THE HORSE IN KENTUCKY

Inside:

Teaching Abroad
International Reach

DNA Virus Sequence
Academic Spotlight
"We couldn't think of a better way to honor Dad than a scholarship for military families," Roy said. "He enjoyed his Air Force career, I had great experiences growing up in a military family, and Candy and I have the highest regard for those who serve and protect our country."

"Supporting future generations is a perfect way for us as Baby Boomers to honor our parents and all they did for our nation," Candy said. "They really were the Greatest Generation."

— Roy '69 and Candy '69, '73 McAllister

Roy ('69) and Candy ('69, '73) McAllister of Roswell, Ga., longtime contributors to WKU, are using a different approach to expand the impact of their contributions. They've established the CM/Sgt. Harry C. McAllister Memorial Scholarship for sons and daughters of career active-duty members of the US military. The McAllisters have begun funding the scholarship, and they have also included a bequest in their estate plans to complete the funding.

The Society of 1906

Recognition society for those who include WKU in their gift planning

To learn more about bequests or other ways to support your favorite WKU program, contact Diana Kinslow, Alex Downing or John Paul Blair in our planned giving office at 1-888-958-2586 (WKU ALUM).
Dear Alumni and Friends:

All of you in the WKU family are familiar with our vision to be a leading American university with international reach. There are many measurable ways in which we are achieving that vision, and I am pleased to share with you three recent announcements that further our efforts to expand our international reach, here at home and beyond, in significant ways.

Last spring WKU was awarded a Chinese Language Flagship Pilot Program by the U.S. Department of Defense, one of nine such programs in the United States. The Language Flagship is a national program that seeks to change the way Americans learn foreign languages and is designed to prepare American students to be global professionals. The Chinese Flagship at WKU is not an academic major. It offers students across disciplines an opportunity to participate in an advanced language education program with a goal of becoming professionally fluent in Mandarin Chinese while gaining advanced knowledge and skills in a traditional major such as education, business, the sciences, arts, or health care. Along with their intensive, accelerated language studies, Flagship students will experience the Chinese culture through annual study abroad opportunities, a capstone year at China's premier research school, Nanjing University, and internship opportunities with Chinese companies.

I recently spent time in Beijing with our first Flagship class. These students, with only one semester of Chinese language instruction under their belts, wowed Chinese officials with their ability to communicate in Mandarin Chinese.

During that same trip to China, we initiated another important partnership that integrates the Chinese language and culture into the WKU community. Just a few weeks ago WKU became Kentucky's first university to be home to a Confucius Institute. This is a highly prestigious designation for WKU with global implications. Through an agreement with China's Office of Chinese Language Council International, or Hanban, WKU will soon begin extending Asian Studies and Chinese language instruction into local K-12 schools and surrounding communities and providing training and support for teaching about the Chinese culture. Through the WKU Confucius Institute we will also foster exchanges of students and faculty with Sichuan International Studies University in Chongqing, China. Hanban will contribute $150,000 in startup funds for the WKU Confucius Institute, provide 3,000 volumes of books, videos and other materials to be housed in the Helm Library, and contribute significant annual support for staff and operations.

Internationalization at WKU took another important leap forward this year when WKU became the first U.S. university to become affiliated with Navitas Ltd. Navitas is an Australian-based global education services provider whose mission is to assist students who want to study in other countries. Navitas will bring international students to WKU and work with them in their first year so they can make a successful transition. With the help of Navitas, WKU intends to double the number of international students, currently about 700, over the next 10 years.

"International reach" can be defined in many different ways. Our resolve is to immerse our students and faculty in other lands, cultures and languages while bringing as many international students and faculty as possible to our campus. With 80 percent of our students coming from across Kentucky, we want to be sure they are sufficiently exposed to a global experience and that they become confident in embracing rich diversity.

A global economy and instant technology has connected the continents. Such new partnerships allow WKU to take the lead in connecting Kentucky's communities and students of all ages with those who live on those continents. These are just a few more ways WKU is becoming a leading American university with international reach.

Gary A. Ransdell
Beginning July 1st, Dr. A. Gordon Emslie will assume his role as WKU's new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Emslie is currently the associate vice president for Research and dean of the Graduate College at Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Emslie has been associate vice president for Research and dean of the Graduate College at Oklahoma State University since 2004 and regents professor of Physics since 2008. He was at the University of Alabama in Huntsville from 1981 to 2004, starting as an assistant professor of Physics, becoming Chair of the department and then dean of the School of Graduate Studies. He has earned several degrees, including bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

“I am supremely confident that WKU is exactly the sort of place at which I want to continue my career, the sort of place that inspires both the professor and the student in me, the sort of place that exemplifies the breadth and depth of the total college experience.” Dr. Emslie said.

“My charge in this position is to lead the division of Academic Affairs as WKU advances its national and international reputation for scholarship, while retaining its core educational mission to prepare students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society.”

