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Fall 2001

UA9 Investing in the Spirit

WKU Development & Alumni Relations

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Making the Connection:  
**Western’s Inaugural Scholarship Donor/Recipient Event**

Putting a face to a name. That’s what nearly 300 donors and student recipients did at the inaugural Scholarship Donors and Student Reception on September 20.

Western hosted the event in Van Meter Auditorium to give donors of the 405 endowed scholarships at Western the chance to meet the students receiving them.

“I’m going to let the donor know how hard I’m going to work this semester just because I received a scholarship from them,” said Brittany Wilson, a senior from Elizabethtown, Ky., and recipient of the C. Ray and Ruth Holman Franklin Scholarship and the College Heights Foundation Scholarship.

The Scholarship Donors and Student Recipients Reception is the first event of its type that encompasses all of the endowed scholarships at Western. “This is an outstanding opportunity to allow scholarship recipients to appropriately express their appreciation in a personal way to the individuals who have generously shared their resources to make the scholarship possible,” said Alex Downing, president of the College Heights Foundation.

According to Tom Hiles, WKU’s vice president for Institutional Advancement, this event was created to honor and recognize those who have established endowed scholarships.

“This event represents a small way for the Western family, and particularly the student beneficiaries, to say thank you,” he said. “I have attended these events at other institutions, and there is

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Dear Friend of Western,

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Western Kentucky University family, and it is an exciting time for our division as well. On September 1, 2001, the University returned to an institutional advancement model and opened a search for an assistant vice president for University Relations after Fred Hensley, chief public affairs officer, announced his retirement at the end of August.

The newly constituted division will include alumni relations and development and will now incorporate public relations and marketing. A search is underway for an assistant vice president who will work with Dr. Ransdell and me to formulate Western's marketing and public relations strategies. We plan to capitalize on the synergies that will be created by the closer alignment of our external relations programs. Also, we closed the 2000-2001 fiscal year with record-breaking fund-raising numbers. More than $64 million in gifts and pledges has been received through the "Investing in the Spirit Campaign." The $78 million campaign was announced publicly with $42.9 in hand on April 27, 2000. We are very pleased and excited by our progress this past fiscal year. Thanks to the support of our loyal alumni and friends, we have had the most successful fund-raising year in Western's history.

Giveim highlights for 2000-2001 include:

- Actual gift deposits to the University grew to $9.8 million - a 20 percent increase over last year and a 72 percent increase over what was raised two years ago.
- Giving by faculty and staff increased 275 percent in gifts and more than 77 percent in donors over the past year. More than 670 members of the faculty and staff gave nearly $400,000 last year.
- President's Circle membership grew to a record 1,082 members - a 29 percent increase over last year, and a 104 percent increase over membership numbers two years ago. The President's Circle recognizes donors who give at least $1,000 annually to the University.
- Gifts from corporations and foundations rose to more than $4 million; this is a 24 percent increase over last year and a 103 percent increase over dollars raised two years ago.

Thank you for your continued support of Western Kentucky University. In particular, I wish to thank the countless volunteers, including the 24 members of our campaign cabinet, for the vital role they play in our progress. Please contact me at (270) 745-6208 or e-mail me at tom.hiles@wku.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Hiles

Thomas S. Hiles, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

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### Goals

#### People

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#### Annual Giving

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#### Other

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#### Campaign Total

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The Case for the Western Annual Fund

The people, places, and programs of Western Kentucky University create the Western Experience. You may have attended Western as an undergraduate or graduate student, have helped put a child through our programs, or have become involved with one of our external programs. Hopefully in your association with Western, you have experienced the motto- "The Spirit Makes the Master."

Western is not yet fully realized. To reach its potential, formed from tradition, loyalty and gathering strength, Western must rely on the energetic support of the Annual Fund.

During the past year $9.8 million has been raised. This support touched all areas of campus. Scholarships have been established to attract quality students. Funds have been allocated to enhance faculty research opportunities. Students have had the opportunity to utilize new technology and laboratory equipment in the classroom. New buildings with an appreciation for tradition have been constructed and remodeled. Campus grounds have been meticulously maintained.

