships. The end result is our students can compete with anyone in the United States. Our students regularly compete against students from Ivy Leagues and the most prestigious private schools in the country and our students are selected over theirs. That is the vision that Dr. Ransdell has and that is what we are building at the Honors College at WKU.

12. THOMPSON COMPLEX

The building behind me is one of two buildings in the Thompson Complex. This building is the Central Wing and just down from it is the North Wing. These two buildings will house everything from the Chemistry Department all the way through to the Biology Department, Computer Science Department, and Astronomy classrooms.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean – Ogden College

We have been the focus for the past few years of renovations on campus. We are about to complete, we hope, our phase of renovations with the Thompson Center and North Wing. We hope the next round of funding we will be able to complete the renovations on the Center wing and the North wing will actually disappear and the footprint of TCCW will move in on that.

13. SNELL HALL

The next stop here on WKU's virtual tour is Snell Hall. Snell Hall is a recent addition here to the Hill and houses classes in Biology and Chemistry. Also inside of Snell Hall you will find DaVinci's Restaurant. DaVinci's is one of the unique restaurants here on the Hill as it offers anything from bagels to pizzas.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean-Ogden College

Snell Hall is our newest renovation in the science college. It replaced an older building that was really damaged beyond repair that went back to the origins of this college. Snell Hall was one of the older buildings on our part of campus. It really was not functional as a classroom space and that is what we really needed, classroom space. This building, which is now attached to the back of Center wing, houses a number of classrooms, several labs for the chemistry and biology department, and several large auditorium classrooms that are used by different entities around the college. We schedule classes and events into those auditoriums.

14. ENGINEERING AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is the Engineering and Biological Sciences Building. This building is one of the newer additions here on WKU's campus and the Ogden College of Science. This building houses all of the engineering classrooms and the laboratories.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean – Ogden College

EBS, the Engineering and Biological Sciences Building, is one of our newer buildings and is home to the Engineering Department. They have a lot of work areas there as well as the high bay, where they can do larger builds and some things they couldn't do in a more enclosed space, welding and things like that. Also a lot of prototyping rooms, lab space for the labs that go on, and the classrooms. That's the second and first floor. The third floor is actually biological sciences. That is home to some classrooms, but mostly it is home to many of the centers that they have in the biology department, which includes bio tech and biodiversity centers and lab spaces for the various classes that go on up there.

Josh Amos, WKU Student

The Concrete Canoe Team has really been around at WKU since the program's accreditation whenever engineering was an Engineering Technology Degree. One of our professors who was there back then was the advisor for it. It's an innovative idea for senior Civil Engineering students or any other civil engineering student who is not a senior to learn about concrete and the different things you can do with it. Usually the first thing people think about with concrete is really heavy, but we make this float just as well as a normal canoe. When it comes to Concrete Canoe at WKU, we strive to win the Regional Title every year. Our longest run was a 13-year run making it to nationals. We have won region so many times and it's something we really take pride in. When I

took my college visits, I took visits to two other top schools in the state and when I compared them with WKU before I made the first big jump, was the Ogden College and the hands-on approach of learning. As you saw downstairs in our laboratory, students man those machines. At other schools, one school can be more theory based and others are more graduate based and are working the machines. What you saw downstairs is 100% undergrad student learning experience, and that is the best thing about this process because it's all hands on. Every class I have had in this building is very hands on, whether it's going outside, going to lab, crunching a lot of numbers outside or in the lab. It's just been a great experience to be here at WKU.

15. HARDIN PLANETARIUM

This walkway leads right into the Hardin Planetarium. If you take any Astronomy classes here on the Hill, this is where the labs for those classes will be held.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean – Ogden College

We use that for our entry-level astronomy classes, but we also do a lot of outreach in the Hardin Planetarium. We have thousands of school children come to the planetarium each year for shows hosted by Dr. Roger Scott, Rico Tyler and a host of people who do shows for school kids. It's a great outreach tool for us. The planetarium also needs to be renovated and we are hopeful the renovation will take part with the Center Wing renovations.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The building that stands behind me right now is the Environmental Science and Technology Building, or known on WKU's campus as EST. Inside of this building, you will find Meteorology, Geology, Geography, and Agriculture. And on a nice day like today, you may even see some of the science clubs out in front of this building selling everything from pork loins to hot dogs.

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean – Ogden College

EST, Environmental Science and Technology Building, houses the Geography/Geology Department, but also has Architectural-Manufacturing Sciences and Agriculture. In particular, the Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences, the Manufacturing part of that has their robotics lab over there. It is state of the art with how it manufactures robotics. They have actually garnered a lot of attention with their creative problem solving by integrating different pieces of equipment from different manufactures. They had a couple pieces of equipment to try and work together. They

even contacted the companies and said they were talking different languages. So they worked with some of our electrical engineering faculty and designed as an electronic button pusher. When this piece of machinery was done, it sent information to this button pusher and it reached over to this other piece of machinery and hit the right buttons and off it went. They got quite a bit of attention for out of the box thinking on that.

17. GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

No Video

18. INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR AND STUDENT SERVICES CENTER

No Video

19. INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION BUILDING

Dr. Bruce Kessler, Associate Dean – Ogden College

IEB offers the GIS lab, which is another program that is growing quite well inside Geology and Geography. The ability to use that special data for mapping and information is quite important in today's culture. We have had a lot of people involved in that. We also host the wood, drafting, and building labs for Architecture and Drafting inside of Architecture and Manufacturing Sciences.

20. DIDDLE PARK

No Video

21. FACULTY HOUSE

No Video

22. GARRETT CONFERENCE CENTER

The next stop here on WKU's Virtual tour is the Garrett Conference Center. On the first floor of this building you will find the Garrett Food Court, which is one of three food courts that we have here on the Hill. This food court services the top portion of the Hill, so students who have class up here can grab a quick lunch before they head to their next class. Inside of that food court, you will have everything from Mexican food with Izzi's burritos to a pasta and pizza station, a burger and chicken tender place, and a home cooked food place. There are a lot of different options up here if you need to grab something quick between classes. On the second floor of this building, you will

find a student hang out area. Whether you want to read a good book or catch up on some reading for class, you can do that in peace and quiet here. On the third floor you will find the Garrett Ballroom, which has housed everything from ballroom classes and performances all the way through to lectures.

23. KISSING BRIDGE

WKU has several very strong traditions here on the Hill and one of them is what I am standing on right now and is known as the Kissing Bridge. Rumor has it that if you are on a first date with a girl or a guy and you cross over and kiss on this bridge, you will be destined to marry the other person.

24. W.L. TERRY COLONNADE

The W.L. Terry Colonnade is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. These pillars that you see just behind me mark the Colonnade, as it affectionately known by WKU students. This actually was a part of WKU's first football stadium, but you won't see football here anymore. Instead, the bleachers are still up from the original stadium, and you might see anything from a student eating their lunch that they got from Garrett, completing a homework assignment online, or just reading a good book.

25. IVAN WILSON FINE ARTS CENTER

The Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. This building houses several departments, including the art, band, music, communication and foreign language departments.

