Summer 2001

UA9 Investing in the Spirit

WKU Development & Alumni Relations

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2001 President’s Circle Gala
Western Kentucky University celebrated another successful year during the third annual President’s Circle Gala on April 5, 2001. During the evening’s festivities, new members of the Cherry Society were recognized. The Cherry Society honors the leadership and lifelong dedication of the University’s most generous supporters.

New inductees during the 2000-2001 academic year are listed below.

**Spirit of Western Members**
($1 million or more in lifetime giving to WKU)
Carroll and Evelyn Knicely
Rita and Jim Scott

President Gary Ransdell recognizes Jim and Rita Scott.

**Colonnade Members**
($500,000 or more in lifetime giving to WKU)
Fruit of the Loom, Inc.
Dr. Walter N. Scott

Sally Jefferson visits with Dan and Sylvia Cherry during dinner.

**Cornerstone Members**
($100,000 or more in lifetime giving to WKU)
Kathy and Dr. Craig Beard
Joyce and Bill Bell
Cabletron Systems
Margaret and Steve Eaton
English Lucas Priest & Owsley
Franklin Bank & Trust Company
High Field Farm
Insight Communications
Jones Builders
Kerr Greulich Engineers, Inc. ~ Donald J. and Jennifer W. Greulich
Leco Corporation
The Medical Center at Franklin
Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc.
Terry Scariot and John Kelly
Robert and Virginia Schneider
Charles and Karen Shuffield
Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, Inc.
TA Instruments
Wendy’s of Bowling Green, Inc.

**Volunteer Spotlight**
Bob Kirby

Photos by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

WKU marching band entertains revelers during the finale.

**Campaign Basics**
Letter from Tom Hiles
and overview of the Campaign’s progress.

**Million Dollar Gifts**
Carroll Knicely, Jim Scott
and two bequests give million-dollar boosts to the Campaign.

**People**
Endowed Faculty Positions, Scholarships,
and Faculty Excellence Endowments.

**Places**
The new journalism building, Guthrie
Bell Clock Tower, and
R.R. Donnelley gift.

**Programs**
Western’s Engineering program and athletics
program receive gifts.

**Society of 1906 Members**
(Recognizes donors who have included Western in their estate plans)
Dr. Walter N. Scott
Robert and Virginia Schneider
Dear Friends,

Welcome the inaugural edition of Investing in the Spirit, our newsletter which highlights Western Kentucky University's achievements toward the objectives outlined in its first comprehensive Campaign. Our goal is to keep you informed of the progress of the Campaign and to highlight how your support makes a critical difference in recruiting and retaining quality faculty and staff. You have received this newsletter because you are one of a select group of alumni and friends who has supported the University and possesses experience and insights that we value.

Investing in the Spirit: The Campaign for Western Kentucky University was officially launched on April 27, 2000. It is designed to fulfill the objectives outlined in the 1998 Challenging the Spirit strategic plan, which will guide Western toward its vision to "be the best comprehensive public institution in Kentucky and among the best in the nation."

As our aspirations grow, so does our need for private support. Investing in the Spirit is focused on obtaining support for those people, places, and programs which best exemplify the Western Spirit. An emphasis has been placed on endowed support for faculty positions and student scholarships. In addition, we have focused our efforts on obtaining increased private support for those premier programs that enhance our quest for continued national prominence.

Western is designated as a state-assisted university, but it receives only 42 percent of its operating budget from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. While public funds secure a base of funding for the University, private philanthropic support is essential as we sustain a margin of excellence that will produce exceptional achievements and ensure the best faculty and the brightest students.

