1997


WKU President's Office
WKU University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc.ua_records
Part of the Education Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc.ua_records/1665

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2 Mission statement/Regents

4 Entering the ninth decade
   New Level
   Changes in higher education

6 Western Kentucky University, 1988-97
   6 The University
   12 President’s Office
   15 Athletic Hall of Fame
   17 Academic Affairs
      Business College
      College of Education
      Ogden College
      Potter College
      University Libraries/Kentucky Museum
   26 Student Affairs
   27 Finance and Administration
   28 Institutional Advancement
   29 Hall of Distinguished Alumni
   30 Information Technology

32 Western’s Presidents
Western Kentucky University offers a broad spectrum of instruction, scholarly activity and professional service within an academic climate encouraging intellectual excellence.

Western Kentucky University provides instruction at the associate, baccalaureate and graduate levels in the liberal arts and sciences, traditional preprofessional programs and emerging career areas and professional fields including agriculture, business, communications, education, health and technology. The University supports diverse scholarship, including basic and applied research and creative activity, in order to expand knowledge, improve instruction and serve its varied clientele. The University directly supports its constituents with professional and technical expertise, cultural enrichment and educational assistance.

Western Kentucky University affords educational opportunities in a climate that recognizes human diversity. The University is committed to increasing access for both traditional and nontraditional students, and to improving education at all levels. Finally, Western Kentucky University recognizes that its mission continues to evolve in response to regional, national and global changes.

The Board of Regents - 1997

Peggy W. Loafman, Bowling Green, chair
Fred N. Mudge, Louisville, vice chair
Kristen T. Bate, Glasgow
Robert Earl Fischer, Owensboro
Joy Gramling, Scottsville, staff regent
C.C. Howard Gray, Lexington
Cornelius A. Martin, Bowling Green
Raymond M. Mendel, Bowling Green, faculty regent
Burns E. Mercer, Brandenburg
Kristen Miller, Louisville, student regent
Raymond B. Preston, Henderson
As Western Kentucky University heads into its ninth decade, the future looks bright. Guided by Moving to a New Level and Western XXI, the University is poised to move into the 21st Century.

In keeping with the vision of Western’s founders, President Thomas C. Meredith has instituted a dynamic process that will move Western to a new level of quality and stature, and will enhance its tradition and reputation as an outstanding university.

Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions is an evolving process that began in 1994 when Dr. Meredith authored and circulated among the University’s faculty and staff a discussion paper “to stimulate discussion pertaining to a new Western Kentucky University.”

Since then, Moving to a New Level has been refined through involvement of a number of task forces and university-wide forums into a 31 action-item plan, many items unprecedented, which will allow Western to be more responsive to the demands for greater quality, accountability and change in higher education in Kentucky.

“The public and the General Assembly have been sending a message to higher education for some time that higher education needs to be more accountable and responsive to our clientele - both our students and the businesses and industries who employ our graduates. We have heard the call for greater accountability,” said Dr. Meredith.

“This administration has long believed that there is a unique position for Western to occupy in higher education in Kentucky. We, as an institution, should not aspire to be another comprehensive research institution. However, there is a niche above the current regional university status that is appropriate for Western,” WKU’s President strongly believes.

Yet the values, traditions and commitment to teaching that WKU has always maintained will be a major asset in assessing this demand for a higher quality public university.

The campus will be dominated by an “academic atmosphere that fosters, recognizes and rewards student academic success. There will be a modus operandi of a collegial partnership between faculty and students in learning and in research. Our graduates will reflect the abilities and values of a graduate of a university in every sense of the word,” said Dr. Meredith.

Already there are indications that Western is moving to a new level. Although the number of high school students graduating in Kentucky has been declining, the number of students attending Western has remained steady. And the quality of those students is climbing, as evidenced by the rising average ACT scores and high school grade-point averages.

President Meredith has developed a vision for the University, a vision that has been endorsed by the Board
of Regents. From a base of academic excellence and utilizing the concept of teamwork and partnership, Western will:

- Achieve national and international recognition in selected academic programs.
- Achieve high expectations for students.
- Demonstrate innovative uses of technological and human resources in learning.
- Demonstrate responsiveness in the needs of the University’s publics.

Long-range goals for the University, as endorsed by Regents, include:

- Improve the quality of students/student learning.
- Enhance and reward faculty and staff development and quality.
- Increase outreach, access and service to the community.
- Enhance quality of university culture, environment, facilities and sense of community.
A university is a dynamic institution, always changing. Since 1988, Western Kentucky University has continued to evolve from a regional university to a new level of higher education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Many of the initiatives that have taken place have occurred on a university-wide basis while others are more specific to units within Western.

One of the major changes at Western came with the adoption of Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions.
Moving to a New Level, adopted in 1995 by the Board of Regents after months of campus discussion, details recommendations, including:

- Raising admission standards to an ACT score of 20 or grade-point average of 2.5 by the year 2000.
- Encouraging students to perform public service.
- Requiring a rising junior assessment of general education courses.
- Requiring a comprehensive assessment for departmental majors early in their senior year.
- Issuing a "quality assurance" on graduates completing specific majors.