“A college education not only provides our students with the knowledge and skills they will need to be productive members of our society, it also provides them with a deeper appreciation for the diversity of thought and creative expression across the human endeavor,” he said. “I am committed to ensuring that our graduates will be recognized as valued contributors to a rapidly-evolving global society in which not only knowledge and skills, but also creative problem-solving, have never been more highly prized.”

A native of Scotland, Dr. Emslie said his heritage even contributes “in some small measure” to WKU’s vision of becoming “a leading American university with international reach.”

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE COMING TO WKU

WKU continues to expand and enhance Asian Studies, as part of its mission to promote the internationalization of its campus, with the decision to establish a Confucius Institute at WKU.

President Gary Ransdell traveled to China this January as part of WKU’s efforts to further develop Chinese Studies at WKU. While in China, he met with officials from China’s Office of Chinese Language Council International, or Hanban, to discuss the establishment of a Confucius Institute at WKU. An agreement was signed by Madam Xulin, the Director General of...
Hanban, and Dr. Ransdell to establish a non-profit educational partnership to become the first Confucius Institute in Kentucky.

WKU was selected based on the strength of its proposal, the coordinated efforts of the university and the city and county leadership, and the personal commitment and support of President Ransdell and Provost Barbara Burch.

Hanban will contribute $150,000 in startup funds, 3,000 volumes of books, videos, and other materials, and a multi-media exhibit, valued at up to $1,000,000 RMB (approximately $150,000 US). With the support of the Chinese Embassy, its partner school, the Sichuan International Studies University, and the University of Maryland Confucius Institute (the oldest CI in the US), WKU becomes one of the newest members of the Confucius Institute family.

Under the leadership of its co-directors, Amy Eckhardt and Dr. Liping Chen, the WKU CI will serve as a platform to promote Chinese language acquisition and cultural exchange throughout the Commonwealth and serve as a resource for our region. Already, planning has begun to start new Chinese language programs in Bowling Green and Warren County schools.

The Confucius Institute is a significant addition to WKU's increasing resources in the area of Chinese language and culture. Last spring WKU was awarded two federal grants worth almost $750,000 to build a four-year Chinese language program and support the development of an Asian Religions and Cultures major through The Language Flagships of the National Security Education Program and the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language through the Department of Education. These programs seek to promote the learning and appreciation for the Chinese language and culture through a variety of activities within the university and to the greater community through outreach activities aimed at area schools, businesses, institutions and organizations.

WKU RENEWS SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA UNIVERSITIES

WKU has renewed coal and emission research agreements with two universities in China.

On Jan. 16 in Beijing, WKU President Gary Ransdell renewed a scientific cooperation agreement with Taiyuan University of Technology to intensify efforts on coal chemistry and multi-pollutant emission control technologies and with Anhui University of Science and Technology to intensify efforts on coal combustion, carbon dioxide capture and multi-pollutant emission control technologies.

Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, director of WKU's Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, and others at WKU have been working with Chinese researchers for the past two decades on air quality issues.

In the past 15 years, more than 10 professors from Taiyuan University of Technology have visited WKU. Dr. Ransdell visited TYUT in 1999.

In the past 20 years, more than 24 professors from Anhui University of Science and Technology have visited WKU. The school's president, Mingxu Zhang, was a visiting scholar at WKU between 1990 and 1992.

SELIB LEAVING AS WKU ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Dr. Camden Wood Selig, who has served as WKU's Director of Athletics since August of 1999, will be leaving the Hill to assume the position of Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Selig's 10+ year tenure at WKU has marked a period of unprecedented athletic success for the university's athletic teams and student-athletes. WKU has won an astounding 70 Sun Belt Conference championships during this period, 30 more than the next closest Sun Belt School, while 85 percent of WKU student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility have graduated. Selig also has spearheaded more than $100 million in new construction and renovations to WKU's athletic facilities this decade.

President Gary Ransdell praised Selig for his tenure at WKU. "The day we hired Wood Selig, I knew our athletic program was on the right track to having the energy, stability and success that it needed," he said. "I don't know that there is an athletic department anywhere that has achieved the type of success that this program has under Wood's leadership. This has not been a
job for Wood. It has been a passion and an absolute commitment—both personal and professional—to this university. There's no question in my mind that Wood and his family will always be very close to WKU.

WKU DEDICATES SNELL HALL

The new Snell Hall, the latest piece of the transformation of WKU's science campus, was dedicated in February.

The five-story, $24 million facility houses classrooms, lecture rooms, instructional labs and research labs for chemistry, biology, computer science, engineering, geography and geology, and SkyTeach programs.

"This was a total college effort," Dr. Blaine Ferrell, dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering, said in thanking department heads and faculty for their support of the project.