26. THE MARGIE HELM AND RAYMOND CRAVENS LIBRARIES 26

Margie Helm Library is the next stop here on WKU's Virtual Tour. Margie Helm Library is one of two libraries that we have here on the Hill. This one has more of the factual information so you'll see atlases, maps, encyclopedias, and computer labs. Also in the Margie Helm Library, you'll find the Chinese Learning Center and the Confucius Institute. This building has a rich history here on WKU's campus and, in fact, before Diddle was built, the building that stands just behind me used to be the old basketball arena here on the Hill.

The Raymond Cravens Library is the next stop here on WKU's Virtual Tour. The Raymond Craven's Library is one of two libraries we have here on the Hill along with the Margie Helm Library. This library is more focused on the fiction and non-fiction side. In fact, floors four through nine have over a million books of fiction and non-fiction material for you to read for pleasure or for you to get some research for any paper that

you may have. The two libraries, Raymond Cravens and Margie Helm Library, are connected by a breezeway so you do not have to go outside if you do not want to.

27. MUSIC HALL

A View From the Hill-Amy Bingham

28. GRISE HALL

Grise Hall is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. Grise Hall houses the Gordon Ford College of Business. WKU is accredited by an institution that only accredits the top 15% of business colleges in the world, so the Gordon Ford College of Business works very hard to keep their accreditation. Inside those doors you'll find anything from accounting, to administration, to marketing, to finance, to political science, to sociology...a lot of different departments are inside of this building. You're more than likely going to have one or two classes in here no matter what major you choose.

Dr. Jeff Katz, Dean – Gordon Ford College of Business

Welcome to the Gordon Ford College of Business. We're delighted to have the AACSB accredited in Business and Accounting here at Western Kentucky University. We have six departments and nine majors and eight minors here in the college of business. Over the next few years we have the opportunity to expand our premises. President Ransdell has put together a capital plan that will allow us to build a new building toward the edge of campus where the new alumni center will be. Once completed, Grise Hall will be refurbished for other uses here on campus. So, we hope in the next three to five years we'll have a new College of Business building that the students can call their home.

Well, we're proud to have extremely talented faculty that have a lot of hands-on experience. We pride ourselves in the student experience here. Among the nine different majors and eight minors students can pick from a broad variety of academic areas, internships, and work within the areas that they are interested in for ultimate employment.

We invite existing and prospective students to stop by the fourth floor of Grise Hall to the Dean's office to say hello. We are very proud to share what we have here and hope you'll visit very soon.

29. POTTER HALL

No Video

30. WETHERBY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

No Video

31. FLORENCE SCHNEIDER HALL

Florence Schneider Hall is the next stop here on WKU's Virtual Tour. Florence Schneider Hall houses those students in the Carol Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science. Every year about 60 juniors in high school get to forego their requirements and get to start taking college course work here on WKU's campus. This residence hall that stands just behind me is where they stay.

These students are very gifted and the high school that they are a part of is very unique. In fact, in 2011, the Carol Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science was named one of the top five high schools in the nation.

Corey Alderdice, Assistant Director – Gatton Academy

Schneider Hall becomes a home away from home for Gatton Academy students. In addition to the academic environment where students learn, we really believe that the residence hall plays an equal part in their growth and learning opportunities here on the campus. Because we are talking about high school students, the living situation's a little different for Gatton Academy students. We've bridged that supervision, support, and structure that parents expect from their kids while they're away from home with certainly an ample amount of freedom, being at a university environment as well.

32. McLEAN HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is McLean Hall. McLean Hall is set up as a co-ed residence hall for sophomores and above in our Honor's College. McLean Hall is also set up in hotel-style living, which means you and your roommate will share the sink, commode and shower inside of your room.

And once inside of McLean Hall, each individual student will have his or her own bed, as you can kind of see here, with a mattress. This bed can be bunked so you can get a little bit more room; whether you want to put a futon in here or just have a little bit more room to walk around in. Next to this, you've got a dresser so you can store some of your clothes. Next to that, you have a desk so if you want to get some studying done no matter what classes you're taking, you can at least do that. Also inside these rooms, there's a wardrobe. It's a little bit bigger than a standard closet and gives you a little bit more space for hanging space and shoes and things like that.

As well as inside of McLean Hall, because it is hotel-style residence hall, this means that you're going to have access to your own bathroom with a sink, commode, and shower. It just gives another amenity for those students living inside of McLean Hall.

33. BATES RUNNER HALL

Bates Runner Hall is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. Bates Runner Hall is set up as a co-ed residence hall for sophomores and above in our Honor's College. Bates Runner Hall is also set up in hotel-style living, which means you and your roommate will share the sink, commode and shower inside of your room.

Inside of Bates Runner Hall, each student will have his or her own bed that is provided with a mattress. These beds are also bunkable so if you want a little bit more room, you can do that here. Also provided for each student inside of Bates Runner Hall, you will have your own desk so you can get some studying done, as well as a dresser and a bookcase. Each one of these rooms is individually air conditioned so if you want to have it cold or hot, so as long as you and your roommate get along with it, you don't have to worry about what anyone else says.

This is a hotel-style residence hall, which means that you'll have access to your own bathroom with a sink, commode, and shower. These are just a few of the benefits of living inside of Bates Runner Hall.

While the top three floors of Bates Runner Hall are set up for residence living, the bottom floor is open to everyone on campus. Directly behind me, you'll see the Bate Shop, which is one of our on-campus convenience stores here on the Hill. So if you need to grab anything from a soft drink or a bag of chips all the way through to soap or deodorant, you can at least have that option here on the Hill.

Also located here on the bottom floor is N Style, which is our hair, tanning and nail salon here on the Hill.

34. NORTHEAST HALL

Next on WKU's Virtual Tour is Northeast Hall. Northeast Hall is one of two directional halls we have here on the Hill and it is a co-ed residence hall set up for sophomores and above. Northeast Hall is also a hotel-style residence hall which means you and your roommate are going to share a sink, commode, and a shower inside of your room.

Once inside of Southwest or Northeast Hall each individual student will each have their own mattress and bed like you can kind of see here, as well as a place to study like right here with a desk and a chair. They will also have a bookcase and a dresser, as well as a place to store all of their hanging clothes in a closet just like this. Also inside of Southwest and Northeast, because this is a hotel-style residence hall, you will also have a place that has a shower, a commode, and a sink so that is one of the benefits of living inside of one of the hotel-style residence halls.

35. SOUTHWEST HALL

Next on WKU's Virtual Tour is Southwest Hall. Southwest Hall is one of two directional halls we have here on the Hill and it is a co-ed residence hall set up for sophomores and above. Southwest Hall is also a hotel-style residence hall which means you and your roommate are going to share a sink, commode, and a shower inside of your room.