Western Kentucky University is a public institution, however less than one-half of the annual operating budget is received from the state. The remaining half of the yearly budget stems from tuition and fees and private support from alumni and friends. Many people think that because they are not in the position to make a substantial contribution to Western, their gift won't make a difference. This statement could not be further from the truth. With your commitment, Western is in a position to improve upon its excellence by retaining and recruiting new professors, assisting students with scholarships, and improving campus life. ALL contributions are important to the University.

In each case, the Annual Fund provides necessary money so that our students are challenged to become leaders of the future. What your dollars make possible is at the center of our mission and our goal to move further into the forefront—a vital, diverse and esteemed faculty working with a talented student population.

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 alumni and friends can provide student scholarships, support academic departments and programs, promote faculty research, and enhance community relations programs. With your financial support, you choose the areas you would like to support at Western. Your participation is important and allows specific programs in which you are interested to excel.

The participation of alumni and friends in the Annual Fund is necessary for Western to achieve the vision of becoming the best comprehensive University in the Commonwealth and among the best in the nation. Your gift expresses your appreciation to the people, places, and programs of Western for a quality and affordable education.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our current students, our faculty, and our campus by supporting the Western Kentucky University Annual Fund.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the Western Annual Fund?
A. 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 our alumni and friends can provide student scholarships, support academic departments and programs, promote faculty research, and enhance community relations programs.

Q. Can I choose where my gift will go?
A. Yes. You may choose the areas you would like to support at Western. Your participation is important and allows programs in which you are interested to excel.

Q. In addition to specific academic departments and programs, what are some other giving opportunities?
A. The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation seeks support for athletic scholarships and facilities. Western's Public Radio and Public Television have on-air fund drives to support and continue quality programming. The Friends of the University Libraries and the Kentucky Museum Associates support university and community educational services.

Q. Why “give back” to Western?
A. Take a moment to consider just how much the University has meant to your academic and personal growth. Your gift expresses your appreciation to Western for an excellent and affordable education.
Watkins Gift Creates Visiting CEO Professorship

A $311,000 gift, and matching state funding, will be used to bring visiting CEOs to Western Kentucky University.

The gift from Hays Watkins, former CEO and chairman of CSX Corp., will be used to create a fund of $622,000. The income from the endowment will support the Hays Watkins Visiting CEO Professorship in the Department of Management and Information Services.

Watkins, a graduate of Bowling Green Business University, predecessor of Western’s Gordon Ford College of Business, said the professorship will give Western students the opportunity to learn from people from different areas of the business world.

Watkins, a member of the WKU Board of Advisors, said the matching state funding also influenced his decision. "It’s always good when one can double one’s gift," he said. "I applaud the governor and the state legislature for this incentive and hope they continue it in the future."

Robert Jefferson, dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business, said the idea behind the professorship is to bring outstanding business leaders to campus who exemplify the same high qualities and standards Watkins represented in his role as a CEO.

"We hope to integrate into the classroom the vision and insight these leaders bring to the business world," Dr. Jefferson said. "We want to be a dynamic business school and this professorship will allow us to do some things schools don’t often have the money to do."

The professorship is "a way to honor Hays Watkins and attract other industry leaders of his stature and with his commitment to achievement," Dr. Jefferson said.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said he also was excited about bringing business leaders to campus. "This professorship will expose our students and faculty to some of the proven leadership of corporate America," Dr. Ransdell said. "These people can deliver real-world lessons that will give so much more meaning to our students' classroom learning."

Dr. Ransdell said Watkins "has a proven record of achievement and excellence throughout his career in the railroad industry. He is an excellent example for our students and we are honored to have the name Hays Watkins on a professorship at Western."

Tom Hiles, WKU vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, called Watkins "a leader and a role model." He demonstrated this through his tenure as CEO of a fortune 500 company, as a civic leader, and now as a philanthropist.

"We are so grateful to Hays for establishing this professorship and proud to claim him as one of our most distinguished alumni."