Snell Hall is one phase of a seven-part renewal of the Ogden campus, President Gary Ransdell said. The others include two more completed projects—the Complex for Engineering and Biological Sciences and the recently completed renovation of Science and Technology Hall; and four planned projects—renovation of Thompson Complex Central Wing, Hardin Planetarium and Environmental Sciences and Technology Building and a new U.S. Department of Agriculture research lab (where Thompson Complex North Wing now sits).

The transformation of the science complex and the research projects by faculty and students are "driving the economy of this region," Dr. Ransdell said.


WILCUTT URGES WKU, GATTON STUDENTS TO KEEP DREAMING OF SPACE

Even though the space shuttle program has only four missions left and the U.S. space program is facing an uncertain budgetary future, NASA astronaut Terry Wilcutt urged students at the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky to keep reaching for the stars.

The seemingly impossible challenge of missions to the moon or Mars "takes the best the country has to offer," Wilcutt said. "That's you."

"The number one reason qualified people don't make it is they don't apply," said Wilcutt, a Russellville native and 1974 WKU graduate. "Most people in the astronaut office applied more than once. They had a dream and refused to let go of it."

Wilcutt taught high school math in Louisville before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in 1976 and earning his wings in 1978. In 1986, Wilcutt was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, was selected by NASA in 1990 and became an astronaut in 1991.

"For all means, have the nerve to apply," he said. "If this is your dream, you've got to give NASA a chance to say yes."

Wilcutt was the pilot on space shuttle flights in 1994 and 1996 and the mission commander on flights in 1998 and 2000. The retired Marine Corps colonel now serves as director of Safety & Mission Assurance at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Wilcutt has "mixed feelings" as the space shuttle program winds down. "They're going to miss it," he said.

Next up for the space program is "game-changing technology" that would take man back to the moon or to Mars, he said. But President Obama and Congress must agree on the NASA budget and other space program issues, Wilcutt said.

"Now that the president has laid out his vision, it's up to us at NASA to go out and do it," he said.
WKU ACHIEVES ALL 8 GOALS OF KENTUCKY PLAN

For the sixth straight year, WKU has achieved continuing Degree Program Eligibility status based on the eight categories of the Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities.

By surpassing the minimum level of successful achievement, WKU is automatically eligible to offer new degree programs. The report, which was presented to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), is based on data from 2008-09 which showed that WKU successfully met all eight objectives.

CPE oversees the Kentucky Plan, which monitors progress in eight objectives related to African American Kentuckians in the state's public higher education institutions. The objectives include the enrollment, retention and graduation of students as well as the hiring of faculty, staff and professionals.

Dr. Richard Miller, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer at WKU, said the results show the University's efforts are working, but that work needs to continue.

"WKU is committed to achieving diversity in our student, faculty and staff populations, and in creating the environment that encourages them to stay here and be successful," Dr. Miller said. "Meeting all eight objectives for two of the past three years is a meaningful accomplishment, but no cause for us to relax in our efforts."

ROSS BJORK NAMED NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Ross Bjork, who has worked the last five seasons as the senior associate athletic director for Development and External Relations at UCLA, has been named Western Kentucky University's director of Athletics. Bjork has 18 years of intercollegiate athletics experience as an administrator and student-athlete, having also worked on the senior staffs at the University of Miami and the University of Missouri. He also served as assistant development coordinator at WKU from 1996-97. Bjork will be the youngest athletics director among the 120 members of the Football Bowl Subdivision.

"We are very pleased to welcome Ross back to WKU as our new director of athletics," Randsell said. "We had an extremely impressive pool of candidates for this position, which speaks to the respect this university and athletic department have nationwide. We have enjoyed unprecedented success in many areas under Wood Selig's direction, and I have the utmost confidence that Ross will help us continue to raise the bar of success. He has an extensive array of experiences, and he has a proven track record of major accomplishments on a high level at multiple universities."

"It is truly a dream come true for me to return to WKU as director of athletics," Bjork said. "This is a vibrant university that continues to excel and reach new heights each year under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Randsell and the Board of Regents. I have enjoyed following the Toppers closely ever since I worked here, and the combination of championships, high graduation rates and major facility improvements that Dr. Selig and this athletic department have accomplished is very impressive."

"WKU's legendary history and this program's foundation have enabled a high level of success to be achieved in many areas. Success of this magnitude cannot be sustained without a total commitment from student-athletes, coaches, the administration and the community. We will continue to strive for excellence in everything we do, and I am looking forward to the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead."

Bjork, 37, a native of Dodge City, Kan., is respected nationally by his peers and is past-president of the National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD). His wife, Sonya, is the director of Donor Relations for the UCLA Foundation. They have a son, Payton Ross, born April 14, 2006.
THREE INDUCTED INTO KENTUCKY TEACHER HALL OF FAME

Three outstanding educators were inducted in January at the State Capitol as the third class of the Gov. Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame. The three, chosen by a statewide selection committee, were Frances Steenbergen of Glasgow, Linda D. Childress of Cub Run, and Walter Dick of Cumberland.