Once inside of Southwest or Northeast Hall each individual student will each have their own mattress and bed like you can kind of see here, as well as a place to study like right here with a desk and a chair. They will also have a dresser and a bookcase, as well as a place to store all of their hanging clothes in a closet just like this. Also inside of Southwest and Northeast, because this is a hotel-style residence hall, you will also have a place that has a shower, a commode, and a sink so that is one of the benefits of living inside of one of the hotel-style residence halls

Also located inside of Southwest Hall is Housing and Residence Life. Housing and Residence Life is located on the bottom floor of Southwest Hall, just across the street from Minton Hall. Inside of Housing and Residence Life you're going to find people who can help you with your housing application, the housing deposit, and roommate requests, all the way through to whether to live on or off of campus.

36. DOWNING UNIVERSITY CENTER (DUC)

The next stop on our virtual tour is the Downing University Center; or known as DUC by everyone in Bowling Green and WKU. There are a lot of different things in this building because it is the main student center here on the Hill.

We'll start with the Fresh Food Company, which a lot of students like because with one swipe of your meal plan card, it's an all-you-can-eat buffet. Inside you have access to a deli sandwich line, a pizza line, an Italian line, and two hot bars, which will have home-cooked food that will kind of rotate depending on the period of day. You

also have a dessert bar, a cereal bar, and a personal favorite of many students here on the Hill, an ice cream maker...definitely want to take that up.

On the other side, you have Freshens and Java City. Freshens is a smoothie place so when it's hot outside, it's nice to be able to get something cold in you. Then on the far side, you have Java City so when you need to get some caffeine going to get you through a late night paper or just to wake up in the morning for that 8:00 in the morning class, that's a place you can go for that.

On the far side we have the DUC Food Court. Inside the food court are several options, including the Bene Pasta, for you to get a quick fix at lunch or a quick grab at dinner. If you're looking for more of a sit-down restaurant, back in the back we have Red Zone. It's more of our sports grille kind of feel. A lot of TVs are up and always have sporting events on. That way if you want to grab anything from a cheeseburger to chicken tenders, you can do that back in the back. Also in that area, we have Papa John's. So, if you just want to grab a quick slice of pizza, or bread sticks, or anything along those lines you can do that while watching your favorite team play.

On the third floor of DUC you will find several office for students to use, whether that be the Greek Affairs Office or the Community Activities Board, but the main portion of the third floor is dedicated to the WKU Store. Inside this store, you can get any kind of WKU apparel that you could possibly want whether it be from football gear to baseball gear all the way through to maybe getting a notebook, paper, or pencils for class. You can also get your official WKU Red Towel so you can wave it hard at any basketball or football game.

And, on the fourth floor of DUC you will find Redz, which is our gaming and recreation area. Up here you will see ping pong tables, foosball tables, a bowling alley, a giant TV with couches around it, a small video arcade, but one of my personal favorites is the billiards tables. You have plenty of billiards tables around so if you want to get one quick game in, maybe between a class; or during your lunch break, or if you just want to play a full tournament at night you can definitely do that. There are availabilities for that as well. This is just basically a huge area here on the fourth floor where students can get away from either studying or bookwork or even just getting out of the residence hall room and just have a good time and enjoy a little bit of college.

The final part of the Downing University Center can be found in the DUC Annex where The Student Success Center is housed. The Student Success Center has everything from the Academic Advising and Retention Center where you can get the classes that you need to get you on your path to graduation to tutoring and writing

centers where once you have those classes you can kind of work on the fine tuning to get A's in those classes, even to the computer labs behind me here, where you can do anything and everything from write a paper to print off a power point you need for class, all in peace and quiet.

Also in this building you will find the Career Services Center. They will work with you on everything from cover letters to resumes to interview skills. Also, Student Disability Services can be found inside of this building.

37. MINTON HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the residence hall that stands just behind me; it is Minton Hall. Minton Hall is set up as a co-ed residence hall for freshmen and above in our Honor's College. Minton Hall is also set up in community-style living, which means that you share a room with one other person and share the common area and bathrooms with everyone else on your floor.

And once inside of Minton Hall each student will have a bed with their own mattress and bunkable frame so if you want a little bit more room you can bunk the beds and get maybe a futon in here. That way, you can watch a movie or a big game with friends in your own residence hall room.

Also, each individual student will have their own dresser, bookcases you can see behind me and desk so if you want to get some work done, or store books, or put clothes away, you have a place to do that. As well, you have a closet for all of your hanging clothes as well as all your laundry supplies or food. All the residences here are air-conditioned so you don't have to worry about that. These are just some of the amenities of living inside of Minton Hall.

38. ACADEMIC COMPLEX

The Academic Complex is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. The Academic Complex is home to the College of Health and Human Services. Inside of this building, you'll have everything from the School of Nursing to Allied Health, to Public Health, to Consumer and Family Sciences and to Social Work. Also inside of this building you may have classes ranging from the food classes all the way through to Dental Hygiene.

The School of Journalism and Broadcasting uses the studio here in the Academic Complex to produce a weekly news broadcast and sports show. News Channel 12 and

The Extra Point are produced weekly by students and are seen here on WKU's campus and in the local community.

Now this set that I'm standing in front of right now was built in the Spring of 2011 and allows students in the Schools of Journalism and Broadcasting to hone their skills before they head out into the real world.

On the other side of the Academic Complex is the studio that houses our PBS station, WKYU. This studio is state-of-the-art in every sense of the word, using LED lighting to help light the set. It is more cost-efficient and is a green product. It also helps light those anchors a little better than those traditional lights.

Now, PBS puts out several products including: Outlook, which will help interview students and faculty, staff, politicians and newsmakers in the community, which is sent out to the Bowling Green area, weekly.

Also, here, the set that I'm standing on is for the WKU coaches' set. You'll have everyone from Ken McDonald to Willie Taggart to Mary Taylor Cowles sitting in that seat right there with Randy Lee, the voice of the Hilltoppers, sitting right here. That way Hilltopper fans throughout Hilltopper Nation will get the opportunity to get the inside scoop on what's going on in the sports that they care about.

39. GUTHRIE BELL TOWER AND SOUTH LAWN

The area I'm standing in now is known as South Lawn. This area can be anything you want it to be. Whether you want to pick up a game of football, or ultimate Frisbee, or just toss a baseball, or if you want to come out here with a good book and just sun bathe. It's completely up to you. It's open green space for anyone to use. Now, kind of behind South Lawn, you see the big bell tower. That is the Guthrie Bell Tower, named in honor of Robert Guthrie, whose statue sits on the other side. It's in honor of all those Kentuckians who have fought and lost their lives in a war.

40. TATE PAGE HALL

The next stop on WKU's virtual tour is Tate Page Hall. Tate Page Hall used to be home to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences but has since been converted into a general classroom and office building. Inside this building, along with other departments, you will find the NAVITAS Program as well as the dean's office for the University College.

Dr. Dennis George, University College Dean

University College is a relatively new college. We were formed to be an interdisciplinary unit, where the faculty from a variety of different disciplines come together and create and offer programs that sort of blended disciplines. And so we have a number of interdisciplinary units; but last year we actually expanded to include the divisions, now the departments of South Campus, as well as all the Regional Campuses in Owensboro, Elizabethtown, and Glasgow. So we are quite a diverse unit and we provide access to success for a broad spectrum of students.

