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Recommended Citation

WKU Student Affairs, "UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 92 [93], No. 2 [28]" (2018). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 9633.

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College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 02

Herald awarded grant to fund ongoing lawsuit

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

The College Heights Herald has received a \$10,000 grant to help cover ongoing legal expenses in WKU's lawsuit against the newspaper. The Kentucky Press Association Legal Defense Fund agreed to allocate

\$10,000 immediately to help cover the Herald's legal expenses. The defense fund also agreed to support the Herald with the lawsuit in the future, should additional funds be needed, according to Tom Caudill, the chairman of the KPA Legal Defense Fund. For disclosure purposes, Caudill also serves as a member on the Student Publications Advisory Board. Candill is also a former Herald editor.

Caudill said the Herald was the only college newspaper to apply for funding and the committee voted unanimously to grant the money. "The committee felt strongly about this case and the fundamental values represented by the Herald," Caudill said. When contacted for comment, Bob Skipper, director of media relations, said the university cannot comment on

pending litigation. In January 2017, Attorney General Andy Beshear ruled WKU violated the Kentucky Open Records Act by denying requests from the College Heights Herald and the Kentucky Kernel, the student newspaper at the University of Kentucky. The information requested was "all

SEE GRANT • PAGE A3



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Stuart Foster, a geography professor at WKU, stands next to a solar panel, which could soon be out of commission if Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget cuts are approved. "I think there has been tons of public outcry that the Mesonet should not be cut," Foster said. "I think we'll get some of the funding back because originally they were going to cut all of the funding. All 750,000."

Enrollment in language classes drops this semester

BY EMILY DELETTER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

This marks the first semester since a resolution was passed changing the foreign language requirement at WKU. This resolution, passed in December allowed students to count two years of study of a foreign language in high school as their modern language requirement.

Effective through June 2018, this resolution hopes to clear the backlog of around 7,000 students who have not fulfilled their modern language requirement at WKU.

The 2018 spring semester has seen changes to the numbers in enrollment in 101 and 102 courses in modern languages. WKU offers elementary courses in Spanish, Arabic, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Latin and Greek.

Department Head of Foreign Languages and German professor Laura McGee said the biggest changes in enrollments came from French, German and Spanish—languages she said most students took in high school.

McGee estimated that the drop in introductory Spanish courses was around 60 percent from last year.

"Quite a few [professors] said they had a really good group of students with those students who chose to stay," McGee said. "They genuinely want to learn the language and that's contributing to a more energetic learning environment."

Most courses are smaller, which she said is better for learning, as there is more "professor-to-student interaction."

McGee said the department has been asked to come up with a requirement that can accommodate their staffing.

"If we continue our language re-

SEE LANGUAGE • PAGE A2

CLIMATE CHASERS

Proposed plan to cut Mesonet funding

BY EMILY DELETTER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

The Kentucky Mesonet at WKU is just one of the programs under threat if Gov. Matt Bevin's recently proposed two-year state budget passes. His proposal could result in a cut to higher education spending by 6.25 percent, as well as the loss of funding to over 70 programs statewide.

Such a cut in funding to the Mesonet would result in a loss of over \$750,000 a year, which amounts to three-fourths of their budget.

The Mesonet, a statewide automated weather and climate monitoring infrastructure, began in 2006 with the installment of a federal earmark from the National Weather Service. They were largely funded through one-time funds at WKU, with some funding through the applied research and technology program.

All offices for the Mesonet are located on WKU's campus in the Environmental Sciences and Technology Building. They still receive a small amount of funding from WKU to employ student workers, but their core operational funding comes from the state.

They began to receive state funding as a result of the last biennial budget, which the Director of Kentucky Mesonet Stuart Foster said was the "big

SEE MESONET • PAGE A2

Student course evaluations have minor impact

BY OLIVIA EILER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

Student Input to Teaching Effectiveness evaluations, the surveys where students are asked to evaluate their professors, have demonstrated a decline in quality and impact within the past several years.

WKU switched from printed to online evaluations in fall 2012. This transition had a negative impact on student response rate, Robert Hale, English department head, said.

"We used to do it at the end of the semester," Hale said. "Everybody would take 30 minutes out of their class at the end, and everybody would fill them out at the same time. So you would get much more diverse, and probably more accurate, responses. It's hard to find patterns when there's only six people filling it out in a class of 27."

Hale also believes the time students fill out SITE evaluations plays an important role.

"There's a window of about four weeks where you can fill these evaluations out," Hale said. "It is such an

emotional kind of response sometimes to these things. For example, in my class, a lot of times, my students aren't real happy with me in the middle of the semester because I've been pushing them. But, then by the end, because of all that pushing, their work has gotten better and they can see it."

In terms of accuracy, Hale believes some evaluation measures are more reliable than others.

"It measures a few things pretty well," Hale said. "It's good if somebody is not returning work in a reasonable amount time or if people are

cancelling class too much. Those kind of things are pretty helpful."

Hale said he believes SITE evaluations fail to measure teaching quality. He said this issue stems from the lower response rate.

"It's kind of a bifurcated response," Hale said. "Usually the students that fill them out either had a great experience with the professor or a not so great experience with the professor. You can learn some things from student reactions, but usually students

SEE EVALUATIONS • PAGE A2

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EVALUATIONS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

don't offer suggestions. It's just sort of 'they like you or they don't.'"

Mathematics Department Head Bruce Kessler said he thinks SITE evaluations are an accurate measure of student perception.

"Responses can lead us to a conversation, which is a good thing," he said.

Kessler said he reviews all department evaluations in the fall, when the university conducts annual faculty reviews. He gives greater consideration to short answer responses than numerical scale questions.

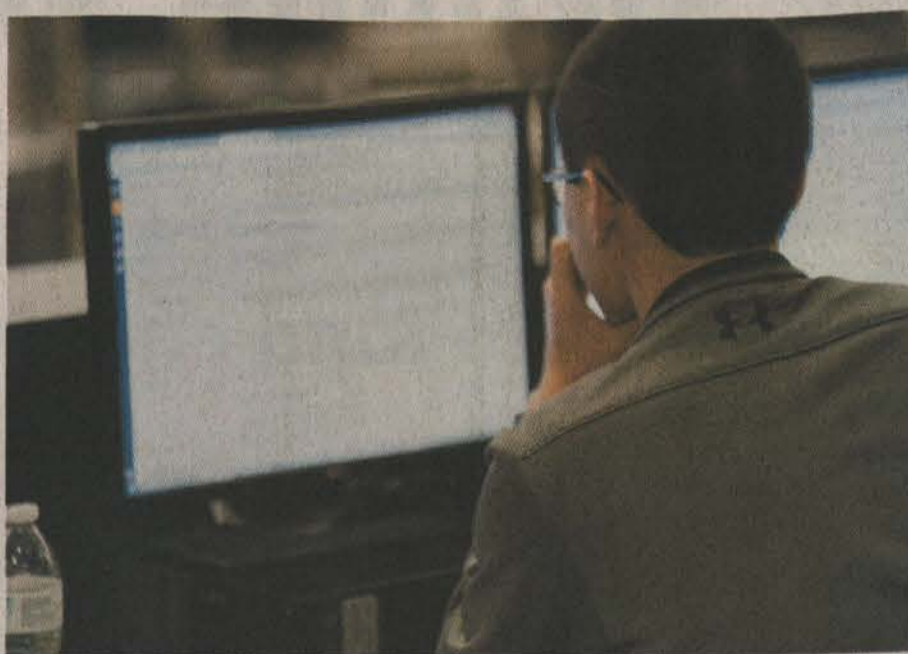
"I don't ignore the numbers, but I learn so much more from the comments," Kessler said.

SITE evaluations are just one factor in the math department faculty evaluations. Kessler said he observes a class for each faculty member in the spring semester.

"I pay just as much attention to the students as I do to the faculty member," Kessler said. "Faculty can prepare their best lesson when they know I'm coming, but if students are asking questions and engaged, that's something they learn to do over time."

The English department also uses multiple measures of success, including self-assessments, grade distributions and a mentoring program.

"Until faculty are tenured, they have a colleague that is their primary men-



HUNTER HALLORAN • HERALD

SITE evaluations, or Student Input to Teaching Effectiveness evaluations, have been perceived as an effective way of reflecting on a professor's performance and overall opinion of the class. However, recent reports have shown that these are only part of the whole picture.

tor who they visit with regularly," Hale said. "We rotate in what we call secondary mentors, who do classroom observations and write up reviews. We've been doing that for about four years."

Hale said the mentoring program is more effective in improving teaching outcomes than SITE evaluations.

"That's been more helpful if the goal of these things is to help somebody get better and not just to rate somebody," Hale said. "That's been a more effective process."

Ogden College Dean Cheryl Stevens said she uses SITE evaluations to identify and address specific teaching weaknesses.

"I meet regularly with department heads and chairs, and at these meetings they often share specific faculty issues," Stevens said. "When we learn about faculty that need mentoring or support, we either help them at the departmental level or recommend that

they use the services in the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning to address their specific challenges."

Stevens also reviews SITE evaluations when faculty are evaluated for tenure or promotion.

"I ask for a summary over time of student evaluations," Stevens said. "That way, I can see the improvement over time for the evaluations as they become more experienced teachers. I ask the faculty being evaluated to reflect on their evaluations and comment on the methods they have used to improve their teaching."

Kessler said, within his department, rewards for favorable evaluations are small.

"I'll give them a handshake," Kessler said. "There haven't been merit pay raises in a long time, and there haven't been substantial pay raises in a while."

Faculty with positive SITE evaluations may also be nominated for teaching awards.

Although Kessler reviews SITE evaluations each year, he encourages students to give him input earlier in the semester.

"If there is an issue, come talk to me about it and let me know," Kessler said. "Clue me in early. I can do more than that if you come to me at the end of the semester."