"There are few individuals who have a greater ability to influence the lives of Kentucky's children than our educators," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "A good teacher can instill a love of learning that encourages students to stay in school, develop a voracious appetite for knowledge and continue on to postsecondary education. I am proud to honor three of these fine educators today from across the state; their commitment to and investment in Kentucky's future is unrivaled."

Gov. Beshear and Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday presented the Hall of Fame awards to each recipient. The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by former Gov. Nunn.

Secretary of Education Joe Meyer, House Speaker Greg Stumbo and Senate President David Williams also participated in the ceremony, offering their congratulations and thanking the inductees for their combined 117 years of providing young people with skills for the future and making a difference in the lives of countless students.

WKU SPIRIT MAGAZINE ADDS FOURTH ISSUE

The WKU SPIRIT magazine will add a fourth issue to its current publishing calendar next year. The additional issue will be mailed in the summer of 2011, but "changes will be seen as early as this fall," said WKU SPIRIT Co-Editor Tracy Morrison. Along with producing another publication, the magazine design team is busy creating an entire publication redesign. "The new WKU SPIRIT will have more pages, a new look and will be in mailboxes every quarter," said Co-Editor Carol Cummings.

To produce a fourth issue of WKU SPIRIT, the editorial team will make necessary adjustments in page count and postage. "In order to deliver a fourth issue to alumni, we have made some segmentation adjustments to our database," said Donald Smith, Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association. "WKU alumni who are annual or lifetime members of the Alumni Association or who are donors to any area of the University will receive a total of four issues of WKU SPIRIT each year."

Beginning this fall, WKU alumni and friends who do not have an active WKU alumni association membership will only receive the fall and spring issues of WKU SPIRIT. In addition to regular features and campus news, the new members' only issues (winter and summer) will also showcase numerous affinity products and services available exclusively to WKU Alumni Association members.

"By decreasing our overall circulation, we are able to create a fourth magazine and increase the number of pages in all magazines," Smith said. "All magazines will be available online."

To become a member of the WKU Alumni Association visit www.alumni.wku.edu/joinnow or call 888.WKU.ALUM.
In January, WKU became the first U.S. institution to announce an educational affiliation with the global education services provider Navitas Ltd. for the establishment of a University Pathways Program at the Bowling Green campus. The agreement leads the way for other agreements for similar university pathway programs in the United States. Currently, Navitas has 28 international partnerships and WKU is proud to be their first U.S. affiliate.

Navitas Chief Executive Officer Rod Jones said the company is proud to partner with WKU on the new program, scheduled to open in September 2010.

"Partnering with established, quality universities is key to the rollout of our business model into the United States," Jones said. "We are committed to establishing a footprint in one of the world’s largest education markets and believe this commitment consolidates our entry into the United States." The highly successful Navitas teaching-learning model will allow international students to begin their WKU careers with an intensive first-year program.

"Navitas brings international experience, a strong track record in education and the ability to attract enthusiastic students from a variety of backgrounds to WKU," Dr. Ransdell said. "This is an exciting opportunity for us. We extend a warm welcome to the United States for Navitas and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership."

Dr. Ransdell added the partnership "will bode well for both of us and we’re grateful for the expertise and the talent that the Navitas team will bring to this university. This creates a pathway for students from across the globe to become a part of this university experience."

WKU already has a significant international reach with more than 700 international students enrolled on the campus, many international initiatives, international exchange and study abroad programs that encourage students to study in countries outside of the United States, the Harlaxton College and Semester at Sea programs, as well as the new Chinese Flagship Language program offered on the campus.

The Navitas partnership is expected to double the number of international students attending WKU over the next decade and provide them with the very best educational transition into the American higher education system. The result would be that international students will be well prepared to attend the university and pursue their degree. It will also provide special opportunities for both domestic and international students to have new perspectives that are critical as they engage in a global society.

Jones said the support by Navitas for students attending their first year of college in a new country has resulted in better than 90 percent of the students continuing beyond that first year: "Many students were failing not because of academic ability, but because of those transitional issues," he said. "Our concept is to work with the university to bring these students from where they are currently residing into the university community as successful students so that when they complete this program with us, they can move into the mainstream university and be successful there also."

Dr. Dean Kahler, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, said the partnership was the result of a shared vision, a lot of hard work and a lot of travel.

"Both students from the U.S. and students from other countries will assuredly benefit from learning together and from each other," he said. "I can’t imagine two finer institutions coming together to enhance educational opportunities for students."

Jones added, "The WKU partnership will be part of our foundation in the exciting U.S. market and we look forward to a strong performance from the college for students."
WKU information is now available on mobile devices such as iPhones and BlackBerrys through the iWKU application. WKU worked with Blackboard Inc. to develop the application, which is available through the iTunes Store.