Other visiting professorships that have been established at WKU include the following:

- HCA Visiting Professorship
- Catherine C. Ward Visiting Professorship for Women’s Studies
- Centercare/CHC Visiting Professorship
Gift Supports WKU Campus Ministry Association

A unique gift from a Western Kentucky University alumnus has created a scholarship fund that will support students who are involved in Christian ministries on the school's campus.

Jim Beckley, a 1972 graduate from Vero Beach, Fla., recently made a $100,000 commitment to create the Campus Ministry Scholarship Fund for The Master, an endowed award designed to support students who are actively involved and demonstrate leadership in the Campus Ministry Association at Western.

“When I first started thinking about making a gift to Western, I wondered what I could do to help in conjunction with my personal beliefs,” Beckley said. “I wanted to do something that would further the Kingdom of God and be a witness in the Christian community.”

Though Beckley was not involved in a campus ministry as a student, he said a number of student union groups at Western planted a seed in his life. “I came to Christ at age 25, and I have been involved in lay ministry ever since,” he said.

The Campus Ministry Association is composed of 14 different Christian student organizations. The purpose of the organization is “about proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to students on the campus of Western Kentucky University,” According to Howard Bailey, WKU associate vice president and dean of Student Life, the scholarship fund will make a tremendous difference for campus ministries.

“We’re very delighted that we have an alumnus who is willing to assist in this area,” he said. “This gift will strengthen the Campus Ministry Association and will allow religious oriented student organizations to gain greater visibility within student activities and the entire community.”

A special committee led by representatives of the Campus Ministry Association will select the scholarship recipients. The committee will also have representation from pastors serving in Bowling Green – Warren County.

Tom Hiles, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, said, “We are so appreciative of Jim Beckley’s generosity and vision in creating this unique gift to benefit WKU’s Campus Ministry Association.”

Beckley is also hopeful about the impact the scholarship will have on the recipients. “It is my hope that the recipients would be people who have the Lord in their hearts and a desire to win the lost,” he said. “I also hope the vision is caught by other people of God to support this important area.”

Scholarship continued from page 1

something magical that happens when you match up scholarship donors with their recipients.”

Caleb Williams, a freshman from Lewisville, Texas, gave his perspective during the program on what his scholarship has meant to him.

“When first hearing that I was to receive the Mitch McConnell Scholarship, I was overwhelmed with a feeling of justification for my focus in high school,” said Williams.

During the program, Les Reeves of Panama City Beach, Fla., gave a donor’s perspective on why he chose to create the Dorothy and Lester Reeves Scholarship Fund. “We felt an obligation to give back to the community and Western is an important part of that,” said Reeves. The Reeveses created the fund in 1973 with the College Heights Foundation, one of the three foundations on Western’s campus. Lester Reeves and his brother, Garland, each decided to give back to Western in the form of scholarships. “We decided that if we were ever able to help someone receive an education, we would,” said Reeves.

As a part of the Investing in the Spirit Campaign, Western has raised $16.3 million of the $17 million goal for student scholarships, fellowships, and awards. “In order to recruit the best students we must increase our private support for scholarships,” said Downing. The College Heights Foundation houses approximately 310 endowed and 50 non-endowed scholarship funds that are distributed to 900 scholarship recipients annually. Approximately 90 percent of the total funds housed in the College Heights Foundation are scholarship funds.

“This event is a wonderful way for these recipients to understand the sacrifices the donors made in order to make their gift possible and the reasoning behind helping someone they don’t even know,” said Paula Jarboe, trust accountant for the WKU Foundation.

“I believe this (event) will be the beginning of an outstanding Western tradition,” said Downing.
Hattie L. Preston

Intramural Sports Complex

The Department of Intramural and Recreational Sports at Western has a new facility, thanks to the second-time generosity of two WKU alumni, Raymond B. and Hattie L. Preston of Henderson, Kentucky, have made a $1 million gift to fund the completion of an intramural sports facility.

The Hattie L. Preston Intramural Sports Complex "complements Western's state-of-the-art Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center," said WKU President Gary Ransdell. "The gift brings the support of the Preston family full circle."

The gift was made through the Preston Family Foundation. The Prestons also made a substantial gift in 1990 that helped open the Preston Center.