The Campaign and those who support it will leave a lasting legacy at Western which will remain long after the current administration, alumni, friends, and volunteers have passed on. On behalf of Western, I thank you for your continued personal and professional support. With your help, the Campaign will establish permanent resources that will enable Western to recruit and retain quality faculty and students.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Hiles
Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

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**Goals**

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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>..2 .76</td>
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| Campaign Total | 78 60.71 |
Planned Giving: Planning for Western’s Future

Many people are not familiar with the term “planned giving.” It is a curious label for what really is a very straightforward field: charitable giving through bequests, trusts, and gift annuities. Additionally, a planned gift can also be an outright gift of real estate, securities, or other highly appreciated assets. All require more planning and coordination than a cash gift.

Beulah Winchel of Hardinsburg, Ky., has established four gift annuities with the Western Kentucky University Foundation.

“It is a way to make a gift and provide a benefit for me as well,” Winchel said.

According to Michael Goetz, WKU’s director of planned giving, a charitable gift annuity is a contract in which a donor exchanges a gift of cash or marketable securities such as stocks or bonds to the WKU Foundation. In exchange, the donor and/or donor’s designate will receive fixed payments for life.

“In Beulah’s case,” Goetz said, “Each gift annuity she has established provides her with income for life, which was considerably higher than she was receiving from bank certificates of deposit or stock dividends. She also enjoys a nice current tax deduction each year.”

Winchel, a 1939 alumna, fondly recalls her days at Western and exciting professional life that followed. In addition to service in Kentucky as a librarian and teacher, she served several years overseas as a librarian for American military hospitals and dependent schools, living in places such as Germany, Japan, and France. She credits her unique professional life to the wonderful training she received at Western.

Goetz said Winchel’s charitable gift annuities are a terrific vehicle of giving for her.

“The quarterly payments do not fluctuate with the economy, so Beulah knows exactly how much income she will receive,” he said. “What’s more, there are no investment worries for her because the annuity payments are guaranteed by the Foundation for the rest of her life.”

Goetz said other significant advantages include tax deduction savings, partial tax-free income, potential capital gains tax savings, and the personal satisfaction gained through making a gift of lasting significance. Winchel’s gifts will help fund a series of endowments, supporting various scholarships and programs of interest to her.

“I was willing to consider a gift to Western because of my experience there as a student,” Winchel said. “If I hadn’t gone to Western, I wouldn’t have been able to experience the things I did later in life.”

A gift annuity may be established with a minimum of $5,000. For more information, contact Michael Goetz via email at michael.goetz@WKU.edu or phone at (270) 745-4494.

Annual Giving: Sustaining WKU’s Traditions

The annual fund consists of all gifts made to the University on an annual basis that support any area of the University. Funds designated by Western’s alumni and friends can provide student scholarships, support academic departments and programs, promote faculty research, and enhance community relations programs. Anyone who gives to the annual fund can choose the areas they would like to support at Western.

The Western Experience is in the Spirit of its people, its places, and its programs. Whether you attended Western as a student or have been involved with the University through special events, you have witnessed the Western Spirit and realize why this institution is so special to so many people. Those who make it special are the members of the Western Family. The University counts on the Western Family to provide the necessary support to sustain WKU’s traditions.

Investing in the Spirit of Western translates into alumni and friends of the University making a difference in Western’s departments and programs by contributing to the annual fund. Although Western is a public institution, less than one-half of the operating budget is received from the Commonwealth. It is essential that Western receives financial support from its alumni and friends to achieve the vision of becoming the best comprehensive University in the Commonwealth and among the best in the nation.

Participation is essential for the annual fund. There are many levels at which alumni and friends of the University can participate. The President’s Circle has become known as the premier recognition society for alumni and friends to provide significant support to further the University’s commitment to excellence. The President’s Circle, chaired by volunteer John Ridley, salutes our most generous contributors of annual gifts of $1,000 or more to the University. While such an investment enhances the Western Experience, it also ensures the Western Spirit is perpetuated in the hearts of Western alumni and friends. Approximately 950 alumni have participated at the President’s Circle level this year.