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MESONET

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

push" they needed.

"State funding helped unlock the value of the network," Foster said. "It allowed us to be much more aggressive in further developing services for people in communities all across the commonwealth."

There are currently 69 automated weather stations in 67 counties spread across Kentucky. These weather stations collect detailed weather observations every five minutes throughout the day. Once the data is retrieved and processed, it goes to the National Weather Service office in Kentucky and is put on the Mesonet website.

They also provide information used in agriculture, transportation, classrooms, the energy sector, newspapers and media. It additionally complements the meteorology program at WKU.

"[Mesonet] provides a source of high quality information and data that can help our farmers make better decisions and thus be more competitive within their industry," Foster said.

It is connected to a larger network of climate centers located all across the country and is part of the National Association of State Climatologists.

John Gordon, director of the National Weather Service in Louisville, said a cut in funding to the Mesonet would be "very detrimental."

"We use the data every day, especially when there is hazardous weather such as snowstorms and tornadoes," Gordon said. "Often the Mesonet data is the reason we issue or don't issue a warning."

Prior to using the Mesonet data, the National Weather Service had under 20 observations to gather data. Observations are pieces of automated equipment mainly found at airports that provide temperature, pressure and wind speed measurements.

Gordon said data from the Mesonet supplements these observations. It also allows for "very precise, high-quality observations."

The Mesonet is also looking to upgrade the technology they use to provide even more accurate data, by adding webcams and sending information about pressure readings.



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Stuart Foster walks by a mesonet station, which is in jeopardy of being shut down due to Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget cuts, on Saturday, Jan. 27. "Governor Bevin proposed to cut all of our funding, which mainly goes to our staff and operations," Foster said. "We would have to cut our eight people staff which would then shut down the Mesonet."

"The weather service's mission is the protection of life and property," Gordon said. "The Mesonet helps with that each and every day. Losing it would be detrimental."

News reporter Emily DeLetter can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emily.deletter304@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @EmilyDeLetter.

LANGUAGE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

requirement like we had in the past, we want more students to test out if they can, because the majority of students who come to WKU have had the pre-college curriculum," McGee said.

Jeffersonville, Indiana, junior Jessica McCormick said her high school experience studying French only further encouraged her to pursue the language at WKU. She said her knowledge of the language grew exponentially once she began taking courses at WKU.

"Some people don't understand the importance of a foreign language," McCormick said. "I think it makes students more well-rounded, well-cultured, and they can come out of college with a better set of skills."

For the introductory Spanish courses

101 and 102, there are a total number of 374 seats available, according to class options on TopNet. As of Jan. 28, only 159 of the total 374 seats were filled.

Numbers were similar for other languages such as French and Arabic. Out of the 168 total seats for introductory French, only 75 were filled. Arabic had 127 open seats with 44 filled.

Student Government Association President Andi Dahmer has a major in Spanish and is studying Chinese in-

dependently. She said she feels very disappointed about the requirement change from a personal perspective and felt as though there are other solutions to resolve the problem.

"It's vital to know a language beyond

speculate" the effects that a drop in enrollment could have for classes this year, she hopes the numbers will come back.

Dahmer said she has heard other students are disappointed in the change, especially those who have studied abroad and understand the value of knowing multiple languages.

"It's a stark comparison comparing language curriculum in the United States to other countries abroad," Dahmer said. "A lot of students here don't attain language proficiency in a language other than English here, while many in other countries can speak up to three with some proficiency."

News Emily DeLetter can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emily.deletter304@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @emilydeletter.

"It's vital to know a language beyond a high school requirement."

Student Government Association president
ANDI DAHMER

a high school requirement," Dahmer said. "Especially if you're considering beyond post-secondary education, it's an important thing to have on your transcript."

The resolution is in place until June 2018, and Dahmer said while she "can't

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

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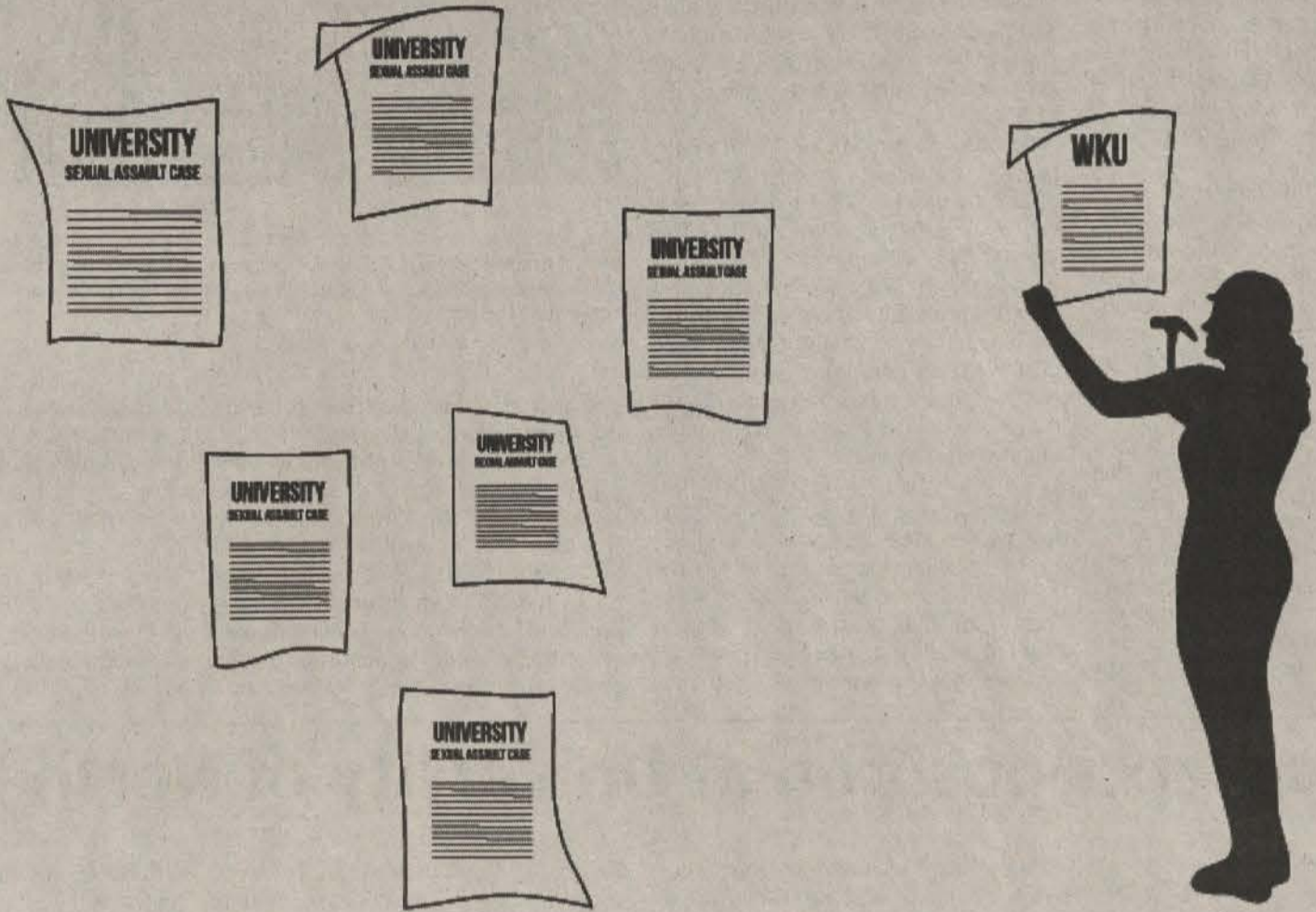


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

REDACTING RESPONSIBILITY

One victim is far too many

BY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD
HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

ISSUE: Michigan State University, an institution with exceptional tradition both in academia and athletics, has made headlines recently for extreme malpractice in the face of sexual assault crimes. Larry Nassar, former doctor for MSU and USA Gymnastics, was sentenced up to 175 years in prison after over 150 women came forward with their testimonies about how they were abused and assaulted by Nassar while under his care.

OUR STANCE: If a university with as many resources as MSU can be brought to its knees by the testimonies of the brave survivors of sexual assault, it's only a matter of time before WKU, an institution currently suing its own student newspaper to cover up sexual assault on campus under the guise of privacy, will have to face some form of consequences. Whether it's Michigan State covering up the actions of Larry Nassar or WKU covering up Title IX records, the truth will eventually come to light with or without the cooperation of the administration.

The idea of comparing the scope of what Michigan State was covering up in Larry Nassar's despicable actions to what WKU is doing in refusing access to Title IX records is a foolish one.

It is equally foolish when the topic is sexual assault to argue numbers over actions. While over 150 women will hopefully not come forward to testify against WKU faculty as was the case with Nassar, the actions committed by both institutions are eerily similar.

An investigation conducted by Outside the Lines, a division of ESPN, found in addition to the crimes committed by Nassar, "... a pattern of widespread denial, inaction and information suppression

of [sexual assault] allegations by [Michigan State] officials ranging from campus police to the [university] athletic department."

The report goes on to read that "over the past three years, [Michigan State] has three times fought in court - unsuccessfully - to withhold names of athletes in campus records."

WKU, a university that still refuses to discuss or disclose any matters pertaining to Title IX or faculty and staff sexual misconduct, is essentially perpetuating this toxic culture of denial and information suppression.

If you haven't heard, WKU is currently suing us, the College Heights Herald, after records requests were made for "all investigative records for all Title IX investigations into sexual misconduct allegations levied against university employees in the past five years." This means that, unless the court rules in favor of the Herald, the administration that might incriminate current faculty or staff members or allow previous faculty or staff members that engaged in sexual misconduct while at WKU to continue to prey on students at other universities.