"This gift was 100 percent for students," Dr. Ransdell said. "With the support of the Prestons, the Department of Intramural-Recreational Sports will increase its capacity to provide quality programming."

Ray Preston, a 1940 Western graduate and a member of the WKU Board of Advisors, said he and his wife feel a special closeness to the University.

"Mrs. Preston and I met on the Hill some 60-plus years ago and, subsequently, were married prior to my graduation," he said. "Because of that, we have always had a very soft spot in our hearts for Western. Western's biggest appeal to us is the family atmosphere that prevails. You feel that you are a part of something that has an aura of permanence about it."

As with the funding for the Health and Activities Center, Preston said this gift was a response to a real need on behalf of the students.

"Western is truly a great university with a heart," he said. "Students are important - they are the mission. I believe that this feeling exists within the Board of Regents, the president's office, the faculty, and the staff. There is a genuine interest in the welfare of all students."

The gift funded projects needed to make the complex at Campbell Lane and Industrial Drive fully operational. Specific improvements included: incandescent score boards, a hydroponics irrigation system, field lighting to expand time for field use, a self-leveling commercial mower, and an in-line hockey rink.

"Intramural sports have been a tradition at Western for more than 40 years," said Debby Cherwak, director of Intramural and Recreational Sports. "The program has grown to include more than 20 competitive activities as well as several organized sports clubs, a wide variety of fitness and instructional programs, the Health and Fitness Lab, and the Preston Center."

More than 7,000 students a year participate in intramural activities, she said.

The 20-acre Hattie L. Preston Intramural Sports Complex includes four softball fields, eight flag football fields, six soccer fields, a regulation rugby field, and an outdoor jogging track. A two-story building houses concession areas, garage and equipment storage, restrooms, score keeping areas, offices, and a lounge.

Cherwak says the Preston Complex has elevated the program to a different level. "Students feel honored to play in a facility that is so nice, and they are very appreciative of the facility we have," she said. "We have the best facility of any other university in the state."

Tom Hiles, vice president for Institutional Advancement, said, "The Preston family has been so supportive of the University over the years. We're so grateful to the Prestons and the Preston Family Foundation for their giving legacy."
Sofia Gift Creates International Center Plaza

Thanks to a generous gift from a WKU alumnus, the campus International Center now flies the flags of 24 nations that have students represented at Western Kentucky University. Zuheir Sofia, a 1969 alumnus from Columbus, Ohio, made a $20,000 gift to create the Sofia Plaza in the courtyard of the Center for International Programs.

The Center has a variety of effective programs that address many issues with which international students need help.

- Zuheir Sofia

According to Dr. Larry Calliouet, director of WKU’s International Programs, the plaza features the United States flag flanked by flags from other countries, including India, Nigeria, Albania, and Bosnia. Calliouet said he wanted the International Center to become more visible to people on campus and in the community, and the Sofia Plaza has been successful in this mission.

Sofia, a former international student, was impressed by the international programming at Western. “From what I’ve seen, it has come a long way,” he said. “The Center has a variety of effective programs that address many issues with which international students need help. These include cultural issues, academic assistance, and community involvement.”

“I believe the International Center is a significant benefit to the University and the community,” he continued. “Clearly, they are able to attract many international students and provide a broad understanding of international culture and global issues.”

Sofia says he is grateful that international students have a place on campus to visit and study. “It is my hope that the new plaza will highlight international student enrollment and bring more prestige to the Center for International Programs.”

Sofia is chairman of Sofia & Company, a private investment firm that provides financial and investment services. A former president, chief operating officer, treasurer, and director of Huntington Bancshares Inc., Sofia is also a published author. His articles have appeared in The American Banker, Ohio Banker, and Euromoney. He is also the author of the book External Debt of Developing Countries: Its Applications to Country Risk Analysis. Sofia is a member of the WKU Foundation Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees of Ohio State University. He and his wife, Susan, have one daughter, Sarah, and twin sons, Joseph and Zachary.
The Kentucky Building: Continuing the dream

Western’s first president, Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry, envisioned a place where people could come to learn about and appreciate the special attributes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He wanted to establish a repository for historic documents and artifacts, and thus began the plans to construct the Kentucky Building. Today Dr. Cherry’s vision continues as the resources and services provided by the various programs within the Kentucky Building provide researchers, scholars, and visitors with a broad-based overview of Kentucky’s history, culture and people. “The Kentucky Building is the gem of south central Kentucky,” according to Dr. Nancy Baird, interim director of the Department of Library Special Collections, “because of the potential of the materials here to serve every segment of society.”