Guiding WKU through these changes is the University’s first strategic plan, Western XXI. Development of Western XXI began in 1989 and it was formally adopted by the WKU Board of Regents in 1991. Western XXI establishes priorities for the many programs offered at WKU and serves as a blueprint for the University during planning sessions.

Western has also moved to the cutting edge of technology with several initiatives.

In the fall of 1993, Western placed a computer on the desk of every faculty member. By March 1996, the entire campus had become networked, giving every office, classroom and residence hall room access to a vast array of computer resources, including the Internet and Western Online. In addition, Western negotiated with Campus MCI to provide free Internet service to WKU faculty and staff from their homes.

There are other signs of Western’s continued evolution in the realm of higher education.

Western recently gained reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the major accrediting association for higher education institutions in the South. Since 1988, Western has received accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation for 19 academic programs and is now 100 percent accredited at the undergraduate level.

Western also gained recognition from the Kentucky Council on Higher Education to name the Glasgow and Elizabethtown campuses as official centers, producing additional state funding.

Western’s influence extends beyond the Bowling Green campus. As a charter member of the Renaissance Group, Western has helped shape national education reform in teacher education. The University has also conducted workshops on campus for implementation of the Group’s principles.

There are physical signs of Western’s growth as well.

In 1989, Western created the Institute for Economic Development and Public Service as a self-supporting service arm to assist business, industry and governmental entities with training and development using faculty and students as instructors and team members. With the help of a $2 million gift, Western purchased the Bowling Green Center on Nashville Road to house the Institute. The governor and state legislature provided $3.5 million for renovation of the shopping center, which was completed in 1994. The 1996 General Assembly provided an additional $4 million to complete the renovation.

The Kentucky General Assembly also provided $3.5 million to renovate Potter Hall into a consolidated stu-
Students at WKU now visit the world via internet from their residence halls. Pictured above (top left) Moria Scott, Mark Hester, Leslie Wininger, Andrei Kolessine, Brian Bishop, Demitrice Harper, Monica Beason, and Ginny Steenbergen.

dent services center. The renovation was completed in 1994 and now students can take care of admissions, registration and housing in the same building.

In 1992, Western opened the $11 million Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center. The Center provides students, faculty and staff with a state of the art health and fitness facility and was designed by committees that included student representation. Western raised more than $1.6 million to secure $10 million in state funding to build the center.

Two new residence halls were opened in 1994, providing housing for upperclassmen and members of several sororities. A $3 million low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Education, the maximum avail-
able, was used to renovate the remaining residence halls to include laundries, cable television and computers, life safety improvements and deferred maintenance.

Other major renovation projects have included Tate Page Hall, the L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center, Science and Technology Hall and the Heating Plant. The electrical distribution system is being reworked and steam lines are being replaced as well as numerous air conditioning cooling towers and chillers.

Additional improvements have made the campus safer. Lighting has been improved across campus, and the University, working with the Student Government Association, has installed emergency telephones at strategic locations that provide instant access to the WKU Police.

Western has acquired several properties adjacent to the main campus, as called for by the master plan developed to guide Western’s physical growth. The latest project was the construction of Diddle Memorial Park using private contributions. President Meredith initially designed the park.

Physical growth is only a part of the transition to the next level of excellence.

A major theme of Moving to a New Level is diversity on campus. Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve cultural diversity at Western, including:

- Received a national grant from GTE to fund a program to assist minority students in Barren County.
- Appointed a Task Force on Minority Recruitment and Retention. The report resulted in

The transition to a new level has not always been a smooth one. The University endured severe cuts in state funding, but still managed to move from a precarious financial condition to building a respectable reserve.

$130,000 being budgeted beginning in 1993-94 to support the task force’s recommendations. There was a 31 percent increase in first-time freshman minority students in the fall of 1995.

- Established a Minority Student Support Services Office to enhance the recruitment and retention of minority students.
- Enhanced minority recruitment and retention with the “Spirit of Success” program, which involves successful minority alumni working with current WKU students and high school students.
- Changed the procedure for awarding scholarships to minority students to enhance recruitment.

A series of recruiting and retention initiatives have also helped increase the number of minorities and women within the faculty and administrative ranks.

The transition to a new level has not always been a smooth one. In 1991, the University endured severe cuts in state funding, but still managed to move from a precarious financial condition to building a respectable reserve. All the while, the administration took measures to protect the classroom and provide new compensation.

During this period, the budgeting process was changed, with the addition of new computer software, to move responsibility to the departmental level while a university-wide budget committee undertook the most exhaustive and open budget review in Western’s history. As new technology was put into place, unit man-
agers were able to develop and monitor the budget via computer.

Other university-wide initiatives include:

• Raising faculty salaries to 99.9 percent of the benchmark average in the face of the institution's largest budget cuts.
• Restructuring Homecoming to increase participation by academic and nonacademic segments of the campus as well as alumni and friends.
• Changing Commencement to have individual names called to make the ceremony more student-centered and personal. A December Commencement was also added in 1996 to help accommodate the large numbers of students attending the ceremonies.