The application was modeled after iStanford, which is generally accepted as a model iPhone app for university administrative purposes.

Bob Owen, WKU's vice president for Information Technology, said the application includes extensive information about WKU for mobile device users, such as live interactive maps, campus directory, athletics information, news, events, course catalogs, image library and more.

"Our goal is to get a fairly robust presence developed very quickly," Dr. Owen said, "and use our experience with this app as the foundation for further mobile presence development and refinement. We need to put up a standardized presence in a way that embraces WKU's branding and message."

The prevalence and use of mobile devices makes it important for WKU to have an app available for students, potential students, alumni, visitors and others. Dr. Owen said that nationally, more than half of undergraduate students own an Internet capable mobile device, and more plan to purchase one within the next year. Of those, 29 percent access the Internet daily with their mobile devices. "These percentages are expected to continue to increase," he said.

A mobile browser version of the same services can be accessed with web-enabled mobile devices at i.wku.edu. This version will work on Palm, Android or BlackBerry devices.
Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate Coach Willie Taggart on becoming the head football coach at WKU and look forward to his tenure as coach being as successful as his career at WKU. During the past few years the football program has taken on tremendous challenges and I am sure Coach Taggart will meet these challenges just like he did as a player. I have been impressed with Coach Taggart's attitude, enthusiasm and love for the Topper program. I look forward to the upcoming fall schedule which will provide us the opportunity to test our progress. Everyone should come out to the football games this fall, football at WKU is becoming something very special.

Greg Hines '79
Football 75-77

Dear Editor,

I truly enjoyed your recent article on the "Everyday Life of a Judge." I knew that Sue Carol Browning (Todd Co.) and David Holton (Jefferson Co.) and I had been on campus in the mid-80s together, but was interested to find out just how many of us were there. Your piece spurred me to action. A cursory review of a fairly recent judicial directory of sitting judges in Kentucky (for those who released their educational info) showed many proud WKU grads, 29 that I could find: Supreme Court, 1 current and 1 recent; Court of Appeals, 2 current and 1 recent; Circuit /Family Courts, 9; and District Courts, 15. WKU has certainly made an impact on today's Kentucky judiciary. GO BIG RED!

Kimberly Winkenkofer Shumate '84
Hardin District Judge: 12 years

Dear Editor,

Dr. Dwight Pounds is to WKU Music what Ed Diddle was to WKU Athletics. A trailblazer.

A graduate of Texas Tech and Indiana, Pounds served full-time at WKU from 1970 to 1999, teaching until 2003. He taught countless students about music appreciation, history and more.

An amazing classroom instructor, Pounds' talent is what sets him apart. When he picks up his viola, he showcases passion, insight, charisma, and expression. To share his love of music, Pounds has performed with the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra since 1970. He has played in every season, notably at the Van Meter Hall rededication concert in 1970 and again celebrating Van Meter's restoration this year. For 40 years, Pounds has created music in one of WKU's most revered buildings.

WKU has many accolades. Now, I add one more, the commitment and passion of faculty, specifically Dr. Dwight Pounds.

Carrie Barnett '95
Bowling Green, KY

What's on Your Mind...

WKU SPIRIT welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Correspondence should be sent by e-mail to alumni@wku.edu or by mail to the WKU SPIRIT Editor, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #31016, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1016.
Courtney Yopp Norris, a 2004 WKU graduate, has quickly risen from student ambassador on the hill in Bowling Green to a key staff member on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Norris, communications director for U.S. Representative Brett Guthrie of Bowling Green, credits WKU with giving her every opportunity to succeed. "I was encouraged to gain (professional) experience, which led me to take an internship in Washington, DC, in Senator Mitch McConnell’s press office," she said. That experience was the beginning of Norris’ successful career in government and politics.

Originally from Louisville, Norris said she was drawn to WKU because of the award-winning School of Journalism & Broadcasting. "I initially wanted to major in public relations," she said, "but after taking Government 101 I found my true passion was in politics and government." Norris chose government as her major and primary focus and public relations as a second major.

During her time at WKU Norris found many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. She learned leadership as Chi Omega’s delegate to the Panhellenic Council and served the University as a Spirit master.

As the official spokeswoman for Congressman Guthrie, Norris manages all official communication from his office, schedules media interviews and updates the media on the Congressman’s legislative initiatives and his activities and positions on issues. She also manages Congressman Guthrie’s website and assists in creating e-newsletters sent to constituents in Kentucky’s Second Congressional District.

Before joining Congressman Guthrie’s staff, Norris worked as deputy communications director for U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and as a public affairs officer for the U.S Department of Justice in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Eastern Kentucky. She has also worked on political campaigns for former Congresswoman Ann Northup and Kentucky State Senator Carroll Gibson, a WKU alumnus.