On the Hill, we offer programs in, well, for example, we have The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility. We have the Center for Gender and Women Studies, where we offer a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. We actually also are affiliated with the Gender and Women's Studies is a new Master's Degree in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities. We have the Leadership Studies Center in University College. We have the ALIVE Center in University College and although we don't offer any academic programs through the ALIVE Center, the ALIVE Center serves as sort of an interface between the university and the community and provides a lot of opportunities for students to be engaged in the local community in terms of volunteerism as well as through service learning courses and opportunities. And just recently, we added the Center for Gerontology Studies, which is another Bachelor's degree that we offer.

It is very important that I mention this, we offer the 5th largest major at the university and it is the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. That is a very, very flexible degree that a student can literally tailor to his or her own desires. There are quite a number of students that avail themselves to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Also within University College we have University Experience, which a number of first year students take to sort of get plugged in to university life. So we do have a lot of opportunities actually here on the Hill for our students, but we also have a lot of opportunities in our region.

We have, as I said, campuses in Owensboro, a brand-new, beautiful campus in Owensboro, a campus in Glasgow, and then we have campuses that service Hardin County in Elizabethtown, Radcliff, and on-post at Fort Knox. Through those campuses we offer the opportunity to attend Western Kentucky University to students who otherwise would not have that opportunity, either because of distance or the fact that life happened and they can't be a traditional student. They can come and don't have to

commute to Bowling Green. They can take their courses and we offer a number of WKU majors at those campuses. So, the term that we like to use that the Provost actually coined on his tour of the regional campuses is “We provide access to success for those students who would not otherwise have that opportunity.”

We also have a number of excellent Associate Degree programs on our South Campus. University College has three departments on our South Campus and we offer opportunities for Associate’s Degrees in Paralegal Studies, Business Management, Office Systems Technology, and Information Systems. So, for students who may be a little intimidated by the Hill and they want to do an Associate’s Degree, they can do the whole thing at South Campus so that again is another opportunity for students to have access to success that might not otherwise have it.

Another component at University College is we have services that we offer to students that may not necessarily have academic programs associated with them and one of those is the Military Student Services. In fact, we just hired a brand new Military Student Services Director and she has already really hit the ground running interacting with active duty and veterans letting them know what sorts of benefits they have. She can actually connect service members with the other opportunities that they might have at Western Kentucky University.

Something else that we have that I’m very proud of, is we also serve as sort of the focal point for the adult students. We have two programs: WKU REAL, which is Reaching Each Adult Learner. We have adult learner counselors there at WKU REAL so if you have been out of school for a while, or maybe you’re older and you’ve never been to college, you can come and talk with one of our adult learner counselors. We refer to them as the concierge, they will help connect you to whatever service that you might need to connect to because for traditional-age students understand accessing things online, they understand coming to campus and going from office to office; but adult students, particularly older students, don’t have that sort of experience and they’re not comfortable with that. So, it’s like a one-stop shop where they can come and be connected to the various offices on campus that they may need. So that’s another service we perform that I’m very, very proud of.

I think probably, again, what we have to offer are experiences that are interdisciplinary, they are experiences that a student can take along with other majors that they may be taking at the university, for example, certificate programs, minors. So I think the University College has a lot to offer to virtually any student who wants to

explore maybe a little something else while they are undergoing their college experience.

41. MASS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY HALL

The next stop on the virtual tour is Mass Media Technology Hall. Inside of Mass Media Technology Hall you will find the School of Journalism and Broadcasting. The School of Journalism and Broadcasting has been ranked as one of the top schools year in and year out across the nation. Inside the actual building of Mass Media Technology Hall you will find everything from Einstein Brothers and Bagels which will give you an extensive selection of coffees, bagels, and muffins all the way through to a 24-hour computer lab where you can get up at 2 in the morning and do anything from edit a project or write a paper all the way through print out that paper that is needed for your class.

On the third floor of Mass Media Technology Hall, you will find the broadcasting editing labs. These labs are state-of-the-art and allow the broadcasting students to get ahead of the curve when they enter into the production world. Also on the third floor of Mass Media Technology Hall you will find The Revolution 91.7. This is a student-run radio station and it allows those students who want to learn how to deejay, the opportunity to learn how to do that here at the college level before they head into the real world.

42. ADAMS-WHITAKER STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CENTER

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the Adams-Whitaker Student Publications Center. Inside this building you will find those journalists who write for our Herald, which is our twice-weekly newspaper, and our Talisman, which is our yearbook, put out at the end of every year.

43. GARY A. RANSDALL HALL

Gary A. Ransdell Hall is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. Gary A. Ransdell Hall was completed for the Spring Semester of 2011 and was officially dedicated in April of 2011. This building home to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and is also WKU's first Lead-Certified building, which means all of the materials used for the completion of this building were environmentally friendly.

Dr. Sam Evans, Dean – College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

We're very pleased to be in Gary A. Ransdell Hall. It officially opened in January of 2011. Most of the programs within the college are housed in this particular setting. Our Military Science and Leadership is housed in Diddle Arena.

When you go through the building you'll find that it has been designed based upon the nature of use; the need of the different programs that are housed in the building. In the building we have a number of classrooms that are technology-rich.

On the third floor, one will find a number of labs that are associated with the Psychology Program. Those labs have been designed based upon the nature of the research that is occurring. We also have a clinic within the building that is designed for our students within Psychology, Counseling, and Literacy Programs to work with individuals who need assistance in the area relative to those particular programs.

We also house the Educational Resources Center, which is a component of the University Libraries within the building. And that particular space is specifically designed for those individuals who are preparing to be educators out in the P-12 setting and we also have folks from out in the community who access resources out in that particular setting.

The most recent I guess entity to be housed within the building is the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children which gives us an international presence in terms of not only the college but the Center for Gifted Education in the universities. So, in going through the building you will find a variety of settings that are specifically designed for how they'll be used relative to the students that are in the various programs.

If you really go back to 1906 when Western came into existence as the university as we know it today, we were a Normal School with a focus of preparing individuals to work in the P-12 setting. That has grown over the last 100 plus years. It is a university-wide effort in terms of the work we're doing, but we're really trying to focus on the needs of our P-12 partners, and they truly are partners. And, when one looks at what we're doing at WKU, it's absolutely essential that the graduates of the P-12 setting are prepared for the career that they are choosing and hopefully it's going to be here at WKU. But, those graduates are a product, in many cases, of teachers that have graduated from WKU, so it is absolutely essential that our products are very well

prepared for the needs of schools today so that they are what refer to today as college and career ready.

We do have a sizable number of programs. I'll start with Psychology because in some ways, although it's a very big program, the nature of the programs does not provide for that many degrees. We do have an undergraduate program in Psych that's very general. When you go to the graduate level, we have programs in clinical psychology. In the School of Psychology, there's an aspect of Social Psychology, Experimental Psych, Organization and Industrial Leadership in terms of Psychology. So, we have a wealth of programs there that prepare individuals, especially at the Graduate level to be very specific in the nature to the work they are preparing to do.