As Western continues to face the challenges of providing a quality education and ambitiously charting new courses, it will be imperative for the University to look to its alumni and friends for increased private support. We know the Western Family is ready for the challenge.
Western receives

Million Dollar Commitments to Campaign

The months following the official announcement of the Investing in the Spirit Campaign for Western Kentucky University brought a banner year to development efforts at Western. During the past year, Western announced four million-dollar commitments to the University, which completed a total of 17 seven-figure pledges made to Western since 1997.

The first gift, a commitment to the Institute for Economic Development, came from Carroll Knicely of Glasgow, Ky. Knicely has spent his career providing economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a former newspaper publisher, his newspaper group and Associated Publications chain published more than 20 daily and weekly newspapers in Kentucky and Tennessee. In addition, he headed the state’s economic development activities as Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Commerce under three different governors. Many credit him with such accomplishments as bringing both Corvette and Toyota to the Commonwealth as well as opening the door in Kentucky to Japanese manufacturing firms.

Now Knicely’s interest in economic development will have a lasting impact upon Western Kentucky University as well. Last fall, Tom Hiles, Western’s vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, announced a leadership gift from Knicely in support of the Institute.

Of his commitment, Carroll Knicely said, “The most important thing in economic development is education and leadership. My interest in Western and the Institute for Economic Development is spirited forward because education is the basis for economic growth opportunities.”

Most excitingly, says WKU’s Provost Barbara Burch, $500,000 of Knicely’s commitment will establish the Knicely Professorship in Leadership Studies. This portion of the gift will be matched by $500,000 through the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Regional University Excellence Trust Fund.

“This visionary professorship will attract professionals and scholars who will develop multi-disciplinary and multi-departmental academic and student life experiences that assist students in developing personal leadership philosophies and skills,” Burch said.

“Leadership Studies is a growing field in American higher education today,” she said. “Such programs are a defining part of the liberal arts education, and they teach students skills necessary to lead in a global economy and complex social and political environment.”

According to Steve House, executive director of the Institute, Knicely’s leadership gift will also have a transformational impact upon the Institute’s existing programs.

“With $250,000 of this gift, we will renovate a large shell space adjacent to the conference center,” he said. “This will provide additional seminar and training facilities in order to expand our program offerings.”

In addition, House said the gift will create the Knicely Endowment, a $250,000 permanent support fund that will provide an annual income to maintain and upgrade existing facilities and equipment.

In honor of his gift, the Institute was named the Carroll F. Knicely Institute for Economic Development and Conference Center.

Jim Scott of Bowling Green has also chosen to give back to the area that has brought him professional success. Scott, chairman of the board of Scotty’s Contracting, Inc., recently made a $1 million leadership commitment to the engineering program.

Scott’s gift created the Scott Center for Construction and Engineering, which included the establishment of the James D. Scott Endowed Chair in Engineering. With a $1 million match through the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund gift provided the first fully endowed chair at Western.

Dr. John Russell, head of WKU’s Department of Engineering, says the Scott Center bridges the gap between academia and industry.

“Over the past year, with pilot funding from Mr. Scott, the Center has allowed 45 students to participate in real world laboratories as they have helped area industries address prob-
problems, perform investigations, and perform quality control measures," he said. "The Scott Center provides a powerful teaching and learning tool that is not available at other universities."

According to Russell, the Scott Chair will continue to find valuable educational opportunities within the community to practice engineering and to provide students with hands-on applied educational opportunities.

Scott says he made this gift to give back to the community and the industry that has brought him professional success.

"I see the creation of the center and chair as an investment in the future of engineering in this region. I've been fortunate to be successful in my business, and this is my opportunity to provide a legacy gift to Western."

-Jim Scott

I see the creation of the center and chair as an investment in the future of engineering in this region. I've been fortunate to be successful in my business, and this is my opportunity to provide a legacy gift to Western.

-Jim Scott

Western's history.

- This gift will be a magnificent legacy that will provide literally hundreds of scholarships to students who might not otherwise be able to access higher education.

According to Dr. Luther Hughes, Western's associate vice president for Enrollment Management, this fund was established for Kentucky residents with financial need. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate leadership through school and/or community service and personal recommendations.