Courtney and her husband, Clayton Norris, also a WKU graduate and former Spirit Master, live in Alexandria, Va.
Van Meter Hall

Named for: Captain Charles J. Van Meter, Chancellor of the Western State Normal School, who also helped develop Bowling Green Business University and, as a riverboat captain, helped develop the Green and Barren rivers for commerce.

What's inside: Performance venue, Office of Campus and Community Events and conference and event rooms.

Details: Constructed in 1911, Van Meter Hall originally housed the WKU administration and auditorium and was renovated in 1968, 1969 and 1971. A two-year, $21.8 million restoration includes a 14,000-square-foot addition, which offers a state-of-the-art performance venue seating for 1,106 people and a large stage house, along with the addition of a multi-purpose room, various musical storage areas, three dressing rooms and a green room.

Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center


What's inside: Intramural and Recreational Sports and health and fitness activities.

History: The facility, constructed in 1992, contains a weight room, Olympic-size swimming pool, running track, and basketball, volleyball and racquetball courts. A $10 million, 13,000-square-foot addition increased the size and amount of equipment in the fitness center, added restroom and locker facilities and upgraded all facilities and furnishings. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held May 3, 2010.
**College High Hall**

*What's inside: Department of Mathematics and the Ogden College Dean's offices*

*Details: Constructed in 1925, the building housed the College High training school until 1970 and was renovated in 1972. Among the oldest buildings on campus, it served as the Science and Technology Hall until a $7.3 million renovation began in 2008. The new facility will be dedicated May 8, 2010.*

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**Paul C. Orberson Baseball Clubhouse**

*Named for: Paul C. Orberson ('79), former student-athlete and entrepreneur*

*What's inside: Locker rooms, players' lounge, equipment room, training room, restrooms and showers*

*Details: The $900,000, 4,210-square-foot facility will be dedicated on May 8, 2010.*

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**Chandler Memorial Chapel**

*Named for: David Chandler ('82), real estate executive and developer*

*What's inside: Chapel space and vestibules, with adjacent gardens and columbarium for interment of ashes*

*Details: The chapel is constructed of Indiana limestone with a salvaged slate roof. Construction began in 2009, and the facility will be dedicated on May 7, 2010.*
Tompkinsville Class of 1959 Creates Scholarship Fund at WKU

There are many ways to create and structure a gift to WKU. One group—the Tompkinsville High School Class of 1959—found a unique way to make a gift. Recently, the group got together and created the Tompkinsville High School Class of 1959 Scholarship Fund.

Housed in the College Heights Foundation, the scholarship is available to beginning WKU freshmen who are graduates of Monroe County High School. Recipients are selected by the University Scholarship Committee and must demonstrate financial need and the personal qualities of character, integrity, dependability, industriousness, and human compassion which produce leaders and merit the honor of the award. Applicants must also submit an essay, which will be used in the selection process.

Dr. Delroy Hire, a 1962 alumnus of WKU, was a member of the Tompkinsville High School Class of 1959. "I think this is a great example for others to follow," he said. "Actually, I have already suggested it to other friends, and they are willing to discuss it and look into the possibility. Suppose every high school class did that? It would make a huge difference for students from their home high schools. I'm glad to be a part of it!"

WKU Announces Record-Breaking Cash Gifts

Western Kentucky University received record-breaking cash gift totals for the last six months of 2009, with cash receipts totaling $12.5 million from July 1, 2009-Dec. 31, 2009. This achievement represents a 71 percent increase over what was received during the same time period the previous year. It is also the highest six-month cash number the University has ever received.

Rick Guillaume of Louisville, retired BB&T banking executive, is co-chair of WKU's New Century of Spirit Campaign. "The Campaign Cabinet and the individuals involved in the New Century of Spirit Campaign can be very proud of WKU's accomplishments for the entire year," he said. "It has been a very challenging year within the financial markets, and the Campaign and its contributors have met the challenge with gifts totaling $12.5 million in the last six months. This performance signifies the great commitment of the University's alumni and friends."

WKU President Gary Ransdell agreed. "This has been a challenging economic environment, but our alumni and friends continue to support our shared vision," he said. "We are indeed grateful for the strong vote of confidence their support brings."

The first awards from the Tompkinsville High School Class of 1959 Scholarship Fund went to Clint Bybee (center), whose grandfather, the late Donald Bybee, was a member of the Class of 1959, and to Matt Sheffield (second from right), grandson of 1959 graduate Eva Sheffield (at right). Clint's parents, Ross and Sharon Bybee, are shown at left. Matt is the son of Ricky and Pam Sheffield.
Two attorneys known for their work with the media and defense of the First Amendment have made a new commitment to support a scholars program in the School of Journalism & Broadcasting at Western Kentucky University.