So why would the administration at this university allow the safety of their students to be put at such risk? If you ask them on the record, they would not hesitate to make the self-righteous claim that they are protecting the identities of victims of sexual assault.

While this does paint the university in a positive light at first glance, it completely ignores the fact that the names of victims, as well as any other identifying information, are already redacted from Title IX Records. In addition to requesting these records from WKU, we also requested them from other public universities in the state. The records we received from them were redacted so that victim privacy and justice could coexist. Only WKU and Kentucky State University have refused to release these records.

After the creation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in 1974, universities have intentionally misinterpreted the law to cover up information, the prevalence of sexual assault for instance, that could potentially make universities look bad.

Universities like MSU can continue to allow employees like Nassar to continue to commit their heinous acts while pretending to take the high road of protecting victim privacy.

If victims are able to retain their privacy and allow justice to be served to sexual offenders, what does WKU have to gain by maintaining their lawsuit against the Herald?

Nothing.
The only gains to be made by WKU's legal course of action is to maintain their power over information that could paint the university in a negative light. The gains seem to be minimal, but for the university being able to have power over this information and keep it in the dark evidently seems to be paramount.

How else could you explain that while the university faces a \$40 million deficit they continue to drag their feet in the courts and rack up legal fees?

Need further evidence to dismantle the administration's argument? The Houston Chronicle, a newspaper which, in 2017, requested Title IX records from some of the largest universities in Texas in 2016, was able to protect the identities of victims and serve justice to the offending faculty members.

While the university, specifically President Timothy Caboni, continues to conflate privacy with safety, it is important to keep in mind that privacy and safety are two separate issues.

When asked about the university's obligation to student safety in a meeting with the Herald editorial board members earlier this semester, Caboni emphasized the idea that the university was "not going to release information that could jeopardize the privacy of our stu-

dents in the most painful experiences of their lives."

Caboni continued to conflate privacy with safety when he emphatically stated: "We will fight tooth and nail to protect student privacy, particularly when it comes to the issues of sexual assault. I will not have a student's name even possibly made public around one of the most damaging and painful experiences of that student's life."

To WKU, protecting student privacy means holding all the power in their hands as they continue to protect the identities of those who have violated the university's sexual misconduct policy.

Privacy translates to maintaining good public image, not keeping students safe.

It has been proven that privacy and safety can both be accomplished in cases of sexual assault. It's clear that the administration is going to continue to resort to legal means in this particular case.

Despite our many battles and differing perspectives as to how this issue should be handled, there is one thing the Herald and the administration can agree on:

One case of sexual assault is far too many.

One case equates to not only a single life being drastically altered forever, but entire families and future generations can be subject to the ripple effect of sexual assault.

The real, harrowing story in the midst of these legal battles is that sexual harassment and assault are still an issue, not just on college campuses, but in workplaces, homes and other environments where one should not have to beg for safety.

In the compelling words of Olivia Cowan, one of the survivors of Nassar's sexual abuse, "If they would have taken action when it was first reported, they would have saved me."

It's time for WKU to take action in order to protect their students.

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Board of Regents approve graduate certificate

BY EMMA COLLINS
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The Board of Regents unanimously approved a proposal to create a new graduate certificate program in scientific data analytics at its meeting on Jan. 26.

The certificate will provide graduate students with the opportunity to learn how to use large datasets to advance engineering and science, according to the proposal. The certificate provides a pathway for students who are interested in big data analysis, and will teach them how to do that analysis, Lance Hahn, associate professor of psychological sciences, said.

"Basically, technology has been driving the world toward more data, and we're seeing the need to be able to handle data sets that are large across the sciences, and students are already doing this in their class and in some of their course work, and we just want to sort of be able to acknowledge that," said Hahn.

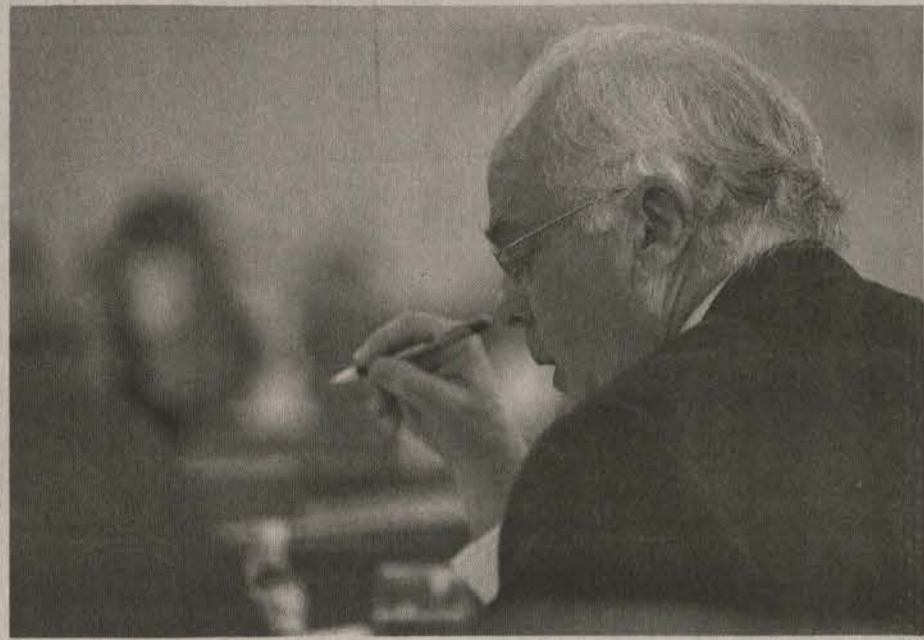
The certificate requires 12 hours. Six of those hours must come from two graduate level courses: data science, a course in the computer science department and statistical methods or a similar graduate level statistics course, according to the proposal. Students can select the other six hours from a list of approved courses. These classes

include courses in agriculture, biology, computer science, geoscience, physics and statistics.

The Board also approved the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and the audit reports for WKYU-TV and WKYU-FM Radio. Regents also approved a revision to the 2017-2018 operating budget. The revision included the addition of \$781,500 to the budget. Over \$550,000 will be used for facilities improvements for the WKU Police Department, bus refurbishing and the replacement of service vehicles. The remaining money will be used either for scholarships for students enrolled in certain certificate programs or returned to various departments.

Board of Regents chair, Phillip Bale, praised President Timothy Caboni's efforts to reduce WKU's budget deficit. WKU is facing a budget deficit of around \$15 million. Gov. Matt Bevin has also proposed a 6.25 percent budget cut for all state agencies, including postsecondary education. This would cost WKU an additional \$4.6 million. As the Herald has previously reported, the combined deficit WKU faces amounts to \$40 million.

"I want to commend President Caboni on his ongoing efforts of addressing rather sobering statistics," Bale said. "I want to put a plug in for the budget council which has been reactivated and has been hard at work in tandem with the strategic planning process that we hope will help us ad-



SILAS WALKER • HERALD
Chairman of the WKU Board of Regents Phillip Bale calls for a vote on one of the many actions that were put forward during their meeting on Friday, Jan. 26, in Jody Richards Hall. The meeting covered topics ranging from the 2018 budget and student enrollment to a salary increase for head basketball coach Rick Stansbury.

dress some of these very, very sobering numbers that we've all seen."

The Board also approved a raise for Rick Stansbury, the men's basketball coach. His annual base salary was \$500,000 and will be increased to \$650,000. The \$150,000 raise is funded by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and comes from private funds, according to the addendum to the proposal. None of the \$150,000 came

from the state or athletic budgets.

Claus Ernst, a mathematics professor, was also sworn in as the new faculty regent during the meeting.

The next meeting will be Feb. 23.

News reporter Emma Collins can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emma.collins399@topper.wku.edu. Follow Emma on Twitter at @mccain_emma_.

Dean accepts position at University of North Texas

BY EMMA COLLINS
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU's Dean of the College of Health and Human Services has accepted a position as the Dean of the College of Health and Public Service at the University of North Texas, according to a press release from UNT.

Neale Chumbler will replace UNT's interim dean, who has served in the position since September 2017. Chumbler has served as the dean of the College of Health and Human Services since March 2015, according to his webpage on WKU's website. He received his graduate degree from WKU.

Chumbler posted the announcement on Twitter Jan. 22, a few days after UNT published the press release. In the tweet, Chumbler said he was "elated to join UNT, partnering with many to move HPS to higher levels and be part of the Mean Green Nation!!!"

Chumbler did not respond to the College Heights Herald's request for an interview.

This move comes less than four months after President Timothy Caboni sent an email to faculty and staff informing them that only vacant positions that are critical to the university will be filled. The extra scrutiny is an effort to combat the deficit WKU currently faces. Most recently, administrators have estimated that the deficit could rise to \$40 million if proposed state budget passes.

A Personnel Actions Approval Committee was created to review all requests to fill vacant positions, according to Caboni. Only the positions that "meet critical needs, meet strict standards for strategic needs, result in cost savings or efficiencies or are deemed to fulfill essential services will be approved to proceed," according to the email.

Ann Meade, senior vice president for

finance and administration, said in an email that an empty dean position would be considered critical. She said she had not heard anything about a search for a new dean.

The changes also impacted temporary rate increases, reclassifications and salary adjustments and stipends, which were all put on hold. Searches that were underway when the the new standards were implemented have been allowed to continue.

WKU is currently looking to fill two vacant positions: provost and vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. There are currently over 200 vacant positions at WKU, according to the employment page. Personnel costs make up about 43 percent of WKU's \$413.7 million budget.

Additionally, the search for the director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting has been "paused" after two searches resulted in no hires for the position, according to Larry Snyder, dean of Potter College of Arts and Letters.

Chumbler is scheduled to start at UNT July 1, according to the press release.