Housed within the Kentucky Building is the Department of Library Special Collections, which includes the Kentucky Museum, the Kentucky Library, Manuscripts and Folklife Archives, and the University Archives.

The Kentucky Museum serves as a cultural and educational tool for the state and region by providing extensive collections, research sources, exhibits, educational programs and materials, school tours, and tourism opportunities. The Museum maintains permanent exhibits that demonstrate Victorian life in early 1900s Kentucky; an historic picture of downtown Bowling Green; a history of modes of transportation which have been the source of growth for south central Kentucky; and Kentucky's pioneer lifestyle as seen in the Felts Log House, an authentic 1830s Kentucky log home. The Museum also presents traveling exhibits each year and has been fortunate to host the Smithsonian’s “Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions;” a number of exhibitions of works by renowned artist Joe Downing; and most recently, “Kentucky Women Artists: 1830-1970.” Each of these exhibits is made possible by private funds and support from businesses and individuals in the community.

The Kentucky Library collects printed materials by Kentuckians and about Kentucky and is home to more than 70,000 volumes. There are hundreds of letters written by Kentuckians serving in World War II, as well as printed and non-printed materials from the Civil War. The collection also includes information pertaining to Mammoth Cave; religious denominations (including the Shakers); state, county, and town histories; biographies; genealogical compilations; and a wide variety of other subjects.

The Kentucky Library also offers an array of non-book materials such as maps, photographs, scrapbooks, and much more. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Penn Warren’s private book collection was given to the Kentucky Library by his family and displays his desk and chair and other furnishings from his personal library. The Robert Penn Warren collection contains more than 2,900 volumes and consists mostly of Warren’s works and reference materials, many of which contain notations written by him.

Manuscripts and Folklife Archives contain a variety of documents and other memorabilia that reveal the details of life in Kentucky in many settings and on varied levels. The University Archives houses materials generated by and about WKU.

While the Kentucky Building is the repository of Kentucky’s past, the significance of the Kentucky Museum and the Kentucky Library lives on into the 21st Century. Recent gifts include an anonymous bequest commitment of $100,000 for the Kentucky Museum and Kentucky Library; a $10,000 gift from Dorothy Gridr of New Hope, Pa., for an endowment for the Kentucky Museum’s art collection, including several works by Ms. Gridr; and a $10,000 gift from Tom and Nancy Baird for an endowment for the Kentucky Library and Manuscripts. In addition, an anonymous private donor has stepped forward with a $100,000 gift that will be matched with $100,000 from the Commonwealth’s Capital Renewal and Maintenance program to help WKU move forward with a six-phase construction and renovation project that will replace the current Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system with a state-of-the-art, museum quality HVAC system. Other gifts toward this multi-phase project are being sought and are eligible for matching funds as well. Work on the first phase of the project will begin next January.

Museum Gallery Naming Opportunities

**Ground Floor**
- The Garden Gallery $50,000
- The Garden $100,000

**First Floor**
- Galleries A, B, C $150,000
- Room 101 – Orientation Room $50,000
- Activities Room $40,000
- Galleries E100, 110, 118 $20,000

**Second Floor**
- Galleries K and L $150,000
- Kentucky Library $100,000
- Reading Room $100,000

**Third Floor**
- Galleries M, N, O $150,000
Center for Gifted Studies

Helps Young People Reach Their Goals

The Center for Gifted Studies, a proposed WKU Program of Distinction, is a major center for gifted and talented education in the United States. For the past twenty years, The Center has provided services for young people who are gifted and talented, their educators, and their parents under the direction of Dr. Julia Roberts. The Center officially became The Center for Gifted Studies in June of 1989 when the Board of Regents created it as a unit within the University, providing an umbrella organization for all gifted services. The mission of The Center is three-fold.