Jon Fleischaker and Kim Greene of Louisville have made a $150,000 gift to enhance the existing Fleischaker-Greene Fund for Excellence in First Amendment Issues, which provides support for the Fleischaker-Greene Scholars. This gift will be matched by $150,000 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Regional University Excellence Trust Fund, providing a total impact of $300,000 for the fund. Fleischaker and Greene made an initial gift of $250,000 in 2007. The new gift and state match brings the total fund to $550,000.

The Fleischaker-Greene Scholars program provides journalism students the opportunity to take an advanced special-topic class once a year. This class is taught at the junior/senior level and offers unique opportunities that include a field trip, speakers, a First Amendment module, a gallery exhibit and the development of a Web presentation. The course also places an emphasis on using First Amendment tools, such as open records laws.

“We have both made our careers representing journalists in Kentucky, and we both believe journalism is a vital profession that needs to be strengthened and grown in Kentucky and elsewhere if our democracy is going to work,” Fleischaker said. “We wanted to do something in Kentucky, which is significant because neither of us went to school at WKU or in Kentucky. We wanted to invest in WKU’s program. We thought journalism and photojournalism and everything connected to the school was the best in Kentucky, and we wanted to be connected to it and grow it.”

He said they were pleased to be able to enhance the program with this new gift. “We never thought of ourselves as giving a certain amount of money and being through,” he said. “We have tried to be active in our participation at WKU, and we are very excited about the program and the opportunity to help it grow. We’ve had some interaction with the students and are looking forward to having even more. We have been very pleased. We are impressed with the quality of people, as well as their academic quality and the quality of their work.”
Dr. Joseph Zaydon Creates Scholarship Fund in Pre-Medicine

Dr. Joseph Zaydon, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Bowling Green, recently made a gift to create a scholarship in pre-medicine at WKU. Pledging $100,000 in support of the scholarship, Dr. Zaydon's gift was matched with $50,000 through three collective gifts from Dr. and Mrs. Jack Glasser of Bowling Green, Dr. Jerry Gibbs of Glasgow and Dr. Jannice Aaron of Smithfield. The entire $150,000 commitment from the four physicians was then matched by the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Regional University Excellence Trust Fund, which brought the total impact to $300,000 for the scholarship fund.

"I made this gift because it is needed," Dr. Zaydon said. "It is a very expensive education to become a physician. It is almost impossible to get through pre-medicine and medical school without some type of financial help. As I am a physician myself, I am proud to have the opportunity to encourage other people to give and to recognize gifted students. I like giving, and there are so many areas that need help. This is just one of many."

Dr. Zaydon said WKU has creative ways one can give, and they make it easy to give. "I would have given anyway, but I was able to take advantage of the matching money," he said. "This allows WKU to take a substantial gift and make it even more substantial—from generous to tremendous."

Dr. Zaydon, who has lived in Alvaton, Ky., since 1985, received his plastic surgery degrees from the University of Louisville and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Ann and Rick Guillaume Named WKU’s Philanthropists of the Year

Ann ('65) and Rick ('65) Guillaume of Louisville were recently honored as WKU’s 2009 Philanthropists of the Year at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon in Lexington.

Rick Guillaume, former president of BB&T, currently serves as the organization’s Kentucky chairman emeritus and state marketing director. Ann spent 25 years as a research and statistical assistant at the Kentucky Bankers’ Association and now works, on a full-time volunteer basis, as music administrative associate at Christ Church.

In 1988, Rick was awarded the WKU “Westerner” of the Year award. He currently serves on the WKU Board of Advisors and as co-chair of the New Century of Spirit Campaign Cabinet. He is a former member of the WKU Foundation Board and WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Ann is also a former board member for the WKU Alumni Association. Rick and Ann are Alumni Association Lifetime Members and members of the Society of 1906. They have financially supported numerous programs at WKU, including the proposed Alumni Center and the Sigma Chi house.

Previous recipients of the WKU Philanthropist of the Year are Don Greulich, Suzanne Vitale, Jerry Baker, Gordon Ford, Lowell Guthrie, Bud Layne, Leon Page, Don Vitale, and Raymond and Hattie Preston and the Preston Family Foundation.
WKU Fully Utilizes State Matching Money

WKU was able to leverage $2,439,000 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Regional University Excellence Trust Fund, commonly known as “Bucks for Brains,” to match 12 gifts from individuals and corporations.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said WKU has taken a proactive approach to securing the available matching funds. “These donors have leveraged their personal gifts to build critical endowments across key academic disciplines at the University,” he said. “We are grateful to our General Assembly for such a program, and to the alumni and friends who have made gifts allowing us to strengthen the quality of our academic programs and utilize all of our matching money.”