When you look at Educational Administration Leadership and Research, that particular unit is working with those individuals who are preparing to be either school or district leaders. And then there are a variety of certification programs that are housed within that unit that do relate to the P-12 setting.

Counseling is a Graduate only program just like Educational Administration Leadership and Research. We have a sizable number of folks in the School Counseling program. We also have Mental Health Counseling, Marriage and Family Counseling, and Student Affairs. Again, all at the Graduate level. Some are designed to prepare people for the schools. Other will be in other agencies or settings working with individuals.

The largest unit within the college is the School of Teacher Education and there are a variety of programs both at the undergraduate and graduate level that are specifically associated with preparing individuals to be educators in classroom settings for the most part at the P-12 environment. We'll have Elementary, Middle Grades Education, Secondary; we've got Literacy, which is a Graduate only program. We've got Library Media Education, which is graduate only program for school libraries as well as public libraries. We've got Exceptional Education, which prepares individuals in the area of learning disabilities. And, we also have the behavioral disorders within that particular group. We've got our Early Childhood special education program in that particular unit as well. Gifted Education, and Business and Marketing Education as well, so we really cover the breadth of the different disciplines and areas of instruction that occur in the P-12 setting.

The faculty that we have within the college is critical to the work that we do and the learning that occurs on the part of the students. Students will find that the faculty

members are engaging, engage them in a variety of experiences and activities that will help prepare them for their chosen career and many of these individuals are considered to be leaders in the field in which they are working here at WKU. We've got folks who have served at the national level in leadership positions, at the state level in leadership positions, and the nature of the research that they're doing relative to the discipline is truly making a difference in what they're doing as well as what we're able to provide for the students.

We, I think, as a college as a part of WKU, do an outstanding job of preparing individuals for their chosen career. One of the focuses of our work is the student and the learning that is occurring in our classroom. Literally trying to move our work from teaching to learning on the part of the student. And I think that individuals will find that the experiences that they will gain at WKU within this college prepare them extremely well for the career that they are choosing to go into.

44. HEALTH SERVICES

If you start feeling sick here on the Hill, the next spot on WKU's Virtual Tour is definitely a place you're going to want to visit, and it's the WKU Health Services Building. Built in 2008, this 20,000 square foot building houses three, board-certified physicians and two nurse practitioners. This facility can offer everything that you have at your doctor's office back home.

Terri Cunningham, Director of Marketing – Health Services

Basically WKU Health Service is full service, primary care clinic so we're just like any other doctor's office that you would go to in your hometown. As far as the services, we have full lab, digital x-ray, immunizations that include hepatitis, meningitis, TB, and HPV. Just about any vaccine you can get at home, you can get here. And, it you're studying abroad and need immunizations and vaccines, we have all of those except for yellow fever vaccine, which we would refer you to Dr. Shatterman, who is local.

If you have common colds, allergies or anything like that, you could come in and see one of our providers. So, again, we're just like any other doctor's office or primary care clinic.

Another service that a lot of students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of is if they are getting allergy shots at home, you're more than welcome to have your allergy

serum sent to us and we can administer it to you for a fee. So, that will depend on what your co-pay is with your insurance carrier. But, that's a great feature to have when you can come right into Health Services, have your allergy shot given to you, and then go on about your day; whether it's going to class, or going to work out, or what not. So it's really convenient to just stop in and get your shot.

We also have women's services so not only your annual OBGYN visits, but we also have colposcopy services so if you do have an abnormal pap, and you need us to do some further testing, we do have the services available to do biopsies and things like that in house.

Again, if you need lab work, we can work with your physician at home or you can have one of our providers be your primary care physician. And again, you can come here and get blood work, whether it's urinalysis, you have strep, mono, we can monitor your white and red blood cell counts.

In regards to prescriptions, we do not have a pharmacy on site. We do have a dispensary so your common antibiotics and creams, and things like that are available for a small fee. As far as prescriptions, we can e-cribe any prescription to a local pharmacy of your choice and we're here for everybody. Everybody that's involved with the WKU campus we're here for his or her health care needs.

45. PRESTON HEALTH AND ACTIVITIES CENTER

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the Preston Health and Activities Center. This building is the workout area for everyone here at WKU. Admission for an undergraduate student is already a part of their tuition. So, you don't have to worry about paying anything extra when you go inside. For anyone else that may want to use the facilities inside the Preston Center, all you have to do is pay a small membership fee and then you can go and get a workout in.

And once inside the Preston Health and Activities Center, the student can use pretty much anything they see. There are four wooden basketball courts that also double as volleyball courts with the last two blue courts on the far side tripling as tennis courts. So you can pretty much play any type of indoor sport you want here, at the Preston Center.

Also down on the first floor, you'll find the racquetball courts. We have six of those so if you're more of a racquetball ace, you can get your games in here.

What I'm standing on right now is a walking and running track. So, if you don't like to use the treadmill or bike or anything like that to get your cardio done, you can come up here and get your laps in and start to get in shape.

Another part of the Preston Center is the Bill Powell Natatorium. This is the only facility on campus that is shared by the WKU athletes and the general population. You won't see the football team in the weight room and you won't see the basketball team out on the courts. They have their own facilities for that. But, like I said, this is the only facility that is shared but there are times set aside just for the athletes to swim, just for the PE course, and then just for a free swim. So if you do want to come here, you can definitely get your swimming in. It is a third of the size of an Olympic pool and it has been recently renovated.

The Intramural and Club Sport offices can be found on the second floor of the Preston Center. Inside of these offices you can do everything from sign up for any of the intramural sports whether that be flag football, softball, basketball or volleyball. Or, if you want to be a little more dedicated, you can sign up for a club sport. So if you like rugby or Lacrosse, Soccer or anything all the way through to Dodgeball, you can do that there and compete against other teams from across the nation.

The area I'm standing in right now though, is a cardio center. In this cardio center, there are so many classes that go on here so, if you're interested in cardio classes, you're going to spend a lot of time in this room. Everything from hip-hop cardio to awesome abs, Zumba to yoga will happen just inside this room. So, if you want to have a good cardio workout but don't want to have to do it on a treadmill or a track, this is the place you're going to want to be.

The last stop here in the Preston Health and Activities Center is the Preston Fitness Center. This area was built in December of 2009 and nearly tripled the size of our old weight room and cardio room. The university put over \$12 million into this area and everything in this room is brand new as of 2009...that includes the weights, the benches, and the cardio machines. And the cardio machines are state-of-the-art. Each individual machine has cable run to it. So you can be watching ESPN while the person next to you is watching ABC or whatever else they would like to watch. These machines also have the iPod hookup so you can listen to your favorite music or watch any movies

that you might have on your iPod. Also, the iPods can be hooked up for the Nike Fit so you can track your workouts as you go.

The weight room, again, is state-of-the-art. Everything over there is brand new. Free weights, standard weights, anything you could want to get a workout in, you will find there in the weight room. This is definitely a favorite spot for a lot of Hilltoppers here on the Hill.

