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Gordon Ford College of Business names Mattie Newman Ford Professor of Entrepreneurship

Gordon Ford’s gift of $10.6 million lives on as the Mattie Newman Ford Professor of Entrepreneurship has been named. A part of Ford’s $10.6 million gift, $500,000 was established to create a professorship in his mother’s honor. Ford, who speaks fondly of his mother, said, “I did this in appreciation for what she did for me and all the other people she taught.” Mattie Newman Ford received her teaching certificate from Western in 1909 and taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Muhlenberg County. Mattie Newman Ford knew the importance of a college education and made sure her son graduated from college.

The Gordon Ford College of Business is proud to announce the appointment of Leo R. Simpson, Ph.D. as the initial Mattie Newman Ford Professor of Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Leo Simpson has been a professor of entrepreneurship for 30 years. One of the early pioneers in entrepreneurial higher education, he previously served on the faculty of the University of North Dakota, Eastern Washington University, and was a visiting scholar in entrepreneurship at Griffith University on the Gold Coast in Australia. Dr. Simpson also served as the Management Department Chairman and the Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship at Eastern Washington University. He received his BS in Chemical Engineering from N.C. State University, MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Simpson owned three businesses and worked for the duPont Company in their Nomex new product startup venture. His work at duPont resulted in two patents and a complete revision of process waste processing.

Dr. Simpson has consulted with more than 300 companies during his career from new venture creation and growth to larger firm intervention and development. He has also delivered numerous seminars and workshops in productivity and growth management in organizations throughout the United States, Australia, Canada and Korea. Most recently he has been actively involved in assisting companies in preparing infrastructures for development including early state growth management and preparation for going public.

Dr. Simpson has actively published articles on leadership and entrepreneurship in journals such as the Academy of Management Journal and has made numerous presentations at the professional meetings of the International Council for Small Business, Academy of Management, United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Decision Sciences Institute, Small Business Institute Directors Association, Southwest Federation of Administrative Disciplines, and other professional organizations in entrepreneurship. He has been the recipient of a national award in research from the Allied Academies and several teaching excellence awards. Dr. Simpson’s students have won 23 regional and national business analysis awards in competition with hundreds of universities in the U.S. from the Small Business Institute Directors Association, including 14 first place regional finishes and eight top five in the nation awards including four first place recognitions. The Institute has also recognized Dr. Simpson as a Homer L. Saunders Fellow and as a Mentor. He has served as a Sam M. Walton Fellow in Students in Free Enterprise supervising a successful nationally competitive team of students. He has served on the Board of Directors for several professional organizations and private companies and has actively participated in the economic development in the regions in which he has lived.

On your next visit to Bowling Green, please stop by the Gordon Ford College of Business and meet the Mattie Newman Ford Professor of Entrepreneurship, Dr. Leo Simpson.
The Hilltoppers: P. S. I Love You

For many BU grads, the first thought that comes to mind on hearing “The Hilltoppers” is not Western’s athletic teams. Instead, they hear the tunes “Till Then,” “P. S. I Love You,” “Marianne,” and 18 other top-40 hits which transport them to the 1950s and their memories of four Western alumni who made it big in the popular music world. Join us at 2 p.m. on May 11th for the Kentucky Building opening of an exhibit celebrating the Hilltoppers.

In April 1952, Jimmy Sacca, Seymour Spiegelman, Don McGuire and Billy Vaughn recorded “Trying” in Van Meter auditorium. Released by Dot Records, “Trying” was only the beginning. Dressed in W sweaters and beanies, the Hilltoppers appeared on Ed Sullivan’s “The Toast of the Town” on October 26, 1952. Billboard and Cash Box magazines proclaimed them the number one vocal combination in 1953. Many fans are not aware that “P. S. I Love You: The Best of The Hilltoppers featuring Jimmy Sacca” is available as a CD, released by Varese Sarabande Records, Inc. in 1994.

In University Archives, we hope to document the BU connection. According to Bill Tracy (1951, 1953), the Toppers fraternity invited the Hilltoppers to sing at one of their dances, but expected them to pay the admission charge. Do you have a Hilltoppers story for us? Did you keep records, news clippings, programs, or other items relating to this quartet? Please write or e-mail Sue Lynn Stone, The Kentucky Building, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576 or sue-lynn.stone@wku.edu

Till then, Sue Lynn

Quote Corner

For some life lasts a short while, but the memories it holds last forever.

-Laura Swenson

BGBU Tiger???