The Center is committed to encouraging excellence by providing educational opportunities and resources to three populations, the first of which is the young people who are gifted and talented. By Kentucky law, these exceptional children may come from one or more of five categories: general intellectual, specific academic, leadership, creativity, and visual and/or performing arts. One goal is to provide comprehensive services which address the cognitive and social-emotional needs of all of these young people. Over 11,000 young people have participated in summer camps and winter enrichment programs.

The second audience provided for by The Center is the educators of the gifted and talented young people. The Center offers professional development opportunities that include workshops focusing on specific needs for teachers, administrators, and counselors along with technical assistance to schools and school districts. In addition, The Center offers specialized training workshops in Advanced Placement and Vertical Team Training, internationally known programs.

The final audience is the parents of these young people. The Center provides resources and seminars to help parents understand the cognitive and social-emotional needs of their children. It helps empower the parents to become advocates for their children and other children who are gifted and talented.

Providing some of these opportunities proves challenging for The Center. For example, the cost of student summer camps prohibits some young people who are gifted and talented from attending or even applying. Throughout its history, The Center has always provided scholarships to children who need financial assistance in order to participate in programs. The generous gifts from friends have certainly helped these children, but every year The Center comes up short. In fact, this past year The Center awarded $36,000 to children in need. But less than $7,000 of that total was actually donated by friends for scholarship purposes leaving the remainder to be absorbed by The Center. The $29,050 absorbed by The Center could have gone to new programs reaching even more people.

Gifts to The Center, then, are used to initiate new programs or support scholarships for student participants. Drs. Bharat and Bharati Mody of Glasgow, Ky., have endowed a full tuition needs-based scholarship for minorities to attend the VAMPY (Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth) at The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University.

"We have felt that minority students do not get the same exposure and opportunity as others," said Dr. Bharat Mody. "They have a desire and a will but often do not have the means to fulfill that desire."

The family has a long relationship with The Center. Both Mody daughters attended Center-sponsored camps; Bhavana came to SCATS (Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students) in 1991, and Bhavini participated in SCATS in 1993 and 1994. Also, Dr. Bharat Mody is serving a two-year term on The Center's Board of Advisors. Their donation perpetuates this involvement for as long as The Center for Gifted Studies continues to nurture talented students.

Once the Modys decided to donate a scholarship, the children were instrumental in designating it for minorities. "I am really glad about the scholarship," said Bhavini Mody. "I enjoyed my time at Western's camps, and I know it's a really good program to help younger students explore different areas. Knowing someone will be able to participate in something and not have to worry about financial burdens is a comforting thought."

"From our daughters' experience, they felt strongly for the need of a minority scholarship," said Dr. Bharati Mody. "They had a good experience and good exposure at the Center. They felt it was a wonderful, inspiring learning experience. They wanted minority students to have the same experience."
Donors Make Commitments to Western Through Estate Planning

There are many ways to support Western Kentucky University. Donors may choose to make outright gifts or deferred gifts, indicate whether their gift is for immediate use or, at specified levels, establish a permanently endowed fund. It is important for donors to find the method that best meets their individual needs while accomplishing their wishes. According to Tom Hiles, WKU’s vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, bequest commitments through wills are very popular because they are easy to arrange and may be determined according to the donors’ interests.

Dr. Jim and Mrs. Avo Taylor

Western recently received a commitment from Dr. Jim and Mrs. Avo Taylor of Cedar Hill, Tenn. According to Hiles, Dr. and Mrs. Taylor have, in their final testamentary trust, made a bequest to Western of 55 acres of valuable farm property on Mrs. Taylor’s family home place where the Taylors settled after their retirement. The property is currently valued at $400,000.

Hiles said the bequest will create the Dr. James Woodall and Mrs. Avo Head Taylor Scholarship Fund for students majoring in geography. “We appreciate the generosity of the Taylors,” he said. “They share President Ransdell’s vision that Western be the ‘best comprehensive university in the Commonwealth and among the best in the nation.’”