"This gift will significantly impact our ability to continue to enroll academically talented students at Western Kentucky University," Hughes said. "It is also an example of the important role our alumni play in providing scholarships to students who have financial need and who have outstanding academic records."

He added, "We are grateful to the donor as this support will provide the avenue for the success of current and future students and is vital to remaining competitive with other universities in searching for the best students in our outstanding academic program at Western Kentucky University."

WKU President Gary Ransdell says Western is deeply appreciative of this legacy gift. "Thanks to the donor's generosity, countless students from Kentucky will receive the financial means of achieving the dream of a college education," he said.

Finally, Western is also the beneficiary of a $1.3 million bequest from the estate of Dr. James H. Stuteville to bolster a perpetual trust scholarship fund for students studying math and/or science. Dr. Dero Downing, chairman of the College Heights Foundation and WKU president emeritus said Western is deeply grateful for this legacy commitment.

"Dr. Stuteville was a faithful friend and a loyal Westerner who demonstrated unwavering belief in the importance of education," Dr. Downing said. "The fund further preserves a relationship with Jim which Western and the College Heights Foundation appreciate and treasure."

Dr. Stuteville died on March 4, 1999. He had retired from medical practice and was living in Sonora, Ky.

"These two recent scholarship bequests will make a phenomenal difference at Western," Hiles said.

"Endowed scholarships are critical to our efforts to recruit and retain the best and brightest students. Thanks to the donors' generosity, Western's private scholarship capacity has increased by nearly 10 percent."

Million-dollar commitments received since Campaign's beginning on July 1, 1998

Anonymous Football Lead Trust
Anonymous Scholarship Commitment
Jerry E. Baker
William H. Fletcher Estate
Glenda and Gordon Ford
Jostens Learning
Carroll and Evelyn Knically
Dixie and Pete Mahurin
Ogden College Foundation
Leon Page
Raymond B. and Hattie L. Preston ~ Raymond B. Preston Family Foundation
Rita and Jim Scott
Col. Edgar B. and Edith R. (d.) Stansbury
Dr. James H. Stuteville Estate
Dr. (d.) and Mrs. L.O. Toomey
Trace Die Cast, Inc. ~ Carolyn and Lowell Guthrie
Suzanne and D.S. Vitale

(d.) Deceased
Endowed Faculty Positions Top WKU's List of Needs

WKU alumnus makes $500,000 commitment in support of this effort

People are what it's all about, according to Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Development and Alumni Relations. The largest section of the goal for the Investing in the Spirit Campaign will benefit the people—faculty and students—who make Western unique.

"More than 55 percent of our $78 million Campaign goal will focus on people," Hiles said. "We are committed to raising funds for student scholarships and endowed faculty positions."

Of the $78 million goal, the University aspires to raise $20 million in support of endowed faculty positions, and a number of donors are leading the way toward this goal.

One of these is Dr. William M. McCormack, a 1957 WKU alumnus, whose $500,000 gift will be used to create an endowed professorship in the sciences and the Kentucky Academy of Mathematics and Science. Dr. McCormack said he wanted to "pay back a little" of what he has received from his association with Western. Dr. McCormack is a Bowling Green native who has retired from his radiology practice in Owensboro and in Illinois.

Western received matching funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Regional University Excellence Trust Fund to create a $1 million professorship.

"My family has had a close association with Western," Dr. McCormack said, including an uncle who served on Western's Board of Regents and is the namesake of McCormack Hall, one of Western's residence halls.

In the past, the University has been "benefit of endowment funds and this needs to turn around," he said. "I see this as seed money to encourage other people to give, and in my own case, I intend to do more."

Dr. McCormack said his interest is in pre-medicine and also wants the professorship to support the proposed Kentucky Academy for Math and Science at Western. The Kentucky Academy would bring the brightest high school juniors and seniors to campus to complete their final two years. They would take college classes and receive their high school diplomas from the Kentucky Academy and in so doing earn 60 hours of college credit.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said the McCormack Professorship will allow Western to attract, support and retain exceptional faculty.