"I'm excited Dean Chumbler is joining UNT and know that we will accomplish great work under his leadership," UNT Provost Jennifer Cowley said in the press release. "Our College of Health and Public Service recently was re-envisioned to better serve our students and better align with the important needs of health and public service professions that serve our communities."

News reporter Emma Collins can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emma.collins399@topper.wku.edu. Follow Emma on Twitter at @mccain_emma_.



Ann Meade
Senior vice president for finance and administration



Neale Chumbler
Former dean of College of Health and Human Services

GRANT

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

investigative records for all Title IX investigations into sexual misconduct allegations levied against university employees in the past five years."

WKU denied both requests, citing the Kentucky Revised Statutes exceptions to the Open Records Act which allow a public agency to withhold certain records. From 2013 to 2016, when the request was first made, WKU conducted 20 Title IX investigations over the past five years, nine of which were faculty and 11 staff members. Six of the 20 investigations resulted in a finding of violation of WKU's sexual misconduct policy.

WKU, per university policy, defines sexual misconduct/assault as "actual or attempted sexual contact with another

person without that person's consent." This includes, but isn't limited to intentional and unwelcome touching, sexual contact when the victim isn't able to consent and rape.

Both request denials were appealed in November 2016 WKU maintained each of the six employees in question resigned or retired from their respective positions prior to any final action by WKU.

WKU argued releasing the records would violate the personal privacy of students involved. The attorney general's office requested copies of the records involved from WKU, which WKU denied.

The attorney general then requested redacted copies of the records withheld, "but only to protect the names and personal identifiers of students."

WKU responded that "merely redact-

ing student names and personal identifiers of students would not be sufficient to protect the identity of student reporting parties or witnesses who should be afforded privacy under both federal and state law."

WKU sued the College Heights Herald in late February to appeal the ruling from the Kentucky attorney general. The Kernel was also named as a defendant in the case.

"It's absurd the universities are suing their student papers to keep this information from the public," Caudill said.

Caudill said by refusing to release the information, WKU is protecting sexual predators and the university administration "is on the wrong side of history."

A status conference was held in early November 2017. Attorneys for the Herald and WKU agreed to get together to come up with a schedule for a period of

discovery to move the case forward.

Warren County Circuit Court Judge Steve Wilson said, at the conference, he would allow the case to move into a period of limited discovery, and the lawyers will confer with one another to come up with a schedule to move the case forward.

The Herald has also received a \$5,000 grant in 2017 by the Society of Professional Journalists Legal Defense Fund, and approximately \$7,000 donated by Herald and Talisman alumni through the College Heights Herald Fund established by the national Student Press Law Center.

Herald editor-in-chief Andrew Henderson can be reached at 270-745-5044 and andrew.henderson@wku.edu.

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Movie Roles that Almost Happened

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- Who was the first choice for the Sundance Kid?
(a) Steve McQueen (b) Tom Selleck (c) Christopher Reeve
- In *The Titanic*, who was considered to play Jack Dawson?
(a) Matt Damon (b) Shia LaBeouf (c) Matthew McConaughey
- Who was originally cast as the cyborg killer in *The Terminator*?
(a) Lee Majors (b) Lance Henriksen (c) Roy Scheider
- Besides Dustin Hoffman, who was also considered for the role of Benjamin Braddock in *The Graduate*?
(a) Charles Grodin (b) John Voight (c) Ron Howard
- Who was originally cast as Dr Tyrone Berger played by Judd Hirsch in *Ordinary People*?
(a) James Garner (b) Gene Hackman (c) Charlton Heston
- Who was considered for the police chief Martin Brody in *Jaws*?
(a) James Caan (b) Gary Busey (c) Robert Duvall
- Who turned down the role of Trapper John in *M*A*S*H*?
(a) Burt Reynolds (b) Nick Nolte (c) Richard Dreyfuss
- Who was considered for the role of Princess Leia in *Star Wars*?
(a) Julia Roberts (b) Molly Ringwald (c) Jodie Foster
- Who was originally offered the role of gunnery sgt Emil Foley in *An Officer and a Gentleman*?
(a) John Travolta (b) Scott Glen (c) Tom Berensen
- Who was offered the role of Oliver in *Love Story* but turned it down?
(a) Michael Douglas (b) Jeff Bridges (c) Warren Beatty

Solution

- a 6.c
- c 7.a
- b 8.c
- a 9.b
- b 10.a

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

		6			9	3		
			1					
9		3					4	
3		8		2				9
6			8					
7	2		9				6	
	1			3				
8			2					6
					2			5

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Across

- Grate
- Marble material
- Some bent pipes
- Comics canine
- Continental money
- Pout
- Worsted fabric
- Storms
- Event attended by Cinderella
- Buddy
- Chewing out
- Former Yugoslav leader
- A deadly sin
- Aim
- Glance
- Madcap comedy
- Two tablets, maybe
- Shogun's capital
- Wishes undone
- Easily tamed bird
- Multitude
- Indivisible
- Hoodwink
- Feather in one's cap
- Reuben
- Deck figure
- Give an edge to
- "Excuse me ..."
- Tom, Dick or Harry
- Tabloid topic
- Watch face
- Happen again
- Condo, e.g.
- Part of a plot

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
	20			21				22	23			
			24					25				
26	27	28				29				30	31	32
33					34					35		
36					37					38		
39				40					41			
42			43	44				45				
			46					47				
48	49	50				51				52	53	
54					55	56				57		58
59					60					61		
62					63					64		

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- Provide an address
- Not a lick
- Cincinnati team
- Fills up
- Leg's midpoint
- Gist
- Animal organism
- Goldbrick
- Whopper
- Auction off
- Filly's father
- Map abbr.
- Succeed
- Old hairdos
- Hot spot
- Spruce up
- Pizazz
- Soft palate
- Swelling
- Second growth of grass in a season
- It may be wild
- Basketball shot
- Money, in slang
- Hammer part
- Fierce wild dogs
- Took the gold
- Stock units
- Sharp as a tack
- Purim's month
- Riviera city
- Sail support
- Skedaddle
- Bartlett's abbr.
- Field of work
- Baseball stat
- Kind of time

Down

- Donnybrook
- Resting on
- Greek promenade
- "It's ___ as usual"
- Make bubbly
- Organic fertilizer
- Jason's ship
- Stocking part

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

O	M	S	K	P	R	O	B	E	P	A	L	
P	A	P	A	S	E	W	E	D	E	G	O	S
A	M	E	N	A	W	N	E	D	R	O	C	S
H	A	D	J	I	R	E	F	E	I	G	H	T
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F	I	R	S	T					E	E	R	I
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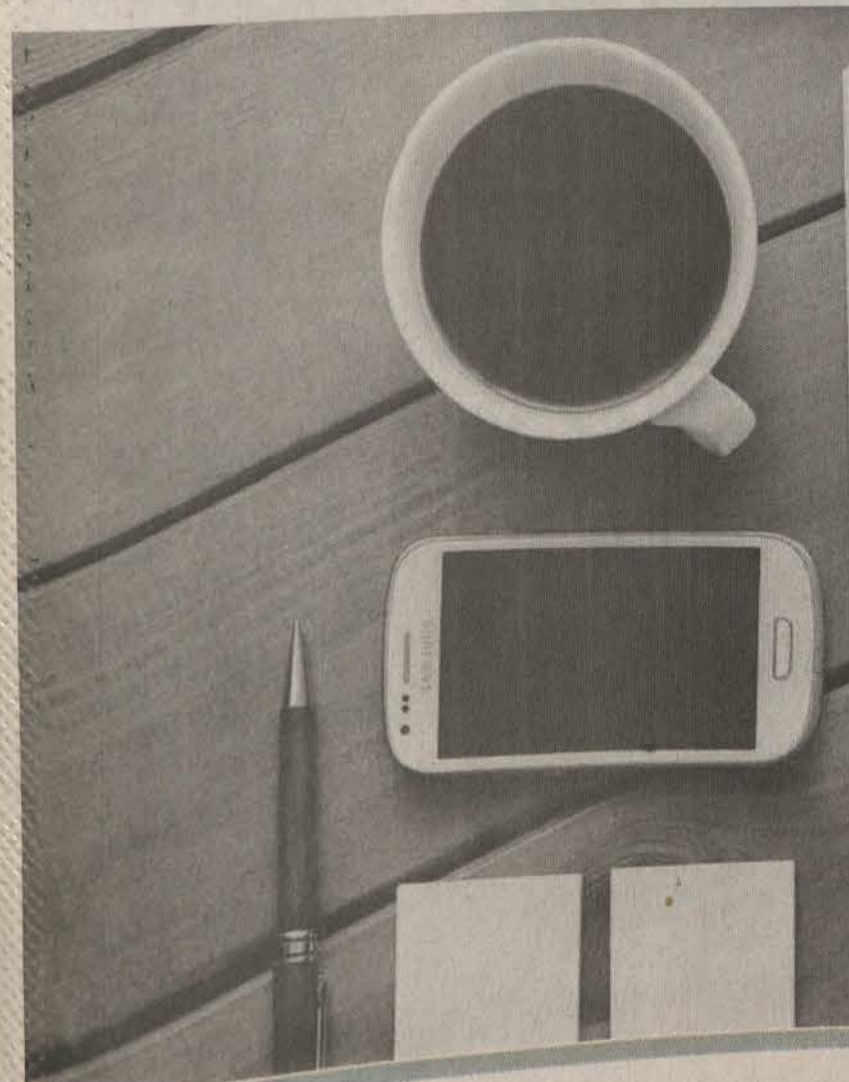
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		7	6			9		
6			3				4	
			4					5
1			9					
3	5					7		
	7						6	1
8		3						6
				5				8
2								9

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PHOTO



TYGER WILLIAMS • HERALD

Stephen Logsdon, 33, attends the Vette City Con for the second year and plans to keep coming to them as long as they keep having them. Logsdon dressed up as Harley Quinn and made almost everything from the bat to the hammer by hand.