Dr. Taylor, a former member of the WKU geography faculty, said, “I always enjoyed working with my students and having interaction with graduate students. I want to give something back that will make a difference in the lives of students for years to come. I want to see Western and the state of Kentucky excel and become renowned for excellent educational opportunities.”

Mrs. Taylor, a 1973 library science graduate, said, “I have fond memories from our time at Western. I always enjoyed school there, and our faculty always worked very closely with us. I hope our gift helps foster that same attitude.”

Dr. Robert M. and Mrs. Virginia Schneider

Western has also received $400,000 commitment from Dr. Robert M. Schneider, and his wife, Virginia Schneider. The Schneiders have designated Western as the secondary beneficiary of their 403B retirement plans.

Dr. Schneider served as a faculty member in WKU’s Agriculture Department for 19 years, and Mrs. Schneider received her Ed.S degree at WKU and taught for 19 years in the Bowling Green City Schools.

“The money we have designated to Western was accumulated while we were both employed by the state of Kentucky,” Dr. Schneider said. “As we looked at various options in our estate planning, we were advised that this portion of our estate might best be used for charity.” Dr. Schneider said designating the proceeds from these plans to WKU will greatly reduce the tax that would otherwise be charged to his estate.

In honor of their careers, the Schneiders have designated their funds to WKU’s College of Education and Agriculture Department.

"I had a good experience at Western," Dr. Schneider said. "I very strongly feel that education is the upward mobility vehicle for many people. In this particular area, education has not received the priority it should." According to Hiles, many people are unaware of the benefits of designating WKU as the beneficiary of their retirement plan assets. "As Dr. Schneider outlined, this can often greatly reduce or eliminate the tax that would be placed upon the donor’s estate," he said. "We are very grateful that the Schneiders have chosen to make this leadership commitment to Western."

Increased scholarship support is an important priority in Western’s Challenging the Spirit strategic plan and for the Campaign for Western. Hiles said the Campaign has a goal of raising $17 million for scholarship support by the year 2003. Thus far, the University has raised $16.3 million toward this goal.
Western Kentucky University is pleased to present this comprehensive listing of all donors whose cumulative lifetime gifts equal $100,000 or more. These important alumni and friends are leading the way toward our goal to be “the best comprehensive university in the Commonwealth and among the best in the nation.”

We have done our best to ensure accuracy and inclusiveness within this listing. If you find your information to be incorrect, please contact us at (270) 745-6208 so we may make appropriate changes to our database. This listing reflects gifts and commitments made prior to August 31, 2001.

**Spirit of Western**
($1,000,000 and above)

Anonymous
Anonymous Football Lead Trust
Jerry E. Baker
William H. Fletcher Estate
Glenda and Gordon Ford
Jostens Learning
Carroll and Evelyn Knicely
Dixie and Pete Mahurin
Dr. Nancy Minix
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