"The foundation for a quality academic experience for students is directly related to the presence of quality faculty in the classroom," he said. "When teachers are providing outstanding instruction for students, the students will find ultimate educational and professional success."

"This commitment will link our outstanding faculty with excellent students, including those students participating in the Kentucky Academy of Math and Science. The McCormack Professor will provide exceptional leadership and training to future national and world leaders in the sciences. Like Dr. McCormack, many scientific leaders attribute their ultimate success to quality undergraduate teaching."

"We are so appreciative of Dr. McCormack's generous gift and his service to Western," said Hiles. "Dr. McCormack serves as the chair of our investment committee for the WKU Foundation. As chair, he helps us build our endowment. Hence, it is particularly gratifying that he is willing to be a role model encouraging others to invest in Western."

Hiles said Western aspires to add 25 new endowed faculty positions by the Campaign's conclusion in June of 2003. Thus far, 17 commitments have been received from alumni and friends toward this goal, and Western has raised more than $14 million for endowed faculty positions during the life of the Campaign.

Anonymous – Professorship in Construction Engineering and Management
Jerry E. Baker – Jerry E. Baker Professorship in Music
Commonwealth Health Corporation / Centercare – Centercare Managed Care Plans/CHC Visiting Professorship
Glenda and Gordon Ford – Mattie Newman Ford Professorship in Entrepreneurship
Carroll and Evelyn Knicely – Knicely Professorship in Leadership Studies
Jana and Bud Layne – James L. "Bud" Layne Professorship for Mechanical Engineering
Bobbie Boyd Lubker and John Lynn Lubker – Boyd-Lubker Visiting Scholars Program
William M. McCormack – William M. McCormack Professorship
Mary R. Nixon – Mary R. Nixon Professorship in Accounting
Leon Page – Leon Page Professorship in Banking and Financial Planning
Rita and Jim Scott – James D. Scott Endowed Chair in Engineering
Dr. Walter N. Scott – Walter Scott Professorship in Biology
J. Clifford Todd – J. Clifford Todd Professorship in Longevity and Healthful Living
Suzanne and D.S. Vitale – D & S Vitale Professorship in Entrepreneurship
Katie Ward, with additional support from Paul Coogan – Catherine C. Ward Visiting Professorship for Women's Studies
Hays T. Watkins – Hays Watkins Visiting CEO Professorship
Couple Honors 50th Anniversary with Gift to Western

Bill and Katherine Russell of Peoria, Ill., have honored their 50-year relationship with a gift to the school that first brought them together. In honor of both their 50-year class reunion and their 50th wedding anniversary, they have made a $20,000 gift of stock to create the William and Katherine Russell Endowed Scholarship in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

The Russells, who spent their careers as educators, met as seniors at Western when both enrolled in one of Ivan Wilson’s art classes in 1950. Their first date, on February 11, 1950, was to see “The Barber of Seville” at Van Meter Auditorium.

Barren County native Katherine Russell’s college career began in 1942, in the midst of World War II. “Since we were in the middle of the war, there was a shortage of teachers,” she explained. “I was hired to teach on an emergency certificate, and I completed my education over the next eight years, a little at a time.”

Perryville native Bill Russell also had a unique Western experience, as his college career followed his World War II overseas service, which included the invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

After a 10-month courtship, the Russells were united in marriage on December 26, 1950. “Since we couldn’t afford a church wedding, we were married at the Baptist parsonage in Glasgow,” Katherine Russell recalled. “Two Western students, H.Q. Kennady and Jean Amos, who later married, stood up with us.”

Beginning in 1951, the Russells spent their careers in Peoria, Ill., with Katherine serving as a first grade teacher and Bill teaching in junior high and high school and later serving as a principal.