IN CHARACTER

Second annual Comic Con hosted in Bowling Green

BY TYGER WILLIAMS
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU

The National Corvette Museum hosted the second year of the Vette City Con over the weekend. The event featured many vendors, artists and celebrities set up inside the museum. Booths consisted of ven-

dors selling collectible toys, props, artwork, clothing, photos and comics. Like other comic conventions, people from surrounding areas came dressed up as their favorite comic hero or villain, anime characters, game characters and other fictional characters. Those who dressed up, from children to adults, showed off their costumes and entered the costume contest.



TYGER WILLIAMS • HERALD

Bob Buehl, 58, of Smiths Grove, is attending his second Vette City Con with his granddaughter. Buehl dressed up as Colonel Sanders from KFC. "I pretty much look like him," Buehl said. "We try to go to any convention we can. I enjoy the creativity of others costumes."



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Christopher Trowbridge, 10, of Clarksville, Tenn., dressed up as Darth Vader for the annual Vette City Comic Con Saturday. Trowbridge accompanied her father who was dressed up as a stormtrooper.



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Sophia Baxter, 7, of Owensboro, takes on her look as Freddy Krueger at the Vette City Con 2018. and Baxter attended the event for the first time on Saturday.

SPORTS



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU head coach Rick Stansbury gives instructions to his team during a game vs. MTSU on Saturday, Jan. 20. in E.A. Diddle Arena. Stansbury's annual salary was increased by \$150,000 which was funded by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

Former Hilltoppers participate in Senior Bowl

BY ALEC JESSIE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

In a premier offseason showcase, two former WKU football players showcased their talents in the Senior Bowl last weekend.

Quarterback Mike White and tight end Deon Yelder represented the Hilltoppers Saturday afternoon for Team South.

Playing in just the opening quarter, White racked up 128 passing yards on eight completions and a touchdown. Yelder caught his only target of the game for a one-yard score.

White, in particular, impressed draft scouts and analysts during the week of practice and in the game itself.

NFL Network color commentator Mike Mayock loved White's only quarter of action, saying, "I think, by far, he's been the most impressive skill player in this game so far."

Among the notable highlights, the former Hilltopper starting quarterback completed a 63-yard deep ball to Louisiana State's D.J. Chark and a 14-yard touchdown pass to Central Florida tight end Tre'Quan Smith.

White's in-game play was the first look that many people got at him, but some experts had been impressed with him all week in practice.

"Western Kentucky QB Mike White appeared to be the steadiest and most accurate of the South team quarterbacks once again on Wednesday," Pro Football Focus' Jordan Plocher said after the Wednesday practice. "White's practice performance will go a long way in helping his draft grade with teams, as he didn't have the same caliber of statistical season with a new coaching staff and offense that he had 2017."

Pro Football Focus draft analyst and former Senior Bowl Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson saw a lot of positives in White's game that can translate to the next level.

"He throws dig routes and up the seam really, really well," Robinson said of White's professional outlook. "That stuff bodes well for the next

SEE STANSBURY • PAGE B2

SEE SENIOR BOWL • PAGE B3

CASHING IN

Stansbury Receives \$150,000 raise

BY TYLER EATON
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

After fewer than two seasons at the helm of the WKU men's basketball team, head coach Rick Stansbury had a \$150,000 raise approved by the WKU Board of Regents Executive Committee in a meeting Friday, Jan. 26.

A Battletown, Kentucky native, Stansbury has led the team to a 30-23 record thus far, with the team off to a 15-6 start this year, including a 7-1 record in conference play. In the season prior to Stansbury's hiring, WKU went 18-16 (8-10 Conference USA).

"When we hired [Stansbury] in March of 2016, it was an incredibly challenging time for our program," athletic director Todd Stewart said to the Board of Regents last Friday. "From a roster standpoint, we literally had seven players, only five were healthy, only three played the season before and we had zero scholarship guards. That's where our roster was. Probably one of the most challenging, if not the most challenging, roster situation in the country."

Stansbury signed his contract to be WKU's head coach through 2020 in March 2016. The contract had a

base salary of \$500,000. His contract includes five percent bonuses for winning the C-USA regular season championship, winning the C-USA Tournament or making the NCAA Tournament.

The contract also includes a five percent bonus if the team has an academic progress rate of +940, and five percent again at +970.

"The year before we hired Rick our APR was an 880, so that's not good, to put it mildly," Stewart said. "Last year, the first full season under Rick Stansbury, it improved to 979."

With Stansbury's new base salary, each of these bonuses would come out to be \$32,500.

"I'd like to thank the Board, President Caboni and Director of Athletics Todd Stewart for their commitment to me and our basketball program," Stansbury said in a press release from the school. "The timing is not ideal, but this is a way for me to show commitment back to the university. My total focus is on this basketball team and putting them in the best position possible to compete for a championship."

Stansbury was previously a head coach at Mississippi State, where he led the Bulldogs to six NCAA Tournament appearances in 14 years and two SEC Championships.

Following the 2011-2012 season, Stansbury retired from Mississippi State. He is ninth all-time in the SEC in wins, and first in all-time wins at Mississippi State. In 2014, he returned to coaching as an assistant for Texas A&M.

Stansbury was making more as the associate head coach at A&M than he was as the head coach of WKU before receiving this salary bump, according to Craig Browning, member of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation executive board. This raise moves Stansbury from sixth in the conference in coaches' salary to second in C-USA.

This is a proactive move, Stewart said, to give Stansbury a raise in the middle of the season rather than at the end. All of the funding for Stansbury's raise is coming from the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, and none of it will come from the athletics budget or state funding, Stewart said.

Approval of the funding for the raise had been previously voted on and was approved unanimously, according to Browning.

After previous WKU basketball program struggles, this year's team sits just half a game behind conference leader Middle Tennessee. With 10 games left in the season, WKU has already matched its number of wins

Thompson and crowd were keys to conference win

BY SAM PORTER
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

All week leading up to the Marshall game, sickness was an issue going around the WKU men's basketball team. In the Hilltoppers' 66-62 loss to Middle Tennessee on Jan. 20, graduate transfer guard Darius Thompson was battling illness and, as a result, the team's leading scorer wasn't as much of a factor in the biggest game of the season. But a healthy Thompson in this past Saturday's game against Marshall proved to be a major difference in the Hilltoppers' 85-74 win in front of a second consecutive sellout crowd in Diddle Arena. The former Virginia guard scored 20 points, grabbed six rebounds and recorded three assists while playing 38 minutes.

"My trainers told me all week to just lay in bed and rest," Thompson said. "He didn't want me to stick around much because there's been a bug

going around. The locker room had to get cleaned out and everything. We didn't do too much contact-wise during practice."

Although Thompson was healthy in time for tipoff, the same wasn't true for junior guard Lamonte Bearden. The Buffalo transfer didn't practice all week. Freshman guard Jake Ohmer got the start in Bearden's place despite his recent struggles and scored 12 points, going 2-for-3 from 3-point land.

"Everyone knows Jake has been struggling the last few games," Thompson said. "It was huge to see him come out and play with so much more confidence. In practice, when we run a play where Jake shoots the ball and he misses, coach will make him shoot it over and over until he makes it."

Another factor in the win over Marshall was the crowd. Head coach Rick Stansbury mentioned after the Marshall win how disappointing it was not to get the win over MTSU in front



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

WKU forward Moustapha Diagne (12) gives good luck to WKU guard Josh Anderson (4) at the free throw line during the game against Marshall on Saturday in E.A. Diddle Arena. In Anderson's 10 minutes of playing time, he totaled four points including a dunk in the first half. The Hilltoppers won the game 85-74.

SEE MBB ENTERPRISE • PAGE B2

Hollingsworth's technical was WKU's turning point

DOWN TO THE WIRE

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

With 4:39 remaining in WKU's game against Marshall Saturday, the Hilltoppers found themselves in a tough position. Freshman guard Taveion Hollingsworth had just been called for a personal foul, and in an attempt to get the referee's attention, he was called for a technical.

It was his fourth foul, and Marshall seemed to have WKU on the ropes at that point. Marshall's Jon Elmore went to the line for four free throws and made them all. After having led by 10 points earlier in the half, WKU was down 74-70 and the Thundering Herd were on a 6-0 run.

Despite Marshall taking the lead on that sequence, it was WKU who gained the momentum. Hollingsworth's demeanor and play changed after the technical call.

In the first 35:21 of the game, Hollingsworth scored just four points on 1-of-6 shooting. He was 0-for-2

from 3-point range. In the final 4:39, Hollingsworth scored five points on just two shots, one of them being a 3-point shot to give WKU a lead it would not surrender. He helped lead his team on a 15-0 run that gave them an 11-point win.

"That was a huge play, and he also jumped up and got that tip-in up," WKU head coach Rick Stansbury said of Hollingsworth's 3-pointer down the stretch. "If I knew we'd go (on a) 15-0 run every time, I'd let him go get a technical," Stansbury said.

Hollingsworth also played a major part on the defensive end during the run. He drew offensive fouls on back-to-back possessions, which in turn forced Marshall's Ajdin Penava and Darius George to both foul out.

"There was two offensive fouls in a row on [Marshall]," Stansbury said. "The game didn't have a lot of flow to it because of all the fouls."

Both Stansbury and Marshall head coach Dan D'antoni expressed displeasure with the officiating and the number of fouls.

Hollingsworth's teammates also took notice of how he moved on from the technical, and stepped up into the big moments afterwards.

"Taveion got a technical foul and he could have easily been down," senior guard Darius Thompson said. "He made two or three defensive stops, made a huge bucket for us."