• Establishing permanent homes for Women in Transition and the University Honors programs.
• Appointing a Women's Advisory Committee to the President and creating an elected Staff Advisory Council.
• Responding to student proposals by creating fall break and changing the date of spring break by a week.
• Creating a telephone registration system – Topline – that allows students to register for classes and check grades without waiting in line.
• Completing a comprehensive study of staff salaries using an outside consulting firm.
• Purchasing two new shuttle buses to encourage the use of off-campus parking.
• Privatizing the Food Services and management of Facilities Management operations.
• Extending on-line computing services for library and student records/registration access to the Glasgow, Owensboro and Fort Knox campuses.
• Completing a series of leadership seminars for all managers of personnel at Western and starting a similar process for classified staff.
• Implementing an energy savings program with TVA which has resulted in large savings.
• Establishing a day care center on campus.
• Enhancing the Russellville Road entrance to campus by placing signs on the railroad overpass.
• Establishing the "Ideas for Efficiency" program to encourage faculty, staff and students to submit ideas to make the University more efficient.
In addition to the five vice presidents, Dr. Meredith has reporting directly to him the director of Athletics, internal auditor, university counsel and affirmative action officer.

One of the major initiatives from the Office of the President has been to improve communication in the campus community. Faculty/staff/student input into major decisions, such as the building of the budget, has been sought with the creation of budget, benefits and calendar committees.

In addition, the President has held campus-wide meetings to explain and discuss such initiatives as the budget, Master Plan, Western XXI and Moving to a New Level and gave the Western community the chance to suggest ways to handle state-mandated budget cuts. Some of those suggestions helped Dr. Meredith and the budget committee trim nearly $1 million in administrative positions and costs.

Dr. Meredith also established a faculty/staff memo to enhance communication.

The President annually swaps places with a student, spending time in class and giving the student the chance to be president for a day. The annual staff cookout and employee appreciation nights at basketball games were also established to help morale during a time of budget uncertainties. As an additional incentive, Dr. Meredith created the Employee Dependent Child Tuition Grant which provides a 50 percent waiver in tuition for dependent children of Western employees who attend college at Western.

Communication has also been improved off campus. The President has remained visible by testifying numerous times before legislative committees and subcommittees, by encouraging Western employees' contributions to United Way, by serving on various boards and committees and by hosting numerous official public functions at the President's Home.

As the state's contribution to the Western budget has wavered, Dr. Meredith has placed a greater emphasis on private fundraising. In 1993, Dr. Meredith and the Board of Regents created the Division of Institutional Advancement and established the Western Kentucky University Foundation.

The University, from the President's Office on
down, has made a major commitment to affirmative action. All searches for personnel must complete a review by the Affirmative Action Office to ensure that all qualified minority candidates identified are given appropriate consideration for employment.

One change made by Dr. Meredith was to have the Director of Athletics report directly to the Office of the President. Since then, athletics at Western have undergone many changes, including becoming more fiscally accountable and less reliant on the general fund.

Western was among the first to seek athletic certification from the NCAA, successfully completing the process and becoming fully certified. Western also received a positive report when it invited the NCAA to evaluate the athletic program and its compliance activities.

The University has also committed to complying with Title IX, which requires equal opportunities for male and female athletes. As a part of a compliance plan, the University will be adding three women’s sports: swimming (1997), softball (1999) and soccer (2001).

Western began celebrating its rich athletic heritage by establishing, with the W Club, the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991. Since its beginning, 51 athletes have been honored at induction ceremonies and through plaques displayed in Diddle Arena.

There have also been physical changes in the athletic facilities. Diddle Arena has been revitalized and, thanks to private funding, lighting has been added to the Nick Denes baseball field.

The annual staff cookout and employee appreciation nights at basketball games were established to help morale during a time of budget uncertainties.

Other changes include:
- Promoting tailgating before home football games.
- Increasing academic advising for athletes, resulting in higher grade-point averages and improved graduation rates.
- Adding a surcharge to football tickets to pay for new uniforms for the Big Red Marching Band, the first new uniforms in 13 years.
- Changing seating at basketball games to get students closer to the action.
- Inaugurating the Topperettes dance team.
The Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 1991 by Dr. Meredith to honor WKU athletes and coaches who have made an impact at Western and beyond. The inductees are selected by the “W” Club, which sponsors the Hall.