“Our sons really felt that we should honor our 50 years together by a gift to Western,” Bill Russell said. One of their sons is a Western alumnus, and their other son attended Western, though he graduated from another school.

The William and Katherine Russell Endowed Scholarship will annually provide an award to a deserving graduate student in education. As long as Western Kentucky University continues to nurture students on the Hill, the legacy of William and Katherine Russell and their 50-year love affair with Western and each other will be preserved.

WKU Alumnus Meets Unique and Critical Need for WKU Faculty

As part of its overall Campaign effort, Western aspires to raise $3 million in support of Faculty Excellence endowments. According to WKU Provost Barbara Burch, Dean’s Funds for Excellence allow individual colleges to recognize high levels of faculty performance and programs that contribute to the continuing quality improvement of curriculum, students, and faculty. “These endowment funds will allow the individual academic deans to meet specific needs, such as training and development, research support, and travel,” she said.

A role model for support of this effort is Charlie Shuffield of Orlando, Fla., who recently made a commitment of $100,000 over five years to support a number of areas within the University, which includes a total of $50,000 to establish Dean’s Funds for Excellence in each of Western’s four academic colleges.

“Charlie is truly a role model, as his gift’s impact will reach across the entire campus,” Burch said. “Though he was a business major, he understands the need to provide increased support for all areas of the University.”

“Western is at a disadvantage in that it does not have an abundance of flexible funds for our deans and academic departments,” Burch continued. “Donors like Charlie allow us the ability to reward excellent work and support creative endeavors.”

Shuffield’s gift will be matched through the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Regional University Excellence Trust Fund.

Shuffield, a 1966 alumnus, who also made a gift to men’s basketball says “Western has a diverse student body.” “I’m an ally of all programs, he said. “It is hard to say one area is more important than any other one. I wanted to represent all people’s interests. I believe balance is important, both in a university setting and in our communities.”
Private Gifts Critical for Media and Technology Hall

In April, Western Kentucky University broke ground for the much-anticipated, state-of-the-art, $18.5 million building for the School of Journalism and Broadcasting and for Instructional Technology. The facility, a new landmark on Western’s lower campus, will be one of the most high tech buildings in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The new building will be the operating site of the Center for 21st Century Media, WKU’s second Program of Distinction, which will build on our national reputation for excellence in journalism, broadcasting, and forensics.

The School of Journalism and Broadcasting, established in 1999 as a result of the merger between the Department of Journalism and the broadcasting and mass communication programs, offers majors in Advertising, Broadcasting, Mass Communication, Photojournalism, Print Journalism, and Public Relations. Journalism and Broadcasting facilities will include seven computer-equipped classrooms, five “smart” lecture classrooms, 31 faculty offices, a gallery, two photo studios, wet lab, resources center, five student workrooms, and two rooms for focus group interviews. All classrooms will have overhead-mounted projectors for displaying computer images. The new facility will also house the proposed Commonwealth Center for Instruction and Technology, which will include Western’s Information Technology division.

The new Media and Technology Hall offers not only a vision of the future for Western students but the potential of a lasting legacy for Western alumni and friends. A gift to Western provides an opportunity to permanently link your name, or a name honored by you, with the traditions and future of the University.

Below are a few of the naming opportunities which exist within the new facility:

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<th>Auditorium</th>
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<th>Conference/Training Room</th>
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<td>Gallery</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>Seminar / Presentation Room</td>
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<td>Standard Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avid Editing Suites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar / Focus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Smart Learning Classrooms</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
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A brochure with a complete listing and description of all naming opportunities is available. For more information, contact Tom Hiles, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, at (270) 745-6208.
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company awarded a $50,000 corporate grant to Western Kentucky University to create the R.R. Donnelley Glasgow Campus Periodical Endowment Fund. This generous gift will provide permanent support for the periodical collection at the Glasgow Campus Library. It also includes a one-time commitment to purchase computer equipment, rotating magazine displays, and a collection of academic and leisure periodicals.