The Hilltoppers completely suffocated Marshall on defense during that run. They forced the Thundering Herd to miss all eight of their last eight shots. Marshall also only made one of its last 12, eight of which were 3-point attempts. The Thundering Herd wound up shooting 10-of-32 from deep for the game.

"Defense," junior guard Lamonte Bearden said when asked what was key on that 15-0 run. "I think we got a stop, and then I think I got an and-one or something like that. Just stops. Stops, ... That's what we were thinking, stops. Defense wins games."

Bearden was perhaps the only player more locked in than Hollingsworth over that 15-0 run. He had seven of WKU's

last 15 points, all of them coming in the final 3:14 of the game. That included a three-point play to start the run and two made free throws to help seal the deal. Bearden also had a blocked shot, one of two blocked shots that WKU had on that run. The other came from senior forward Dwight Coleby.

WKU has faced deficits in all three of their last three games with less than five minutes to go. In those games, they have outscored opponents a combined 40-19 in those final five minutes to go 2-1, with their only loss coming to Middle Tennessee despite outscoring the Blue Raiders 12-11 in the last five.

WKU will take on Texas El-Paso next. UTEP is 7-14 this year and suffered a 31-point loss to MTSU Saturday. It's not likely that WKU will need a 15-0 run over the last four minutes Thursday.

Sports Editor Jeremy Chisenhall can be reached at 859-760-0198 and jeremy.chisenhall921@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @JSChisenhall

STANSBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

from last year (15).

According to 247 Sports, WKU's 2017 recruiting class ranked first in C-USA. Despite the loss of five-star center Mitchell Robinson, Stansbury still brought in four-star guard Josh Anderson, Kentucky's Mr. Basketball Taveion Hollingsworth and numerous transfers with NCAA Tournament experience, including seniors Darius

Thompson from Virginia and Dwight Coleby from Kansas.

With the Hilltoppers rising in wins and recruiting rankings, Diddle Arena has seen a rise in attendance.

For the first time since the 2008-2009 season, average attendance in Diddle Arena for men's basketball games is on pace to eclipse the 5,000 mark, with that number currently sitting at 5,170 after consecutive sell outs against Middle Tennessee and Marshall.

Larger crowds are an incentive for

Stansbury as well, as his contract states that he receives half of gross ticket revenues over \$800,000.

"There's no question that there's excitement around the program," Browning said on behalf of the foundation at the Board of Regents meeting. "Objectively we can look at attendance, we can look at wins, we can look at exposure on a national stage, and all of those things are very clear facts. We do believe that a strong athletic program is a great window for the university.

There's a great value in the branding."

In agreement with his raise, Stansbury agreed to increase his buyout to \$1 million if he decides to leave WKU to coach at another school, Stewart said. The school that hires Stansbury away from WKU would owe that university \$1 million, Stewart said.

Reporter Tyler Eaton can be reached at 270-776-6797 and tylereaton1022@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter at @Tyler_eaton1022

MBB ENTERPRISE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

of the first sellout crowd in Diddle Arena since he took over as head coach. Stansbury has said multiple times how badly he wants to see Diddle Arena packed at every home game, and on Saturday, he was able to deliver a victory in hopes of bringing more sellout crowds to Diddle. Stansbury and players both were complimentary of the fan base's

impact during Saturday night's win over Marshall.

"When you get used to doing it every game [playing in front of a packed house], and your players learn that feeling every game — I will promise you this, students and fans can be the difference in winning and losing," Stansbury said. "Tonight, the last five minutes of the game, the students and the fans were the difference. We fed off of them; they gave us the energy to go make those plays and that's what you've got to have."

Through eight Conference USA games, the Hilltoppers have already played the other top four teams (not including themselves) in the conference and have managed to start out 7-1. Out of WKU's next seven opponents, only one has a winning record.

"If you told us before the season that we'd be 7-1 right now, we would have taken it," head coach Rick Stansbury said. "But since we've been in it and going through it, we're disappointed we're not 8-0. We've got UTEP on Thursday

and then go over to UTSA—both will be challenges. There's 10 games left and we'll take them one at a time."

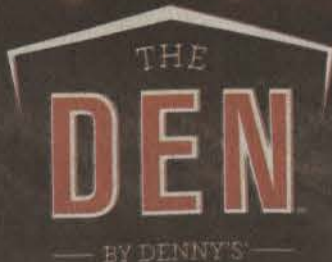
WKU hits the road to take on Texas El-Paso (7-14, 2-7 C-USA) on Thursday at 9 p.m. UTEP currently ranks 12th in C-USA.

Reporter Sam Porter can be reached at 270-799-8247 and sam.porter270@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @SammyP14.

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SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU forward Tashia Brown (10) looks for a layup during WKU's game vs Notre Dame on November 14, 2017 in E.A. Diddle Arena. Brown had 26 points against LA Tech on Sunday and won conference player of the week.

WKU successful on road since joining C-USA

BY TYLER MANSFIELD

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

It's difficult in any sport to go on the road and win at an opposing team's venue, especially in conference play.

Since joining Conference USA in 2014-15, the WKU women's basketball team has excelled in winning league games away from Diddle Arena.

The Lady Toppers are now 25-6 in road C-USA contests over the past four seasons, and with a win over Louisiana Tech on the road Sunday, WKU improved to a perfect 5-0 over the Lady Techsters on the road.

Sunday's game wrapped up a three game road swing for WKU - one that went unscathed 3-0 on. Prior to beating the Lady Techsters, the Lady

Toppers won 86-66 at Marshall last Sunday and followed that performance with a 79-65 victory over North Texas on Friday.

"What I'm really proud of is that they were different games," WKU head coach Michelle Clark-Heard said in a radio interview following Sunday's game. "We had a big lead, then we come back - and that's the growth part. Making right decisions at the right time. It just says a lot about how the unity of the team is growing ... I think our chemistry has really gotten better and better."

WKU's recent success in road games has helped tremendously in 2017-18, as 13 of its 21 matchups this season - four of those being C-USA games - have happened away from Bowling Green.

Opening the non-conference season in the 2017 Hawkeye Challenge in Iowa City, Iowa, and then playing at tough places like Indiana and Ball

State helped prepare the Lady Toppers for their conference road games. WKU suffered a 79-61 loss at Alabama-Birmingham on January 13 but hasn't suffered a league loss since.

"We just want to continue doing the things we're doing good," Clark-Heard said last Wednesday. "I feel like we've shot the ball pretty well, we've rebounded, we've gone to the free-throw line and made our free throws, and we take care of the basketball."

With the college basketball regular season continuing to wind down and get closer to March, WKU hopes to continue its winning ways, but it won't be simple.

"We're going to have to continue to keep working on those things to be able to win on the road," Clark-Heard said.

The Lady Toppers have eight C-USA contests remaining, and half of those are on the road. After playing a pair of games at home, WKU will head west

for a Feb. 10 meeting at Rice before traveling down I-65 for a showdown against longtime rival Middle Tennessee Feb. 15 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Clark-Heard's team will then close its conference regular season with tilts at Southern Mississippi and Texas-El Paso.

"We have to grow every game," Clark-Heard said earlier this season after a win over Mississippi Valley State and has repeated multiple times. "We have to take a lot of positives, and we've gotta learn about the things we've gotta get better at. That's the most important thing I'm trying to do every single game."

Sports Reporter Tyler Mansfield can be reached at 270-935-0007 and tylermansfield@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter @_TylerMansfield.

SENIOR BOWL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

level. He's got the ability to push the ball to any part of the field, but those in-between the numbers and deep

shots are where I see him excel."

Robinson also believes White's variety of offensive schemes at the collegiate level will make the transition to the professional game much easier.

"Having the exposure that he's had

to different offenses and his ability to piece it all together I think will definitely help him when he takes the transition," said Robinson. "He'll be able to take things from every offense that he's had and use that to form into

however, in his mind, he can learn it the fastest and compete right away."

Most mock drafts do not include White in the first round, but he could be the next quarterback off the board after the big names, such as Sam Darnold and Baker Mayfield, according to Rotoworld.com.

Deon Yelder didn't play until the third quarter, but he took the momentum from his impressive bowl performance into Saturday's showcase.

Yelder mainly served as a blocker while in, but reeled in his only target for a touchdown. He made a contested catch on an out route.

According to Rotoworld, Yelder also had a strong week of practice compared to the other tight ends on Team South and put himself firmly in consideration of a day three pick in May's draft.

With White and Yelder's touchdowns, WKU was the only school to have multiple players account for touchdowns in the Senior Bowl. These two were also the only players from a Kentucky university to play in the game.

White and Yelder will look to build upon their performances in the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis on March 2-5.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF XTREME PHOTO FX

Former quarterback Mike White throws a pass down the field during the annual Senior Bowl Saturday, in Mobile, Al. White represented WKU alongside former high end Deon Yelder.

PRISM Concert showcases music department's talent

BY LAUREL DEPPEN
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Illuminated by a purple light in the top corner of the balcony of Van Meter Hall, a French horn player began his piece of music, pulling the audience into an evening of music, color and precision.

Friday evening, hundreds of people flooded Van Meter Hall to see one of the most anticipated concerts of the academic year. The 23rd Annual PRISM concert is a favorite of students, faculty and the Bowling Green community.

"This isn't your typical concert," said Dr. Gary Schallert, the coordinator of the concert. "The whole purpose of it is to showcase the department of music."

Over 20 pieces were performed by groups within the choral, orchestra and band programs. Along with showcasing talents from across the music department, the PRISM concert put an emphasis on celebrating every instrument, musician and genre.

Immediately following the French horn fanfare, the magic and excitement of the concert began to take place. As the curtain rose, musicians started filling the stage, lightheartedly dancing to the beat and waving to the audience and their fellow band members. The audience responded by laughing and tapping their feet.