### Hall of Fame Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E.A. Diddle</td>
<td>Lawrence Brame</td>
<td>Darel Carrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Feix</td>
<td>Jim Burt</td>
<td>Jack Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Gibson</td>
<td>Clarence Cole</td>
<td>Frank Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adele Gleaves</td>
<td>Brenda Chapman</td>
<td>Henry Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clem Haskins</td>
<td>Nick Denes</td>
<td>Dale Lindsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim McDaniels</td>
<td>Harry &quot;Pap&quot; Glenn</td>
<td>Don &quot;Duck&quot; Ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Oldham</td>
<td>Ted Hornback</td>
<td>Odie Spears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Rascoe</td>
<td>Tom Marshall</td>
<td>Jesse Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Reed</td>
<td>Tony Staynings</td>
<td>Carlyle Towery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Rose</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle “Buddy” Keys</td>
<td>Ralph Antone</td>
<td>Carroll Broderick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William “Red” McCrocklin</td>
<td>Lawrence “Butch” Gilbert</td>
<td>David Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickie Moore</td>
<td>Jim Pickens</td>
<td>Steve Crocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Burch Oglesby</td>
<td>Katy Strozdas</td>
<td>Turner Elrod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenny Perry</td>
<td>Ralph Crosthwaite</td>
<td>Jim “Yogi” Hardin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Poland</td>
<td>Oran McKinney</td>
<td>Bob Lavoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Stansbury</td>
<td>Dwight Smith</td>
<td>Lillie Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>Harry Saddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>Wallace “Buck” Sydnor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main purpose behind a university is education. In an age when knowledge is expanding exponentially, universities have to adapt to help students make the most of their educational experiences. This can mean changes in courses taught, teaching methods and in the way the university interacts with faculty.

One major change at Western has been the revision of the general education curriculum that is common to all students working on baccalaureate degrees. Over a period of several years, working through faculty and administrative committees and eventually the Board of Regents, Western updated its general education curriculum to include more emphasis on communication skills and cultural diversity.

At the same time, the University conducted a review of its academic programs. Working through the vice presidents and academic deans, Western eliminated 30 nonproductive programs.

While strengthening academic offerings, Western also sought ways to improve the delivery of education by finding ways to assist faculty and recognize excellence in teaching.

Using funds from a Title III grant, Western created the Center for Teaching and Learning. CTL provides faculty with information on teaching techniques, offers workshops on teaching and the use of instructional technology and offers general support for faculty. In addition, the University created the Faculty Media Center and has worked to provide more funding for educational technology.

The University is also finding ways to reward faculty for outstanding contributions both in and out of the classroom. In addition to the annual honors for teaching, research and public service, Western has created the Distinguished Professorship to recognize no more than two outstanding faculty members a year. The first two, Dr. Daniel Roenker and Dr. Carlton Jackson, were named in 1996.

Beginning in the fall of 1996, the Office of Admissions began reporting to Academic Affairs. The move was made to increase faculty participation in student recruitment.

Under the guidance of Academic Affairs, the University initiated the University College and the Freshman Seminar, programs designed to help students make the most of their early college experiences and improve retention rates.
Other initiatives within Academic Affairs include:

- Approving promotion in rank and tenure criteria and criteria for merit, establishing the importance of teaching.
- Strengthening the process for reallocating vacant positions and graduate assistantships in accordance with priorities in Western XXI and waiving out-of-state tuition for graduate students in priority programs.
- Establishing a new financing plan for the Office of Sponsored Programs, which has increased extramural funding from $3 million to nearly $15 million since 1988.

- Completing a study of the use and effectiveness of part-time faculty.
- Completing a $100,000 fund-raising project for the WKU-Glasgow campus library and setting in motion the structure and direction of the electronically-based library, which is serving as a model for off-campus libraries.
- Improving the relationship with the community colleges by developing the 2+2 program to ease the transition from community college to Western.
- Adding seven full-time faculty to the WKU Community College and beginning the process of separating the Community College from the main campus.
- Increasing cultural exchange opportunities by initiating 10 international exchange agreements.
- Adding several new general access student computer labs.
- Establishing a community college faculty preparation program to empower master’s graduates to teach in community colleges.

These and other initiatives will continue under the leadership of Academic Affairs Vice President Barbara Burch. Dr. Burch is the first female vice president at Western.

WKU experienced a dramatic enrollment growth through 1992, then experienced the phenomena common to all of higher education with the decline of enrollment. This was precipitated by an inordinate drop in the number of high school graduates in Kentucky. However, increased efforts in retention have produced significant growth in the number graduating from Western each year.
Bowling Green College of Business Administration

Under the leadership of Dean Robert Jefferson, the Bowling Green College of Business Administration is adapting to the changing needs of students seeking careers in the business world.

The Board of Regents has approved a reorganization of the College, which takes effect in July 1997, that consolidates five departments into three: Accounting and Finance, Economics and Marketing, and Management and Information Systems. The reorganization also includes an office of instruction and research support and an advising center and results in greater support for faculty and students while attaining organizational efficiencies.

The College started the master's program in professional accountancy, the first in Kentucky, to address the changes certified public accountants will face in the near future.

A major program change was the reactivation and revamping of the master's of business administration program in the fall of 1996. Western's MBA program is designed to provide graduate business education to a diverse market, including, but not limited to, individuals with full-time jobs and full-time students representing business and non-business backgrounds. Courses are offered during the evenings and on weekends and many are available by interactive television to campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown and Owensboro.