46. BEMIS LAWRENCE HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the residence hall that stands just behind me, and it's Bemis Lawrence Hall. This residence hall is set up for freshmen and above and is an all-female residence hall. It's also set up in community-style living, which means you'll share the room with one other person and then you'll share the bathroom and common area with everyone else on your floor.

Once inside of Barnes Campbell and Bemis Lawrence Hall each student will each have their own individual mattress with a bed frame that can be bunked so if you want a little more room, you can at least bunk the beds and then you might actually have access to something like this, a couch. To where you can kick back and watch a movie or a big game with friends, just in your room.

Each individual student will also have access to a dresser, a desk, and a bookcase so you at least have a place to store some books or clothes or get some work done. You also have something like this, which is a nice big closet with room for hanging space as well as a shelf to store maybe a boxes, luggage all the way through to laundry, equipment, or maybe even some food. So it just can be whatever you want it to be here inside of Barnes Campbell and Bemis Lawrence Hall.

47. BARNES CAMPBELL HALL

Barnes Campbell is the next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour. This residence hall is an all-male residence hall open for freshmen and above. This is also a residence hall that's set up in community-style living, which means you'll share your room with one other person and you'll share the common area and bathroom with everyone else on your floor.

Once inside of Barnes Campbell and Bemis Lawrence Hall each student will have their own individual mattress, with a bed frame that can be bunked so if you want a little bit more room, you can at least bunk the beds and then you might actually have access to something like this, a couch. To where you can kick back and watch a movie or a big game with friends, just in your room.

Each individual student will also have access to a dresser, a desk, and a bookcase so you at least have a place to store some books or clothes or get some work done. You also have something like this, which is a nice big closet with room for hanging space as well as a shelf to store maybe a boxes, luggage all the way through to laundry, equipment, or maybe even some food. So it just can be whatever you want it to be here inside of Barnes Campbell and Bemis Lawrence Hall.

48. ZACHARIAS HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the residence hall that stands behind me and that's Zacharias Hall. This is set up for sophomores and above and is a co-ed residence hall. This is also set up in suite-style living, which means two bedrooms of the same gender will share one bathroom that is connected between them.

And once inside either Zacharias or Meredith Hall, each student will have their own individual bed, so they can have their mattress here. These beds are also bunkable so if they did want to stack them to give them a little more room, they can do that as well. Also inside of this residence hall, you'll have your own desk as well as a bookcase and a dresser so you'll have a place to study as well as store some of your things, as well as an individual closet so you can store all of your hanging clothes.

Zacharias and Meredith are both suite-style living, which means that two bedrooms of the same gender will share one bathroom. So, it's four people sharing one bathroom. This is just one of the amenities of living in either Meredith or Zacharias Hall.

49. JONES JAGGER HALL

No Video

50. MEREDITH HALL

Next on WKU's Virtual Tour is Meredith Hall. Meredith Hall is set up as an all-female residence hall for sophomores and above. Meredith Hall is also a suite-style residence hall, which means two bedrooms of the same gender will share one bathroom. Meredith Hall is also known as Sorority Hall. As several sororities not only house their girls in this building they also have their chapter meeting rooms just inside the front doors.

And once inside either Zacharias or Meredith Hall each individual student will have their own bed and they can have their mattress here. These beds are also bunkable so if they did want to stack them to give them a little more room, they can do that as well. Also inside of this residence hall, you'll have your own desk as well as a bookcase and a dresser so you'll have a place to study as well as store some of your things, as well as an individual closet so you can store all of your hanging clothes.

Zacharias and Meredith are both suite-style living, which means that two bedrooms of the same gender will share one bathroom. So, it's four people sharing one bathroom. These are just some of the amenities of living in either Meredith or Zacharias Hall.

51. PEARCE FORD TOWER

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the residence hall that stands just behind me, and that's Pearce Ford Tower. This is the tallest residence hall in the state of Kentucky standing at 27 stories high. This is a co-ed residence hall for freshmen and above. This residence hall is also set up in community-style living, which means you're going to share the common area and bathroom with everyone on your floor and then you'll share your room with one other person.

Well, the first 25 floors of PFT are strictly for residence living, the very top floor is a student "hang out" area. Here, as you can see behind me, we've got ping-pong tables, foosball tables, as well as a small, little lounge here where you can watch any sporting event, whether it is the big football game or any other WKU sporting event. As well as up here you'll find pool tables as well as a couple of other big screens with another lounge. So, there's plenty of room for students to be able to come up here and get away from all their problems and have a little bit of fun.

52. HUGH POLAND HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is here at Hugh Poland Hall. Hugh Poland Hall is set up for freshmen and above and is an all-female residence hall. It's also set up in community-style living, which means you'll share the room with one other person and you'll share the bathroom and common area with everyone else on your floor.

53. TOWER FOOD COURT

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the Tower Food Court. The Tower Food Court is located just next to the Pearce Ford Tower and offers several different dining options here on the south part of Main Campus. Inside the actual food court, you'll find a Popeye's Chicken, a Burger Studio, and an Edy's Ice Cream. Also located in the Tower Food Court is a convenience store. So, if you need to pick up soft drinks, chips, or deodorant or anything along those lines, you can do that and not necessarily have to run off campus.

54. DOUGLAS KEENE HALL

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the building behind me, which is Douglas Keene Hall. This is set up for freshmen and above and is an all-male residence hall. This residence hall is also community-style living which means you'll share the room with one other person and then you'll share the bathroom and common area with everyone else on your floor.

Red Towel 1 – SOFTBALL FIELD

The next stop on the WKU Virtual Tour is the WKU Softball Complex. This is where the Lady Topper Softball team has all of their home games. This field, itself, has seen several renovations including the renovations of the dugouts, as well as a press box and a concession stand.

Red Towel 2 – SOCCER FIELD

The next stop on the WKU virtual tour is the WKU Soccer Field and its complex. This is where our Women's team plays all of their home games.

Red Towel 3 – NICK DENES FIELD

The next stop here on WKU's virtual tour is Nick Denes Field, or, affectionately known by those on the WKU campus as the Nick. This stadium provides a great game day environment for the WKU baseball team. With over 1500 seats in the stadium itself, this stadium can get loud, and it does on those baseball game days. In fact, our baseball team has responded very well here, averaging over 35 wins over the last few years and seeing players drafted as high as the first round in 2011. This stadium itself is state-of-the-art in a lot of ways; including a newly-renovated dugout, as well as a press box for all those medias to go up there and report the WKU baseball games, as well as a concession stand for all those fans that come here to the games to be able to grab a quick hotdog or a drink and enjoy the Topper Baseball team go on for another W.

Another part of the WKU Baseball's Complex is the Paul C. Orberson Clubhouse. This clubhouse was built in 2010 and is a state-of-the-art facility for both the coaches and players to use. Inside the doors you will find all the coaches' offices as well as a player locker room. Inside this locker room, each of the 35 baseball players on WKU's team have their own locker with their own nameplate and also a place to store their personal gear, as well as all of their jerseys and equipment for the baseball team. Also, just next to the players' locker room you will find a players' lounge. This lounge has several couches as well as big-screen TV, so players can kick back and watch all of their games or get ready for their next opponent.