The transitions between performance groups were seamless. A light would fade, the curtain would fall, or

an array of multicolored lights would be projected throughout the auditorium. Groups were not confined to the stage alone. They performed from many different corners of Van Meter Hall, giving the audience a more intimate experience and creating the "prism" effect.

Though many genres were showcased, it was structured in a way where nothing seemed out of place. One minute the WKU fight song was played, bringing the audience to their feet, only to move them to tears moments after with a vocal performance of "All I Ask of You" from "The Phantom of the Opera."

"We take great pride, and we have fun," Schallert said. "There's little surprises that happen during the concert. People come and they laugh. They'll be laughing one minute and the next minute they may be totally exhilarated by an up-tempo jazz chart ... it's unlike all other concerts on campus."

The lights were striking, but it was the professionalism, stage presence and passion of the performers that really made the concert such a success.

The musicians involved started preparing for the PRISM concert as early as the fall semester. Though they put in many months of hard work, the performers made it look easy. They approached the stage with confidence and delivered an excellent performance.

"Magical" was the word Scottsville sophomore J.T. Davis used to describe the concert.



HUNTER HALLORAN • HERALD

The WKU Wind Ensemble opens the 2018 PRISM concert with "Land of Make Believe" Friday, Jan. 26 in Van Meter Hall. This was the first of 26 performances from WKU performing arts programs.

WKU hosts the High School Honors Band Clinic the same weekend that the PRISM concert is held. This gives the high school participants a chance to experience a part of the university's band program. Davis participated in the Honors Band when he was in high school and recalls the PRISM concert being a key part of why he chose to study music at WKU. Now years later, Davis performed in the concert and helped to organize it.

"So many components make up the PRISM concert," Davis said. "All the kids know is that it's something magical — it's something that will blow your

mind. Being on this side, being on the back, it's quite an extraordinary feat."

The PRISM concert was lively and engaging, and it served as a celebration of all things music. Whether it was through the music itself, the fun props, the lighting effects or the musician jokes, the PRISM concert brought the community together: through the love of music.

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laur-deppen774@topper.wku.edu.

Blue moon and lunar eclipse to occur on Jan. 31

BY KATIE DANIELS
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On Wednesday, Jan. 31, there will be the second full moon of the month, which will make it a blue moon. The next full moon will not take place until March 1, leaving February without a full moon at all. A lunar eclipse will also take place.

The interactive display at the Hardin Planetarium asks "What month can never have a full moon?" The answer is February.

Since February only has 28 days, or at most 29, you can never squeeze in two full moons, which must always be 29 and-a-half days apart. This is also why February has no full moon at all this year. The full moon is the last day of January, and so there must be 29 and-a-half days before the next full moon and February only has 28 days.

There is little astronomical interest in the blue moon since it is simply another full moon occurring at its regular interval. The interest lies in the bizarre relationship between the cycles of the

moon and the calendar.

"Astronomers don't worry about blue moons," director of Hardin Planetarium Richard Gelderman said. "It does nothing for us. You get a full moon every 29 and-a-half days, and another full moon 29 and-a-half days after that. We know that they don't have anything to do with years, and that months are a completely arbitrary mish-mash of things trying to divide a year evenly up when it can't be divided. Twenty-eight doesn't work, 29 doesn't work; none of them fit into 365 and one-fourth."

The Roman solution to this was to have 12 months of 30 days each, followed by a five-day holiday to keep the year from getting off-sync. This was eventually replaced by the Gregorian calendar we use today, with 12 months of varying lengths that have nothing whatsoever to do with the lunar cycle. This means that sometimes we can have two full moons in the same month.

The original blue moon had nothing to do with the calendar at all, but with seasons. Native Americans and

early settlers called each full moon by a name, depending on where in the season it fell. There were four seasons, and each season had three full moons. However, most years have 13 full moons. When an extra moon appeared in a season, there was no name for it, so it was a blue moon.

In addition to the blue moon, Wednesday also marks a lunar eclipse.

"The fact that they are coinciding is mostly coincidence," Ron Kistler, Hardin Planetarium coordinator, said. "The blue moon must be a full moon, and so must a lunar eclipse."

Lunar eclipses are often known as "blood moons" due to the red color of the moon.

"The cycle of eclipses is a much more complicated thing, but basically we have two lunar eclipses a year," Gelderman said.

Gelderman said that "sunsets are red because light that shouldn't have reached us gets bent by the Earth's atmosphere. [The lunar eclipse] is red because that same thing that makes sunsets red is bending it around the

earth, and that light is getting bent around to where no light should be. It should be a perfect shadow, but instead the light gets bent around by earth's atmosphere just like lenses bend lights."

Those interested in observing the lunar eclipse will have to get up early to do so. The eclipse will only be partially visible in Bowling Green, beginning at 5:48 a.m. and continuing until the moon sets at 6:49 a.m. Those who simply want to glimpse the blue moon can do so any time after it rises at 4:24 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30.

For more information on moon viewing times visit <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/bowling-green>.

To learn more about the 2018 lunar calendar and the orbit of the moon, visit the Hardin Planetarium interactive lunar exhibit any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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ATO fraternity house moves closer to completion

BY NOAH MOORE
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Fraternity Village will be gaining a new member this summer as the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house grows moves to completion.

Over winter break, the house went from a concrete foundation to a wooden skeleton that is finally taking shape and is about 60 percent completed, ATO President Hunter Booher said.

Construction on the house broke ground June 1, 2017, beginning with deconstruction, and has been making progress since then. The development

over winter break is the first time the house has taken its shape through mounted walls and spaces for windows and doors.

The new house will feature double-decker porches and large columns, and it will be located next to the Sigma Chi fraternity house on Center Street across from Midtown. This is the location of their former house, as they are rebuilding on the same lot.

"The thing I'm most excited for is the progress that our chapter has made: going from the old, rundown apartments to this house," Booher said. "It has really boosted morale and we are all excited to see where our chapter can go."

Though the development on the house will benefit the chapter in the long run, it has forced them to do recruitment elsewhere, especially during the past fall. During fall 2017 rush, ATO held their events in community spaces such as the Augenstein Alumni Center and High Tops.

"I'm very excited about the location of the house and the size and quality, but I'd say I'm most excited to see how much stronger the brotherhood will become within the chapter once we all have a place to call home and live together," Alex Mallonee, chairman of recruitment, said.

From a newly-initiated point of view, new member David Johnson, a junior, says that though the house wasn't the selling point for him rushing ATO this

previous fall, it will help enhance the brotherhood.

"I think having the house will really propel us forward as a chapter, and hopefully help us grow and flourish into the chapter that we deserve to be," Johnson said. "I'm really looking forward to just living with brothers from what I think is the most diverse fraternity on campus."

For this year's spring recruitment, Mallonee said the new housing shell will be a useful tool for recruitment this week, even if construction is still pulsing forward.

"The house is definitely a big step for us in recruitment," Mallonee said. "We're trying not to use it as a main selling point when talking to new interested members but it still has caught the eye of a lot more people nonetheless. During rush week, I have even coordinated an open tour of the house to anyone interested in rushing to help show off our progress."

ATO was rechartered at WKU in 2012 and has grown in numbers since then. The house is due to be completed in June 2018 and will be open for fall recruitment 2018. For more information, WKU Alpha Tau Omega is on Twitter at @ATO_WKU.

Features reporter Noah Moore can be reached at 270-745-6291 and noah.moore786@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @noah_moore18.

WKU REACH 2018

Student Research Conference

Student Workshop Series

Thurs. Feb. 1 | 5:00 p.m.
Leila Watkins **How to Write an Abstract**
Honors College and International center 2007

Thurs. March 8 | 5:00 p.m.
Leyla Zhuhadar **How to Visualize Research Data**
Grise Hall 236

Wed. March 7 | 5:00 p.m.
Rodney King **How to Make a Poster**
Honors College and International center 2001
OR Enakshi Roy **How to Give a Talk**
Honors College and International center 2007

Event features student actors, directors and playwrights

BY SARAH YAACOUB
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Every semester, the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance sponsors Plays in a Day, an event where both new and experienced young actors, playwrights and directors have the opportunity to grow as artists and act under time pressure, as the main challenge of Plays in a Day is the 24-hour limit.

The timeline of this semester's event spanned from Friday to Saturday. The playwrights came in around 7 p.m. Friday and the general meeting took place an hour later, which allowed all participants to convene and discuss the agenda. At 9 p.m., prompts and challenges were given to each of the seven groups and the playwrights continued to work on their skits. At 8:30 the next morning, the actors arrived back at Gordon Wilson Hall and rehearsal began. The final show was free to the public and took place at 8 p.m. Saturday at Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre.

Every group typically has three to six actors, a director and a playwright. About four stage managers work with the participants to ensure the shows run smoothly and that all props are acquired and put into place. The actors work throughout the day Saturday to prepare and rehearse their lines. Because the time limit is so constrictive, they remain on book throughout rehearsal and performance.

Reagan Stovenour, a theater major who produced Plays in a Day, said one of the event's most important points is its inclusivity.

"It's open to everyone to participate in any capacity [he or she] wants to," Stovenour said. "There are opportunities to participate at every point in every experience."

Freshmen in particular are encouraged to take part in Plays in a Day. According to Stovenour, the event provides a host of benefits to new students, including allowing them to get to know their peers and connect with people at the university.

A number of people and organizations are involved in the process of Plays in a Day. Aside from the producer, directors, stage managers, actors and playwrights, the event enlists a social media outreach coordinator, Rachel Cato, to assist in getting the word out to students. Because the event is student-run, there are no faculty advisors, although Stovenour said she was grateful for the support from the department and from Alpha Psi Omega, WKU's theatre and dance organization, which helps form partnerships and connections with the community.