**Cornerstone**
($100,000 - $499,999)

Alcoa Inc.
Alliance Corporation
Anonymous
AREA Bank
Judy and Robert Armstrong
Ashland Inc. Foundation
AT&T
AT&T Network Systems
Betty R. and David W. Bailey
Kathy and Dr. Craig Beard
James M. Beckley
Joyce and Bill Bell
Bonnie and Louis Berman
Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Sue and Ken Bragg
Eck Branhm
Walter D. Bunnell Estate
Cabletron Systems
Dr. Louise Cave Estate
Citizens Scholarship Foundation
Oscar Payne Cleaver Estate
Mary Ann and Ralph Coffman
Basil C. (d.) and Florence Cole
Brian W. Collins
Commonwealth Health Corporation/Centercare
Virginia Wood Davis Estate
E. Clifton Dowell
Margaret and Steve Eaton
English Lucas Priest & Owsey
First Union Securities
Franklin Bank & Trust Company
C. Ray (d.) and Ruth (d.) Franklin
Bill Gatton
Mildred Givens Estate
James N. Gray Company
Greenview Regional Hospital
Anne and Dan Greenwell
Kerr Greulich Engineers, Inc. ~ Donald J. and Jennifer W. Greulich
Henry Norman Hardin
Dr. Lowell and Penny Harrison
Helene Fulld Health Trust
Lt. Gov. Stephen L. Henry
Robert B. Hensley
High Field Farm
William L. Hix
Charles Phillip Holland
Houchens Industries, Inc.
Mike and Belle Lady Hunt
IBM Eduquest
Calvin (d.) and Rosella Isbell
Robert and Shirl Johnson
Jones Builders
Sandy and Marten Jones
Kentucky Bank Management Institute
Gary S. Koon
Dr. L.Y. Lancaster Estate
Leco Corporation
Mitchell Leichhardt
David Daniel Lessenberry Estate
Casey and Doug Lester
Logan Aluminum, Inc.
Bobbie Boyd Lubker and John Lynn Lubker
Margaret L. Madison Estate
Gail and Cornelius A. Martin
Anita Hardin McDole Estate
The Medical Center at Franklin
Bruce Merrick
Nelle B. Moss
Miko Muraguchi
National City Bank
Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc.
Barbara Jo Terry Porter
Joyce and L.D. Rasdall
Dorothy and Lester Reeves
Garland Reeves
Roiann and John Ridley
Terry Scariot and John Kelly
Henry Schlinker
Robert and Virginia Schneider
James Anthony Scott
Shirley C. Scott
Val Scott
Charles and Karen Shuffield
James D. Skaggs
Sodexo Marriott Services
Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, Inc.
Sunbelt Construction, Inc.
TA Instruments
Avo and Dr. James Taylor
Paul and Elizabeth Terrell
Cal Turner Foundation
Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation
United States Tobacco Company
Western Kentucky University Plaza Hotel
Ferris Van Meter
Bob and Katie Ward
Hays T. Watkins
Carol and Denny Wedge
Glen, Frieda and John Wells
Wendy’s of Bowling Green, Inc.
William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Frances H. and Lively M. Wilson
Dr. Willson and Erma (d.) Wood

(d.) Deceased

**Colonnade**
($500,000 - $999,999)

Dr. James Alexander Estate
Anonymous
Whitetta and Nick Crawford
Firstar
Fruit of the Loom, Inc.
Mary E. Heltsley
Insight Communications
Jana and Bud Layne
William M. McCormack
National City Bank
J.W. Potter and J.L. Harman
Mary R. Nixon
Dr. Walter N. Scott
James and Martha Thompson
J. Clifford Todd
The Turner Family
Beulah R. Winchel

**Save the Date**
May 10, 2002
Western Kentucky University’s Annual President’s Circle Gala
at the WKU Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center
Volunteer Spotlight on John W. Ridley

Home:
Bowling Green, Ky.

Graduate Information:
Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bio-Physics, WKU 1974

Profession:
Wealth Manager/Investment Officer, First Union Securities

WKU Volunteer Positions:
President's Circle
Advisory Council - chairman
WKU Board of Advisors - member
National Leadership Committee - member
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Alumni - member
WKU Student Government Association “Citizens Award” 2001 - recipient
Sponsor for Big Red Street Fest, University Libraries Author's Reception, Student Spirit Award

Family:
Wife, Roiann Robertson Ridley
Three children: Ben, 24; Dyer, 19, and Lucas, 17

Why I am involved in WKU:
“During my sophomore year at WKU, I received a grant from a philanthropist from my hometown who had established a fund for students to attend college. I was not asked to repay the grant, but I committed to a moral obligation of assisting students in obtaining an education should I ever be in a position to do so. I accepted this obligation as my lifetime commitment and currently honor it through support of scholastic achievement, athletic programs, and the University in general.”

Most rewarding experience with WKU:
“To partner with the institution in which the leadership, alumni, and students accept ownership positions in creating a positive educational environment is both challenging and rewarding. My family’s involvement with the University dates back many years. Through each generation, the University’s goal remained constant: to focus on the growth and development of the student. In consideration of Western’s dedication to extremely high academic standards, I am honored to support and associate myself with the University and its goal of providing a college experience that is both rewarding and enriching for the student.”