Next to the Paul C. Orberson Clubhouse, you'll find the indoor batting cages. Both the baseball team and softball team can use this area. It provides batting cages for those players to be able to come in and get some quick swings in whether it is before a game or during a rainout.

Red Towel 4 – HOUCHENS INDUSTRIES L.T. SMITH STADIUM

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is Houchens Industries LT Smith Stadium. This stadium was originally built in the 1960's and was a one-sided stadium, however, in 2008, the university built an addition onto this building, a 45 million dollar addition at that, to give another side and the berm that you actually see behind me with the scoreboard. However, that's not all that was added to this as far as the seating was concerned going up to 22,000. The actual coaches' offices, the locker room, the training room and the weight room were all moved to the west side of the stadium and allows for the sport management program as well as some of the academic support for the athletes moving into the east side of the stadium. This now gives a place for the WKU football players to play for the years to come.

Another addition to the Houchens Industry's LT Smith Stadium was a brand new football player locker room. There are 120 wood lockers here in this locker room for the football team to use. Each player does have their own locker and as you can kind of see behind me, each player has a wood locker that will have their nameplate, a place to store personal gear as well pads, helmets, and shoes...just kind of whatever they need to have stored, they can at least have it stored here.

Just next to this locker room you will find a state-of-the-art players' lounge. Inside this players' lounge you will see a everything from ping pong table and a pool table...all the way through to TVs so football players can watch the video whether it be from an opponent or from practice to try to better themselves. As well as they have their own area to kick back and watch a movie or play any of their favorite games on X Box.

Another thing that came with the additions and renovations here to Houchens Industry's LT Smith Stadium was a brand new state-of-the-art weight room. As you can see behind me there are a ton of benches for athletes to use here on the Hill. But those aren't the only things...you'll also have free weights, standard weights, you'll also have some cardio machines here. So, the athletes here on the Hill are taken very good care of. And in fact, the football team, even though it's in the stadium, is not the only ones to use this. There are athletes from all the sports that will come in and to this area and get their workouts in here.

As a part of the renovations and additions to Houchens Industry's LT Smith Stadium, a brand new, state-of-the-art training facility was provided for the WKU athletes. As you can see behind me, there are plenty of tables here to get anything from ankles taped all the way to find out what injuries any of the athletes here on the Hill might have.

Another addition to Houchens Industry's LT Smith Stadium was a club level that would rival some of the biggest schools in the nation. We call this area the Topper Club and it will be found on the top floor of the west side of the stadium. This club level, well, it has a lot of different functions. You'll see nice dinners up here; you'll even see some press conferences such as the Matt Meyers press conference when he was added as the WKU baseball coach. But on game days here on the Hill for the WKU football team, you'll see a lot of fans up here enjoying the air conditioning but also enjoying several other amenities like two bars, TVs all around so they can stay caught up on all of their action that going on around the nation while also watching their team play on the field just below them.

56. PARKING STRUCTURE 2

No Video

Red Towel 5 – E.A. DIDDLE ARENA

The next stop on the WKU Virtual Tour is the EA Diddle Arena. Diddle Arena got its name for the man who stands just behind me, that'd be Coach Edgar Allen Diddle. Upon his retirement in 1964, he was the all-time winningest basketball coach in NCAA history with 759 wins, all as a WKU Hilltopper. That's not the only sport he coached though, he also coached women's basketball, baseball and football here on the Hill for some portion of time so he was definitely a key figure here in WKU athletics. Found inside of Diddle Arena, you will find men's basketball team, the women's basketball team, the volleyball team, and ROTC program.

Diddle Arena is very peaceful and quiet right now, but you won't find this on any WKU game day. In fact, on those game days, whether it is men's basketball, women's basketball, or volleyball, the stadium that you see behind me will be filled, and it will be loud. The WKU faithful and the students come out with their red towels ready to go, screaming their hearts out, trying lead their Toppers to victory. Typically, the home team responds well. In fact, the men's basketball, the women's basketball, and the volleyball teams have all had very successful records here at home in the recent past.

While the men's and women's basketball teams play all of their games on the main floor of Diddle Arena, the majority of the practices are held inside one of the two auxiliary gyms, found just to the back of the main floor. The men's and the women's basketball teams each have their own gym, so they can practice whenever they would like. And, those gyms have all the banners for those teams whether it is from the NCAA tournament appearances or the Sweet 16 and the Final Fours.

The men's basketball locker room just received a renovation here inside of Diddle Arena that would make a lot of NBA players very jealous. Inside of this locker room, each individual player has their own wood-cased locker with their nameplate above it and a place to store not only their basketball shoes and jerseys, but also some of their personal equipment. Just next to this player's locker room, you will find a players' lounge with four giant TV screens so the players can do everything from watch their favorite team play on ESPN all the way through to play X Box. Just next to that they also have a computer station so they can watch all of the game footage from they game they just completed or catch up on the opponent that they are about ready to play so they are ready to bring home another W for the Tops.

The women that play for the WKU Lady Tops team have their own locker room as well. Each player has their own wood-encased locker with their nameplate and picture on it and just next to this locker room where you will find the players' lounge for the Lady Tops with leather seats and a giant TV. The ladies can just kick back and watch ESPN or get ready for their next game opponent and study some film.

Also here in Diddle Arena you will find the volleyball locker rooms, each volleyball player has their own individual locker with their nameplate above it and also places to store all of their personal equipment as well as the team equipment. Also found inside the volleyball locker room you will find the volleyball players' lounge. This allows the volleyball players a chance to kick back from practice of the game environment and just hang out as a team.

The second floor of Diddle Arena houses the Edgar B. Stansberry Concourse and the Hilltopper Halls of History. The Hilltopper Halls of History is a very unique place here on the Hill, as these hallways have been converted to a walk-through museum to celebrate over 100 years of athletic excellence here on the Hill. You will find about anybody and everybody that has made any kind of news here at WKU athletics. Just behind me you start with the first team, the 1910 baseball team and go all the way through to the current teams. Like I said, anybody that's made news on the athletic side of WKU history will be found here, whether it be Coach Diddle or Coach Feix leading their teams to victories or key players such as Courtney Lee, Jim McDaniels, Crystal Kelly, Bobby Rainey and Willie Taggart leading their respective teams to victories and championships.

Red Towel 6 – Track and Field Complex

No Video

57. PARKING STRUCTURE #1

WKU Police Officer Mandi Johnson

Well first of all, WKU's police department is a 24/7 full-service police department. We have our own investigations patrol, crime prevention, records, and communications departments. Any time an event happens on campus, we do work the case from beginning to end. We offer free programming. In our patrol units, we have foot, bike, and vehicle patrols so you'll see officers out, that are, you know, approachable so you'll see them out you can speak to them and introduce yourself and what not. We are the only department on campus that does not close. We are here

365 days a year. When the students go home on break, we're still here patrolling and through the summer and winter breaks.