Record keeping is a major part of university life and two professors in the business college—Linda Johnson and Jack Stallard—began a project to simplify the existing records management system on campus. They are exploring new technologies for work simplification and are setting up systems to standardize records management, reducing waste and improving efficiency.

Faculty in the fields of economics and finance achieved national recognition for their intellectual contributions through peer review journal publications during 1996-97, as determined through collective publications per faculty member as compared with faculty nationally.

The College Business Executive Advisory Council was re-instituted using area business talent for guidance.

The Center for Training and Development completed 1,068 training sessions with employers in 1995-96, compared to 144 during the first year of the program (1987-88). The number is expected to grow in 1996-97.

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Teacher training has long been a trademark of Western Kentucky University, and the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, under Dean Carl Martray, continues that tradition of excellence.

The College has established Western as a leader in assisting schools with implementation of the provisions of the Kentucky Education Reform Act. The University allotted new faculty positions to staff the Center for Excellence in School Reform and faculty were instrumental in helping school systems deal with the major changes KERA brought to secondary education in Kentucky.
In an age when knowledge is expanding exponentially, universities have...
project will allow students, teachers in training, public school teachers and WKU faculty to interact electronically to improve student writing.

- Grants to the Psychology Department have increased by more than 500 percent during the last eight years.
- Programming for about 1,000 students and staff development for more than 600 educators has been provided by the Center for Gifted Studies.

Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health

Staying on the cutting edge of education in health and the sciences is the job of Dean Martin Houston and the Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

In the health fields, Ogden College established a master's degree in nursing (registered nurse practitioner) and secured a Rural Health Incentive Grant from the Kentucky Council on Higher Education to enhance nursing programs in Glasgow and Owensboro.

The Department of Allied Health and Human Services is working with the School of Integrative Studies and Psychology Department in the College of Education to develop the interdisciplinary early childhood education degree program. Unique features of this master's degree program are cross-disciplinary courses and seminars and a summer internship in which teams of students from four professional disciplines (communication disorders, early childhood, school psychology and social work) apply skills in Western's Child Care Center.

The coal chemistry program and Center for Coal Science has achieved state and national prominence. This standing has been enhanced by the creation of a consortium between Western and several institutions in the People's Republic of China and by such major research projects as fluidized bed combustion and online coal chemistry analysis.

Working with multiple donors and the Ogden Foundation, the College has established three professorships: L.D. Brown Professorship in Animal/Dairy Sciences; L.Y. Lancaster Professorship in Pre-medicine; and J.P. Robinson Professorship in Chemistry. These are in addition to the Ward C. Sumpter Professorship in Chemistry and the HCA Greenview Hospital Visiting Professorship in Nursing. The interest from the corpus of these professorships is used to support salaries, travel and supplies for students during the academic year and other instructional activities.

In the Department of Engineering Technology, programs in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology and Industrial Hygiene could become among the first in the country to receive accreditation if the current review is successful.

Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Many of the programs with the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, under Dean David Lee, have gained national recognition through the accomplishments of Western students.
The Journalism Department has dominated various awards programs, including the national Hearst Photojournalism Competition. Western has won the competition all eight years it has existed. Individual students have won almost one-fourth of the first-, second- and third-place awards. A Western student won the Hearst competition in 1996 and another student was named College Photographer of the Year.

In the area of forensics, Western continues to dominate state and national competitions. Western students have won every state debate championship since 1988 and eight national debate and individual events championships since 1992. Western has also been the home of the Kentucky High School Speech League since 1988.

Five departments, Communication and Broadcasting, Journalism, Music, Philosophy and Religion, and Theatre and Dance, have significantly revised their curricula to build in assessment mechanisms, new technology and higher expectations for students.

Other highlights include:

• Through the use of interactive television, students can now pursue a major or minor in history by taking classes at off-campus sites.

• Housing the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies. Western has obtained the Kentucky native’s personal library.

• The Philosophy and Religion Department has the largest religion faculty and the only religion major in Kentucky.

• A highly successful weekend graduate program within the Department of Communications and Broadcasting.

• Assignment of the Lindsayan String Quartet to the Music Department. The professional quartet, operating on a grant from Chamber Music America and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Helen F. Whitaker Fund, provides performances and instruction across campus and the region.

• A completely outfitted electronic music lab.

• Grants totaling $650,000 to the Journalism Department for visiting professionals, photojournalist-in-residence and a new media visual editing workshop.

• An internationally known program in folk studies which now includes a folklorist-in-residence funded by the American Folklore Society.

• A faculty/student mentor system in the Department of Theatre and Dance to assist students in audition, portfolio and jury preparation.

• A $50,000 bequest from Ralph Walls will enhance the William R. Walls International Travel Fund. The fund, named for Ralph Walls’ son, an outstanding member of the language faculty until his death, makes grants to students who are traveling abroad for educational purposes.

University Libraries and Kentucky Museum

University Libraries provides an important support role for the University’s educational mission. Under the guidance of Dean Michael Binder, University Libraries
provide resources for academic research for both students and faculty. In addition, the Kentucky Museum and Library provide an important link to the history of Kentucky.