The generosity of R.R. Donnelley will permit our Glasgow Campus Library to greatly expand access to both academic and leisure periodicals.

- Brian Coutts
head of WKU Library Public Services

Dr. Mike Binder, dean of the WKU Libraries and Kentucky Museum, said, “We are grateful that R.R. Donnelley places such a high value on the WKU Glasgow Campus Library, and we look forward to providing students with a wide variety of resources in the R.R. Donnelley Periodical Collection when the new facility opens.”

Marlin Harker, vice president and division director of R.R. Donnelley’s Glasgow facility, noted, “R.R. Donnelley is pleased to enhance our long partnership with Western Kentucky University by providing funds for the Glasgow Campus Library. The Regional Postsecondary Education Center will enhance the learning and development opportunities for our employees, their families and the entire Glasgow community. We are committed to giving back to the communities where our employees live and work.”

R.R. Donnelley, headquartered in Chicago, is a leading printer, communications services and logistics company. Its Glasgow plant, established in 1970, has more than 1,200 employees engaged in the production of special-interest magazines.

Next Issue:
Spotlight on Zuheir Sofia’s gift to the International Center
More than $5 Million in Private Gifts Support Western's Engineering Program

Western Kentucky University is not just a teachers' college anymore! In February the Council on Postsecondary Education approved an agreement under which joint engineering programs between WKU and the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville will be offered. The new bachelor's degree programs will be offered in the fall of 2001 in the newly named Ogden College of Science and Technology.

"The statewide engineering strategy initiated by the Council and Kentucky's colleges and universities will have two major results," CPE President Gordon Davies said. "First, talented students who cannot come to Lexington or Louisville to study engineering will be able to complete degrees at comprehensive universities that join in the initiative. Second, local industries that need engineers will be able to recruit them locally, and even send their employees to study engineering while they work."

For several years, Western has been working with state, education, legislative, and industrial officials on a plan to offer baccalaureate degrees in engineering. Last year, the CPE approved a Strategy for Statewide Engineering in Kentucky that addressed two primary areas:

- The need to increase the number of baccalaureate engineers in Kentucky
- The need to address regional issues of access and productivity in engineering education.

Graduates of the WKU program will be eligible for registration (certification) as professional engineers in Kentucky.

This new program would not have been possible without the leadership professional and financial support of a number of individuals and corporations in the south central Kentucky area. In the last year, Western has received more than $5 million in private and matching funding to support the transition of its engineering program.

That total includes $4.25 million in four gifts, pledges and matches from the state's Regional University Excellence Trust Fund to create four endowed professorships and faculty support endowments for the Engineering Department. These include:

- $1 million from Jim Scott of Bowling Green for construction and civil engineering ($1 million state match).
- $500,000 from Bud Layne of Glasgow for electrical engineering ($500,000 state match).
- $500,000 anonymous gift for construction and civil engineering ($500,000 state match).
- $125,000 from Bill Bell of Lexington for construction and civil engineering ($125,000 state match).

"Western has been in engineering education for 30 years," said WKU President Gary Ransdell. "This will transition us from a technology program to full bachelor's certification. I have been impressed with the way engineering companies and private individuals have stepped forward with private support to make the transition possible."

Dr. Ransdell said the private funding gives the program the "legs needed to hit the ground running. These funds are the impetus needed to make these programs possible. We have been able to purchase the equipment needed to make the transition to the baccalaureate program as well as strengthen the capacity of the faculty positions needed, including the endowed professorships and the Scott Chair in Construction and Civil Engineering."
Western Enjoys Banner Year for Athletics

For the first time since 1995, both Western Kentucky University basketball teams reached the postseason, with the Hilltoppers earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament and the Lady Toppers battling to the Elite Eight of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). It capped off an amazing six-month stretch which also saw the Hilltopper football team advance to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, marking the first time in the 91-year history of WKU athletics that all three teams (football, men’s basketball, women’s basketball) competed in postseason play.