Please help us solve a mystery if you can. In August 2001, University Archives acquired a stuffed animal with a mystery. It all began with an Ebay auction on the internet in late July 2001. For sale was a “very old straw stuffed tiger” stenciled B. G. B. U. A quick check of archivists around our nation revealed no other academic institutions with the initials B. G. B. U. Next I sent a query to the seller, asking for more information. From his message, I learned that he had purchased the stuffed animal at the estate sale of an antique dealer in Utica, Kentucky. The dealer’s inventory had been in storage for over 25 years. Unable to prove the tiger was not ours, I bid and hoped that no antique toy dealer would drive the price beyond reason.

Upon winning the bid, I revealed to the seller that the tiger’s home would be the Kentucky Building on Western’s campus. Graciously, Mike and Janice Davis of Owensboro decided to donate him to the University (thus, saving this archivist the $26.10 for high bid, insurance, shipping and handling). Their only request was that when we solve the mystery, we share the information with them.

Our tiger stands 9 inches tall and is 12 inches long from the tip of his nose to the backward arch of his curving tail. His face is comprised of moveable eyes, a pair of white pipe cleaner whiskers, a black button nose, and a red felt tongue. He has a black felt stripe extending over his head to his back. The majority of his body is orange felt, with the tiger stripes stenciled on his head, back, sides, legs and tail (leaving room on each side for B. G. B. U.). Did your fraternity or sorority sell these little mascots as a fund raiser? Were they available in the bookstore? Any clues will be appreciated. Send pertinent data to Sue Lynn Stone, University Archivist, Kentucky Building, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576 or e-mail sue-lynn.stone@wku.edu THANKS!
On February 14, 2002, Western’s Kentucky Building formally launched “Kentucky Building Online,” a web site that gives visitors a small sampling of the manuscripts, letters, photographs, museum artifacts and exhibits housed under its roof. As a resident of the Kentucky Building, Western’s University Archives was also given the opportunity to be represented in this project. We decided to emphasize the breadth of our collection with two web sites that highlight schools to which Western has an historical link: Potter College for Young Ladies and the Bowling Green Business University.

Drawing from our BU collection, we have assembled in cyberspace some of our favorite photographs which we hope will lead alumni and friends through an enjoyable tour of the long history of this institution. Some of the images have come from yearbooks and catalogues, others from photographs donated by alumni. A few are from the BU’s earliest days at the turn of the 20th century; but, in others you may see favorite teachers, fellow classmates or even yourself!

Those who remember “the Towers” as the headquarters of the BU can see its earlier homes on College Street and at the corner of Tenth and State Streets in downtown Bowling Green. Faculty and administrators such as J. Murray Hill, Clyde Cates, J. R. Meany, J. Lewie Harman and “Hoot” Holland are also represented. Most alumni will recognize the photograph of long-time registrar Nina Hammer, and perhaps agree with her observations about some of her colleagues given during an interview in 1976. BU students who attended large bookkeeping and accounting classes in the 1950s and 1960s can compare these with a photograph of a typewriting class taken in the 1890s. Students worked hard in their classes, but they also put great effort into constructing floats for the parade that preceded the exciting annual contest between the BU’s two debating societies. A sampling of these wonderfully imaginative floats can be found on the web site.

The activities of the BU’s fraternities and sororities provided many occasions for both formal photographs and informal snapshots. No record of the BU would be complete without a visual sampling of the parties, dances and initiation rites featuring the Toppers, Alpha Sigs, Delta Thetas, Kappa Beta Pis and other student groups. School-wide special occasions and leisure activities such as hayrides, Sadie Hawkins Day, Class Day and the annual watermelon feast are also represented.

University Archives hopes to enlarge our BU online photo gallery, and we look forward to suggestions from alumni for future additions. Perhaps some of you will be inspired to dig into your old photo albums and scrapbooks for those unique images which will help us better to preserve the BU’s history. For further information, to find out about donating materials to our collection, or for a complete inventory of our holdings, go to the “Contact Us” section of the web site or contact University Archivist Sue Lynn Stone at 270-745-4793 or email (suelynn.stone@wku.edu).

The BU photo gallery can be found at http://www.wku.edu/Library/onlinexh/bu/ or by logging onto Kentucky Building Online at http://www.wku.edu/Library/kentuckybuilding/, then clicking on the photograph of the Towers in the “Online Exhibits” section at the bottom of the page.
We need your help!

We’re ready to begin planning for the next BU reunion in 2003! If you are interested in serving on the BU Reunion Planning Team, please contact Mary Beth Frith, associate director, at 1-888-WKU-ALUM (958-2586) or e-mail her at mary.beth.frith@wku.edu.

Also, if you know of any BU alumni who do not receive the BU mailings, please contact Mary Beth so we can get their information updated.