In 1996, University Libraries and the Kentucky Museum received two of the largest gifts ever. The Department of Library Special Collections received a $250,000 bequest from the estate of Mildred and Wayne Givens of Monroe County, Kentucky. First American National Bank of Kentucky and Tennessee donated $25,000 to The Kentucky Museum, making them title sponsor of the museum’s Bowling Green/Warren County Bicentennial exhibit. It is the largest corporate donation in the museum’s history.

**New Academic Programs Since 1988**

- Minor in Russian and East European Area Studies (1989)
- Master of Arts in Education Program with major or minor in Government (1989)
- Minor in Land Surveying (1990)
- Minor in Marketing (1990)
- Certification Program for Director of Special Education (1990)
- Minor in Women’s Studies (1990)
- Master of Arts in Education in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (1990)
- Masters of Accountancy (1991)
- Major in Environmental Science (1991)
- Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Administration (1993)
- Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies (1993)
- Master of Science in Nursing (1994)
- Minor in Lodging Management (1994)
- Minor in Food Management (1994)
Past Winners of the Award for Teaching are:

Lester Pesterfield, Chemistry, 1996
Janice L. Ferguson, Teacher Education, 1995
Wayne Mason, Biology, 1994
Joseph Bilotta, Psychology, 1993
Linda Pulsinelli, Math, 1992
Jimmie Price, Health & Safety, 1991
John Hagaman, English, 1990
Richard Aldridge, Accounting, 1989
Eula Monroe, Teacher Education, 1988
Thomas Cheatham, Computer Science, 1987
James D. Ausenbaugh, Journalism, 1986
Curtis Wilkins, Chemistry, 1985
Carroll G. Wells, Math, 1984
Linda Pulsinelli, Math, 1983
John W. Reasoner, Chemistry, 1982
Donald R. Tuck, Religion, 1981
Jimmie Price, Health & Safety, 1980
Kathleen Kalab, Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work, 1979
Delbert Hayden, Home Economics & Family Living, 1978
William McMahon, English, 1977

Faye Carroll, Government, 1976
J. Julius Scott, Religion, 1975
John Scarborough, Education, 1974
Fuad Baali, Sociology, 1973
Francis Thompson, History, 1972
Jack Thacker, History, 1971
Elmer Gray, Agriculture, 1970
H. L. Stephens, Biology, 1969

Past Winners of the Award for Research/Creativity are:

Michael Ann Williams, Intercultural Studies, 1996
Michael Kallstrom, Music, 1995
Karlene Ball, Psychology, 1994
Marion Lucas, History, 1993
Carlton Jackson, History, 1992
Wei-Ping Pan, Chemistry, 1991
Sylvia Kersambaum, Music, 1990
Richard V. Salisbury, History, 1989
John Riley, Chemistry, 1988
Rita Hessley, Chemistry, 1987
Past Winners of the Award for Public Service are:
Nicholas Crawford, Geography & Geology, 1996
Tabitha C. Daniel, Teacher Education, 1995
Catherine Ward, English, 1994
Nancy Minix, Teacher Education, 1993
Roger Pankratz, Teacher Education, 1992
Julia Roberts, Teacher Education, 1991
Mary Margaret Wright, Library, 1990
Luther B. Hughes, Agriculture, 1989
Carol Crowe-Carraco, History, 1988
Mary Ellen Miller, English, 1987
Wayne Hoffman, Geography & Geology, 1986
James Flynn, English, 1985
Evelyn Thurman, Library, 1984
Joseph Cangemi, Psychology, 1983
Jim Wayne Miller, Modern Languages, 1982
W. Henry Baughman, Health & Safety, 1981
Billy Adams, Agriculture, 1980
Willard Cockrill, Geography & Geology, 1979

Edward Schoen, Philosophy & Religion, 1986
Nicholas Crawford, Geography, 1985
William Lane, Philosophy & Religion, 1984
W. Lynwood Montell, Intercultural Studies, 1983
Lawrence Boucher, Chemistry, 1982
Ronald Nash, Philosophy, 1981
James Baker, History, 1980
Norman Holy, Chemistry, 1979
Randall Capps, Communication & Theater, and
Gary Dillard, Biology, 1978
Carlton Jackson, History, 1977
Thomas Coohill, Biophysics, 1976
Ronald Rowe, Environmental Engineering Technology,
1975
Thomas Madron, Government, 1974
William Buckman, Physics, 1973
Hart Nelson, Sociology, 1972
Lowell Harrison, History, and William Lloyd,
Chemistry, 1971
George Masannat, Government, 1970
Mary Washington Clarke, English, 1969

Diddle Park, dedicated in 1996
Student Affairs

Students are the reason for a university and the Division of Student Affairs, under Vice President Jerry Wilder, is charged with ensuring the care and well-being of Western’s student population.