This has been a banner year for athletics fund raising at WKU as well. As part of their overall $125,000 Campaign commitment, Steve and Margaret Eaton of Atlanta, Ga., made a generous $75,000 pledge in support of the men’s Basketball Enhancement Fund. Eaton, a 1972 Western alumnus, says he is grateful for the opportunities Western gave him in school and for the experiences he had as a student.

“I attended Western on an athletics scholarship,” said Eaton, a former Hilltopper guard. “It is the only way I would have been able to go to college. I believe Western’s athletics program has been neglected, but they have the potential to be very competitive in the basketball program.”

Garland Reeves of Bowling Green also recently made a commitment to Western Kentucky University’s athletics program. His commitment will be funded through income from a gift of rental property. The property is valued at $230,000 and will provide $12,000 a year in rental income, which will support the Hilltopper Basketball, Lady Topper Basketball, and Hilltopper Football programs.

“I considered the Athletics Department, particularly men's and women's basketball and football, because I have followed so closely with this organization as a member of the 100 Club and a season ticket holder for more than 25 years.”

Robert and Judy Armstrong of Bowling Green, Ky., donated three pieces of property to Western to benefit the Athletics Department. These properties, valued at more than $200,000, were sold at auction. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Butch Armstrong Endowment and the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

“WKU is my wife’s (Judy Jackson Armstrong, ‘64, ‘91) alma mater and my adopted school,” said Bob Armstrong. “Coach Felton, his staff, and his players have exemplified real sportsmanship while remaining very competitive. By establishing the Butch Armstrong Endowment, my deceased son will remain connected to one of the finest basketball programs in the nation.” Bob Armstrong said.

Kathy and Dr. Craig Beard recently made a $100,000 commitment to University Athletics. Their gift will provide $90,000 to create the Alvin Lewis Beard Endowed Football Enhancement Fund, and it will offer $10,000 in support of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

Craig Beard is a Bowling Green physician and former Hilltopper defensive lineman. The Alvin Lewis Beard Football Enhancement Fund is being established in memory of his father, a long-time Hilltopper fan who found great pleasure in watching his son play football during his college years.

“My only regret is that my father is not alive to see this,” Beard said. “He enjoyed being a part of my athletic experience. I am grateful for the experience I had at Western. I had the opportunity for college I would not have had without the football scholarship. I feel blessed to be able to repay part of what they gave me.”
Volunteer Spotlight on Bob Kirby

Home:
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Graduate Information:
Bachelor of Science, Bowling Green Business University, 1960 (BU merged with Western Kentucky State College in 1963). Started at BU in 1957 after serving with the U.S. 25th Infantry Division in Korea.

Profession:
Investment Broker
Hilliard Lyons Investments

WKU Volunteer Positions:
Alumni Association Board – member and past president
Planned Giving Professional Advisory Board -member
WKU Libraries Advisory Council -member
Investing in the Spirit Campaign Cabinet – member
Kentucky Museum Advisory Council – past member

Other Community Volunteer Experience:
Salvation Army Board – 28-year member
Commonwealth Health Foundation
Free Clinic – vice chairman
Recipient of Jefferson Award for Public Service
Bowling Green Public Library – former member
Kids on the Block – former member
United Way – former board chairman and two-time campaign chairman

Family:
Wife, former Norma Jean Cassady
Four children: Kim Kirby, Kent Kirby, Gena Gooding, and Kay Roberts (all WKU alumni)

Why I am involved in WKU:
“I had the privilege of being the first BU graduate to serve as president of the WKU Alumni Association’s National Board of Directors. This is home, and Western is an important part of that. All four of my children attended WKU, and I have two grandchildren presently enrolled.”

Most rewarding experience:
“It has been rewarding to me to see the growth in the Business College. Being a BU graduate, I have a great sense of pride in the fact that a number of the University’s largest Campaign commitments have come from graduates of the business college.”