On campus we have over 85 e-phones, which are the brown towers with the blue lights. Anytime a student is in trouble or visiting campus, they can activate the e-phones by activating the red button. They'll come in direct contact with our communications center to speak over the speaker box.

We also have over 85 cameras on campus...actually I think it's more closer to 100 now, to where anytime one of those phones are activated there's a camera that goes directly to that area and you can be monitored from the dispatch center while you're waiting on an officer to get to that call.

Also, we offer an escort service during the hours of darkness if the student wants to walk from anywhere on campus to anywhere on campus we can make sure they get there safely by calling the police department.

Overall, we have a very safe campus. Our main issue is what we call "crimes of opportunity." And that's students studying somewhere in a public place, getting up to take a break, or use the restroom, or something of that nature and leaving their items unattended and come back and find them missing. If you keep an eye on your stuff, keep it secure; then you should be fine. There are also instances where students don't lock their vehicle or room doors. There are people who go around checking doorknobs. So as long as you keep your doors locked and keep an eye on your items, you should be fine.

58. GILBERT HALL

Gilbert Hall is the next stop here on WKU's virtual tour. Gilbert Hall is in the Valley and is an all-female residence hall set up for freshmen and above. Gilbert Hall is also a community-style residence hall, which means you're going to share your room with one other person and then you're going to share the common area and the bathroom with everyone else on your floor. Once inside of Gilbert Hall each individual student will have his or her own bed with a mattress. They can be bunked if you want a little more room, maybe to put a futon or something like that in. Each individual student will also have a dresser, a bookcase, and a desk to do some studying at, as all a chair for that desk. And they also have some things like what you see behind me; including this closet where you have a place store not only laundry stuff as well as food but you also have a place to store your hanging clothes. Each one of the individual

rooms is air-conditioned and you can control your air conditioning so, you can have it as cold or as hot as you and your roommate would like.

59. McCORMACK HALL

McCormack Hall is the residence hall that you'll see just behind me and is also our next stop on WKU's virtual tour. McCormack Hall is in the Valley and is set up as an all-male residence hall for freshmen and above. McCormack Hall is also set up as a community-style residence hall, which means you'll share your room with one other person and then you'll share the bathroom and common area with everyone else on your floor.

60. RODES HARLIN HALL

Rodes Harlin Hall is the next stop here on WKU's virtual tour. Rodes Harlin Hall is in the Valley and is an all-female residence hall set up for freshmen and above. Rodes Harlin Hall is also set up in community-style living; which means you're going to share your room with one other person and then you're going to share the bathroom and common area with everyone else on your floor.

61. SUZANNE VITALE CLINCIAL EDUCATION CENTER

No Video

62. AUGENSTEIN ALUMNI CENTER

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is, well it hasn't been built just yet, but it will sit just behind me and it will be the Augenstein Alumni Center. This is where the Craig Alumni Center will move to once this building is completed. With a one million dollar donation, Dale Augenstein got the project started and this building will be the crown jewel of this brand new square block for WKU.

The Alumni Center, like I said, being the crown jewel will have several different things inside of it including board rooms, the alumni offices, as well as a library, that will house any author or book that is written on a WKU alum. But also in this square block, you'll see a parking structure, which the City of Bowling Green and WKU will use. Also found in this location will be a new place for our WKU Police Department, as well as some shops, some restaurants, and some housing for non-traditional students.

63. PRESIDENT'S HOME

No Video

64. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

No Video

65. ALIVE CENTER

No Video

66. FACET HOUSE

No Video

67. FLORAL DESIGN

No Video

68. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DOCTORAL PROGRAM

No Video

69. SOUTH CAMPUS ACADEMIC WING AND CAROL KNICELY CONFERENCE CENTER

The next stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is South Campus. I'm currently standing inside of the Carol Knicely Conference Center, which sits on WKU's South Campus. Now the Carol Knicely Conference Center just received a complete renovation and now houses a giant ballroom and several conference rooms where members of WKU's staff and businesses from the community can come and meet together. Also here is the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach.

Another portion of South Campus is the Commonwealth School. Here at the Commonwealth School you'll have everything from students searching for two-year degrees to students who are taking developmental courses to get them ready for classes here on Main Campus. Inside the Commonwealth School you'll have classrooms but you'll also have a food court and a bookstore so those students that do have classes out here don't have to run back to Campus to get something to eat. They can eat here; also pick up some WKU gear. And the shuttles run here from Main Campus to the South Campus so if students do need to take classes out here, they don't need their cars. They can just grab the shuttle and go from Main Campus to South Campus.

The final part of WKU's South Campus can be found just behind me in the Parking and Transportation Services. Parking and Transportation Services is where you can get any of your parking passes. Anything from a Commuter pass all the way through

to a Housing pass; as well as pay any fines or parking tickets that you might get while you're here on WKU's campus.

70. INSTITUTE FOR COMBUSTION SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

No Video

71. AGRICULTURE FARM

The next stop on the WKU Virtual Tour is the Ag Farm. WKU owns over 750 acres of land just south of Main Campus for several departments to use. And, you'll see a lot of different things out here. You'll see the typical livestock like horses and cattle, but you'll also see students tending crops, learning crop cycles and things of that nature.

You'll also see a vineyard out here, as well as a two-hole golf course for those students that are interested in turf management. They come out here and learn how to tend greens, fairways, roughs, and things along that line before they head into the workforce.

Also at the Ag Farm you will find an arena. In this arena you can see anything from horse shows all the way through to rodeos.

72. BOWLING GREEN

The final stop on WKU's Virtual Tour is the only part that you will not find on any WKU campus; that is the City of Bowling Green. There's a lot to do on Main Campus and on South Campus and the extended campuses, but there's even more to do when you get into the community that WKU calls home.

Now the City of Bowling Green is the third largest city in the state of Kentucky and provides a lot of different entertainment options for students and faculty and staff and families just to come and have a good time. I'm currently standing in one of those areas. This is Historic Square. In this Historic Square you can do anything from catch up or read a good book all the way through to possibly bring a date out here.

Also in the City of Bowling Green, you'll find movie theaters and shops and things along those lines as well as the low-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, the Bowling Green Hot Rods. So there are plenty of things to do here in the City of Bowling Green.

To conclude this virtual tour, I just want to say thank you. Whether you only watched one or two clips or you watched all of the clips consecutively, I hope you've learned a little bit about our university. Whether it is that you're about ready to make a decision on which university you're about to attend or if you're going to attend WKU

and just want a little information before you got here on the Hill, I hope that this has helped you.

The one thing that you can't see through your computer screen, though, is the passion, the pride, and the spirit of the people at WKU that they have for the University. You have to come to Main Campus to see that. You need to schedule that campus visit with the Office of Admissions. Come and catch a basketball game or a football game and see the spirit that is alive and well within each of those stadiums. But, most importantly, just come to Bowling Green. See the community that's here and see the spirit that is truly alive on WKU's campus. I hope that this has helped you in some way make your decision; or get you better informed. Thank you all very much for watching and GO BIG RED.