The transition from high school to college can be difficult. To aid in that transition, Western created the MASTER Plan (for Making Academic and Social Transitions Educationally Rewarding). Participating freshmen arrive a week before classes to make new friends, meet teachers and administrators and to attend seminars on how to adjust to college life. Speakers such as astronaut Terry Wikel and Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, both Western graduates, kick off the week with motivational addresses. By helping students make the transition, more students are staying in college past their freshman year.

Student leadership at Western has taken an active role in making WKU a better place for students. Students have been willing to support projects that are important to them through the payment of additional fees. These include a small computer fee that has helped make Western the most computer accessible school for students in Kentucky and a fee to fund a major renovation of the outdoor student recreation and intramural facility.

Students are also generous to charities off campus. Each year, students in Greek organizations raise approximately $350,000 for charity and philanthropic organizations.

Other initiatives with Student Affairs include:
- Restructuring the Student Health Service to enhance services and eliminate institutional costs.
- Restructuring the Office of Student Financial Assistance, with the aid of a consultant, to improve service to students.
- Appointing the University’s first Student Affairs Advisory Council.
- Completing Phase I of the Outdoor Intramural-Recreation Project to expand facilities for intramural sports activities.
- Completing a campus-wide Crisis Management Plan, including a table-top exercise.
- Receiving a Federal COPS Grant to fund three additional campus police officers.

Finance and Administration

One of the major duties of Finance and Administration, under Vice President James Ramsey, is the budget. As the University has had to deal with rising expenses and declining state appropriations, it has been up to Finance and Administration, with the help of the University Budget Committee, to devise a budget that balances. At the same time, more resources have been placed in the classroom, including about $2 million for instructional equipment over two years in conformity with the priorities of Western XXI.

Major changes have been made in the way the budget is prepared and administered, giving individual budget unit managers more control and responsibility for their budgets. Budget information is now available through the University’s computing system to help in the preparation and administration of the budget.

Another area under Finance and Administration is the maintenance of the University. To make better use of the available resources and personnel, a Zone Maintenance Plan was created. Teams of maintenance personnel are assigned to groups of buildings, or zones. These teams are able to respond to calls more quickly.

A recent change in the management for Facilities Management, which includes maintenance, grounds and housekeeping, was made in an attempt to make the operation more efficient. Marriott Corp. now has the management contract and has in place its own managers.

Marriott was also the first outside contractor for food services on campus, one of the auxiliary areas under the control of Finance and Administration. The privatization of food services has turned a budget deficit into income for the budget. The contract has also resulted in expanded offerings on campus, including items from such restaurants as Subway, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Other initiatives within Finance and Administration include:

- A new optional retirement program that offers greater flexibility and portability than the state system. It has been the retirement program of choice by some 85 percent of new hires.
- A new employee performance appraisal that includes multi-source assessment and a “bottoms up” feedback appraisal for managers.
- New software systems in finance, student information systems and human resources that are making it easier for managers to do their jobs from office computers.
- Enhanced recognition of retirees, including a dinner for new retirees and an annual reception for all retirees.
- An annual banquet to honor employees with 25 or more years of service.
Institutional Advancement is another one of the new divisions at Western, directed by Vice President Fred Hensley. It covers the areas of Alumni Affairs, Development and University Relations.

The primary mission of Institutional Advancement is to increase private support for Western Kentucky University. Through the cultivation of relationships with alumni, friends and business, corporate and governmental leaders, Western hopes to raise significant financial support to help offset uncertain state funding.

As the University prepares for its first major gifts campaign, private giving to Western continues to grow:

* The annual Phonathon has grown from $52,000 in pledges in 1987 to more than $400,000 in 1996.
* The University created the Cherry Society to honor donors who give $25,000 or more over five years. The Society now has more than 100 members.

* There are now more than 500 members of the Presidents Club, which was created for donors annually giving $1,000 or more.

* The number of donors giving to Western has increased from 4,446 in 1988 to nearly 11,000 in 1995-96. Alumni giving is up by 52 percent and non-alumni giving is up by 19 percent. Membership in the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation has increased by 25 percent.

As a part of Western's overall development effort, the Western Kentucky University Foundation was created. The WKU Foundation, with its own board of trustees, serves as the vehicle for receiving, investing and disbursing private funds raised through the development program.

Developing a successful institutional advancement program is more than just asking people for money. Communicating the Western message, whether it's to an individual donor or to the public via the news media, is an essential part of the program.

Much of the communication program is handled by the Office of University Relations through a variety of methods, including press releases, press conferences, media contacts, advertising, publications and pages on the World Wide Web.

In 1989, the offices of Public Information and Community Affairs and Special Events were merged to create University Relations. In 1991, the office was reorganized to expand the On Campus faculty/staff newsletter to a tabloid newspaper with distribution off campus.

In the Alumni Affairs Office, the ALUMNI magazine was reinstated to a full-color magazine and the Hall of Distinguished Alumni was created to honor WKU alumni who have made outstanding contributions to society. Alumni Affairs has also become more self-sufficient through revenues from long distance telephone and credit card programs.