Stovenour said that although experience in writing is preferred for students applying for the playwright position, the actors can be completely new to drama, and, in the past, a number of participants have come from other departments and backgrounds—she listed political science, film and creative writing as a few examples. The diverse environment is part of what has made the festival such a successful enterprise.

It's also an exercise in collaboration, as all the participants must cooperate and work effectively in order to keep pace and get everything done in time.



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Arielle Conrad performs in the semesterly event Plays in a Day Friday, Jan. 27 in Gordon Wilson Theatre. This event gives students a platform to create original pieces that are produced in less than 24 hours. "Normally a show's rehearsal process can take anywhere from several months, so squeezing it all into just 24 hours was crazy, but so much fun," Conrad said. "It offered a really great challenge."

"Every single word, comedic movement or emotional glance had a story and a collaborative moment behind it," freshman Claire Wilson, a performing arts major who acted in the production, said. "It really is inspiring and absolutely hysterical to see what people can come up with in just 24 hours."

Senior Morgan Stevens was a playwright for Plays in a Day, and he said that though playwriting can be a challenge, he loves it. He is majoring in English with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in film studies.

"I love the playwright side of the challenge," Stevens said. "Pulling an

all-nighter to create something entirely fresh is tough, but a blast."

He said he loves seeing how a stage team makes everything come to life, but "best of all, though, is getting a response from the audience. I want people to have a good time and enjoy what they're seeing in a show, so hearing everybody laugh is my favorite part of the experience, hands down."

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SPONSORED CONTENT

The WKU Store expands its digital operations

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER
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As of this semester, on account of a partnership with two prominent e-book vendors, The WKU Store is offering over 50 percent of its book titles in the e-book format, ensuring that students of all learning styles are suited to best tackle their coursework while saving money, as e-books are known to cost sometimes half the price of a print copy.

For any students not familiar with e-books or their features, e-books offer bookmarking, highlighting and search and define functions, and all e-books purchased through The WKU Store can be accessed on all devices that have internet capabilities, given that e-books are url-based.

Sarah Sears, WKU Store Marketing Coordinator, wrote in an email that the Store's decision to invest more in digital options is a result of watching "the trends within the college store industry" and a desire to better serve the needs of WKU's students.

"Students are so unique in their various learning styles: visual and tactile versus auditory, tech savvy versus not so savvy; however, nearly all students are the same when it comes to wanting the best price," Sears said in the same email. "[W]e have to keep a closer watch on what our own campus community really wants."

Along with the Store's move toward more ebook options, its Day One Access (DOA) initiative has expanded. By way of coordinating alongside various WKU departments, The WKU Store is now able to provide students in certain

courses with exactly the ebook needed for the course, available the first day of classes, hence the name. Any student enrolled in a DOA course is automatically billed to their student bill the second week of classes, in case any last minute schedule changes take place, though the student is able to access the e-book from the start of the course. If a student would rather own a print copy of any course required e-book text, the Store is providing loose-leaf copies of ebook texts for much cheaper than the text's hardback counterpart, available in store upon request.

Due to the digital nature of DOA, students need not worry about ordering their books for DOA courses, given that e-books are "not contingent on physical stock with the publisher and within the store," Sears said. "By opting to go digital, the student is guaranteeing that they will have access to their course materials on the first day of class."

Derick Robertson, The WKU Store Course Materials Manager, said in the same email that The WKU Store tries "to be competitive with so many options for textbooks," referencing the Store's move toward digital and DOA.

Though 34 percent of the Store's titles were available in the e-book format during the fall 2017 semester, as of the third day of this semester, the Store had already seen a three percent increase in e-book sales from last semester.

As for the future, The WKU Store is looking to continue expanding and meeting the needs of its students.

"The objective is to give the students a format that suits their learning style and to offer it at the lowest price pos-



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

As the new year arrives and the semester begins at WKU students gather at the WKU Bookstore to get their books and school supplies. Johnathan Partlow Jr., a junior at WKU, finds books for his spring classes. "I'm stacked with book requirements for the semester" Partlow said.

sible," Sears said. "Expanding our e-book market saves the students money, the university money (in inventory and receiving labor) and not to mention keeps a number of trees alive and

well."

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JUMP HOPE CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

giate jumper, and thereby a leader in the sport. I know that in order to advance the sport, I have to take on their roles and share the sport with others through performances and act as an ambassador for the sport."

Inspired by her past mentors, Huber has taken initiative to do campus outreach for jump rope through the WKU Jump Rope Club. The club is open to all students, and members can become involved in any way they desire. They can simply attend practice and learn tricks or get more serious and perform and compete.

"Our goals are to share the uncommon sport of jump rope with others, provide a unique physical fitness opportunity to students, help advance the

sport on its way to the Olympics and give back to the community with performances and workshops," she said.

Last semester, Huber registered the club as an RSO, or registered student organization, and it has since become more structured and community-based. The club plans to put on club performances at campus events, including basketball game half-times, orientation events and other campus activities including Dance Big Red.

They also plan to host workshops on campus and in Bowling Green where students will be able to learn jump rope skills from team members and try out the sport for themselves.

"Expanding jump rope at the collegiate level through the community is such an important step in advancing the sport overall and eventually getting it into the Olympics, so I am very excited that WKU and the city of Bowling

Green can take part in this transition as one of the early college jump rope teams to exist," Huber said.

This past weekend, the club attended the second ever National Collegiate Jump Rope Summit at Ohio State University where they met with elite college jumpers across the nation and got to compete against them in a tournament.

As the club continues to expand and become more prominent throughout campus, Huber will use her experience in the sport to cultivate a culture of positivity, health and fun.

"There is nothing more rewarding than a child's face lighting up after they learn a new trick or seeing a college student jump rope for the first time and helping them learn something that they have never tried before," Huber said. "Jump rope has given me a unique way to connect with new people

and provided me with a community of hard-working, fun, motivated individuals."

Freshman and Preston Center supervisor Spencer Cassidy said the WKU Jump Rope Club offers a unique experience and he encourages students to look into it.

"At WKU, we offer a wide variety of sports clubs to anyone who desires to play," he said. "The Jump Rope Club is just one of those and is among the most unique we offer, so students should definitely look into it."

For more information, contact the WKU Jump Rope Club's Facebook page.

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LIFE



WITTNEY HARDIN • HERALD

Junior Murray Huber has been jumping since elementary school and started the jump rope group at WKU. "I plan to stay involved with the team and I want to continue to see them grow" Huber said.

JUMP HOPE

WKU sophomore creates competitive jump rope team

BY NOAH MOORE

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



WKU's campus is now home to one of the first university competitive jump rope teams in the state of Kentucky, thanks to sophomore Murray Huber.

Huber, a lifetime fan of jump rope,

recently commissioned a university jump rope club dedicated to raising awareness of the sport through fitness, fun and outreach.

Ever since a young age, Huber has found herself entranced by the sport and has worked tirelessly to perfect her craft. She began in her elementary school's Jump Rope for Heart team and got so attached that she never stopped.

She even competes on the Bowling Green Jumping Jaguars, a local competitive jump rope team and one of just three competitive teams in the state of Kentucky.

It may not seem like a wide community, but jump ropers definitely have their niche. As a child, Huber attended many workshops and recalled the profound impact many older jumpers

had on her experience trying to make it professionally.

"All these people I looked up to were extremely talented, friendly, hard-working and amazing teachers who motivated me to try new things and encouraged me to be perseverant," she said. "Now that I am a colle-

SEE JUMP HOPE • PAGE B5

New minority scholarship proposed by student

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Crystal River, Florida, junior Olivia Parker has been working to create an endowment scholarship for incoming first generation college students since the end of last semester. As of last Wednesday, Jan. 24, the endowment is in progress, seeking donors and will hopefully take effect by the fall semester.

The scholarship is targeted at low-income students who have academic potential, yet may lack proper resources for guidance and functions in accordance with a two-part system.

In order to provide the recipients with guidance, all recipients will be take part in an extensive two-part mentorship.

For the first part, they will be offered any tips about college and succeeding

as a college student that they might not have had access to prior. This mentorship will operate according to a student's individual needs and is hoped to go beyond weekly counseling.

"I would have loved to have a mentor," Parker said, speaking on her experience as a first generation college student. "The hardest part was not having a great support system."

Parker said some of the most difficult aspects of being a first generation student are not academics, but are based in inexperienced guidance or a lack thereof. Parker mentioned not knowing how to write a professional email or how to study for a college exam as examples of how a first generation student might struggle.

The scholarship's second part is a requirement to join an on-campus club or organization, to ensure each student is able to expand as a student and person.

Parker said joining clubs helped her overcome whatever disadvantages being a first generation student presents. As a member of WKU's Psychological Science and Diversity Board, Parker said she first found support for her idea to aid first generation college students in a way she was not privileged to.

Alongside associate professor of Psychological Sciences Aaron Wichman, who helps lead the Psychological Science and Diversity Board and will serve as the primary mentor for the scholarship's mentorship feature, Parker was able to flesh out this idea and turn it into an endowment scholarship through the College Heights Foundation. The College Heights Foundation will match funds raised for the scholarship up to \$5,000.

This means the first \$5,000 the endowment receives will turn into \$10,000, the endowment's startup requirement.

With \$10,000, the endowment will be able to grant a single student \$500 worth of financial aid for their second semester of classes, given they maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 after their first semester.

Though the endowment aspires to eventually back numerous students, specifically once funds reach over \$20,000, its purpose is not predominantly monetary, Parker said.

Wichman said the mentoring aspect of the endowment is what matters most, and what makes the endowment so special.

"To help normal people, to help them access the opportunity to get an education, it takes more than money," Wichman said.

Features reporter Griffin Fletcher can be reached at 270-745-2655 and griffin.fletcher398@topper.wku.edu.

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