In addition, Alumni Affairs has helped build relationships with alumni and friends through various reunion programs, including College High, Bowling Green Business University, Golden Anniversary Club and Parents Club.
The Hall of Distinguished Alumni was created in 1992 by President Meredith to honor alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their country, their state and Western Kentucky University. The awards are based on leadership, loyal support, service and dedication to their respective discipline.

**Hall of Distinguished Alumni Members**

**1992**
- Dr. Tim Lee Carter
- Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry
- Mr. E.A. Diddle
- Gen. Russell E. Dougherty
- Mr. Julian Goodman
- Dr. Martin A. Massengale
- Dr. William F. Meacham
- Miss Frances Richards
- Dr. Kelly Thompson
- Mr. Billy Vaughn

**1993**
- Dr. Dero Downing
- Dr. Frank T. Etscorn III
- Mr. Larnelle Harris
- Mr. Cordell Hull
- Judge John S. Palmore

**1994**
- Mr. Donald M. Kendall
- Mr. Raymond B. Preston
- Dr. Margaret Claypool Willoughby
- Dr. Raymond Leon Woosley

**1995**
- Dr. Alva Matherly Clutts
- Dr. C. Ray Franklin
- Dr. Harry B. Gray
- Dr. Garry Lacefield
- Lt. Col. Terry W. Wilcutt

**1996**
- Dr. Thomas Cook
- Ms. Patricia Garrison-Corbin
- Mr. Clem Haskins
- The Hilltoppers
  - Mr. Don McGuire
  - Mr. Jimmy Sacco
  - Mr. Seymour Spiegelman
  - Mr. Billy Vaughn
  - Mr. Charles Kleiderer
The newest division at Western is Information Technology, lead by Vice President Charles Anderson. Information Technology was created in 1996 from within Finance and Administration to include some of the fastest growing areas of the University. These areas include computing services, distance learning, public broadcasting and telephone communications.

The area that is now Information Technology was responsible for networking the Western campus for computer access. Much of the networking was accomplished during a major project that also brought cable television to the residence halls across campus. Now, every residence hall room, classroom and office is wired for access to Western's computer network and to the world through the Internet.

Western also purchased new computer hardware for academic computing, which increased usable capacity for faculty and students by two-thirds. The Microcomputing Support Center, which is responsible for installing and maintaining the faculty and office computers across campus, is also responsible for Western's presence on the World Wide Web. Western Online won a 1996 Webbie Award for Best University World Wide Web site from the Academy of Web Design and received honors from the Smithonian Institution.

Technology is also helping deliver educational services to other parts of the state and to students who might otherwise not be able to attend classes in Bowling Green. Through interactive television, an instructor can teach a class in Bowling Green and in one or more of six other cities at the same time. The technology allows real-time interaction between the instructor and the students at the distance sites and reduces travel time for both students and instructors.

There are now 14 interactive classrooms with more planned. In addition to classrooms located on the Bowling Green, Owensboro, Glasgow and Ft. Knox campuses, Western has become partners with Russell County, Taylor County and Elizabethtown high schools to share facilities there. Classrooms on the Bowling Green campus are located in the Academic Complex, Cherry Hall, Grise Hall and Tate Page Hall.

Western's presence is also being felt in the airwaves through its public broadcasting stations. WKYU-TV, the state's only university-owned television station, is available on more than 25 cable television systems as well as on broadcast channel 24. In addition to university-produced programming, WKYU-TV, through a partnership with Kentucky Educational Television, offers PBS programming and credit telecourses.

WKYU-FM, Western's Public Radio Service, reaches 60 percent of Kentucky as well as parts of southern Indiana and northern Tennessee through a series of repeater stations. Since 1988, repeater stations WKPB-FM in Henderson/Owensboro and WKUE-FM in Elizabethtown have been added to WKYU-FM in...
Bowling Green and WDCL-FM in Somerset. The Public Radio Service offers programming from National Public Radio as well as award-winning news coverage and other local programming.

Other initiatives within Information Technology include:

- Addition of voice mail for faculty and staff.
- Construction of a University owned and operated cable television service for residence halls.
- Expanded and enhanced student computer labs providing 300 workstations in eight laboratories.
- Replaced central academic computing system.
- Provided home Internet access for faculty and staff.

- Completed networking of the extended campus sites providing the full range of computing services on the main campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Micros</th>
<th>Use Hours</th>
<th>Residence Hall Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110,000 (est.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>193,886</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>197,749</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>217,890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>265,711</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>322,233</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targets, 1997</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Micros</th>
<th>Use Hours</th>
<th>Residence Hall Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110,000 (est.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>193,886</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>197,749</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>217,890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>265,711</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>322,233</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targets, 1997</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WESTERN'S PRESIDENTS

Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry
1906-1937

Dr. Paul L. Garrett
1937-1955

Dr. Kelly Thompson
1955-1969

Dr. Dero G. Downing
1969-1979

Dr. John D. Minton
1979

Dr. Donald W. Zacharias
1979-1985

Dr. Kern Alexander
1985-1988

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith
1988-1997