Bucks for Brains Matches $2,439,000 Allocated for WKU

$500,000
Civil Engineering Professorship
Larkin Ritter

$500,000
Horticulture Professorship
Confidential Donor

$500,000
Honors College Professorship
John and Jacque Jarve

$375,000
Endowment for Research
The Center for Special Needs Trust Administration

$164,000
Scholarships
Sylvia Middleton and Margie Bonds

$150,000
First Amendment Fund for Excellence
Jon Fleischaker and Kim Greene

$150,000
Pre-Med Scholarships
Dr. Joe Zaydon ($100,000)
Dr. Jack Glasser, Jann Aaron, and Jerry Gibbs ($50,000 collective gift)

$50,000
Green Fund
Valerie Brown ($10,000)
Chase Bank ($40,000)

$50,000
Allen County Economic Development
Haiton Company

Century of Spirit
The Campaign for Western Kentucky University

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS
What do Wiesbaden, Belize, Quito and Barcelona have in common? Though they are miles apart, all four are cities in which WKU students have recently completed a student teaching experience.

**WKU Student Teaching Benefits**

From **International Flavor**

By Dr. Fred P. Carter '72, '74, '79
Director of Teacher Services & School Relations
Amber D. Creek, a December 2009 graduate from Russellville, Ky., spent a self-described “once in a lifetime” five weeks student teaching in Barcelona. “Never before could I have imagined that such an experience would have been possible if not for WKU,” she said. “I got the opportunity to experience another culture and travel, all while doing what I love: teaching. That study abroad experience taught me tremendous amounts about who I am as a person and an educator. Thanks, WKU, for allowing me to represent you around the world!”

According to Dr. Fred Carter, WKU’s director of Teacher Services and School Relations, WKU’s growing emphasis on internationalization definitely includes the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, which graduates 500 future teachers each year. “With 200-plus languages now being spoken within American schools—and with the vast cultural differences represented in suburban, urban, and even rural schools—growing numbers of school administrators are seeking teachers who have familiarity with cultural and language differences,” he said. “These employers also seek individuals who do not view these differences as challenges but as opportunities for personal and professional growth. WKU student teachers with international experience fit such a job description perfectly!”

With new contracts developed and signed and an expanded listing of sites from which to choose, five WKU student teachers spent part or all of the Spring 2009 semester in Barcelona, Spain, and in Wiesbaden, Germany, to complete their international student teaching experiences.
Seven more students traveled to Barcelona during the Fall semester of 2009 and 11 students are assigned to Barcelona and to Quito, Ecuador, for the Spring 2010 semester. As the number of students participating in these international placements continues to grow, Carter has set a goal for at least 10 percent of student teachers to have such an experience each year.

Many students worry about the added cost of a study abroad experience, but students like Heather D. Bewley, a June 2009 graduate from Elizabethtown, Ky., have made the dream a reality through unique fund raising. "I was so excited when I was selected for the program and I knew that I would go no matter what," she said. "However, once reality set in, I started panicking. How would I finish my teacher work sample on time? Could I stand to leave my family for five weeks? Where would I come up with the money to go?"

Bewley immediately began to raise the money for the trip. She collected and recycled aluminum cans, hauled off scrap metal from other people’s property and held bake sales at local establishments. Her church Bible study group saw her struggle and jumped in to help, hosting a spaghetti supper and benefit auction with donated gift items, food and crafts. The supper and auction raised nearly $3,000, which was more than enough for the trip.

"Studying abroad has made lasting impressions on me that carry on in my thoughts and attitude daily," Bewley said. "I gained invaluable experience in the classroom that helps me tremendously in my classroom in Kentucky. I gained insight and exposure to new places, people, lifestyles and ideas. This experience changed my way of thinking and made me question why we as Americans do things a certain way. The lessons I learned through this experience are valuable, extensive and more than I ever imagined I would gain."

Language and cultural barriers can present some unique challenges for student teachers as well. Nickie Gentry, a June 2009 graduate from Bowling Green, shared. "I can honestly say that every teacher should have to teach abroad," Gentry said. "When you are in the comfort of your own country, where you speak the dominant language, where you know how the school system works, and where you feel that you fit most, you may unintentionally neglect the opportunity to better yourself as an educator. Being taken out of my comfort zone made me see teaching for what it really is and I had to learn to think outside of what I had been taught."
Non-traditional student Julia King, a June 2009 graduate from Bowling Green, had some unique stresses and challenges, as she was away from her husband and her two young children. She used email, Skype™ and an international calling card to keep in touch with her family back home. "It was difficult to call home at an hour when I was awake and my family was awake and not at work or school," she explained. "Many nights the guard at the school would fuss at me for being out of bed at 12:30 a.m. just to say ‘Hi’ to my husband before he went to work or to my children before they went to school.

"In all these things, I learned more about education and how others experience life," King continued. "This has definitely changed my perspective on how I approach my own life. I am grateful to the Education Department at WKU for having made this opportunity available and I hope many more teachers will be able to do the same."

For more information and photos relating to WKU international student teaching opportunities, please visit the CEBS IEC Committee website at http://edtech.wku.edu/~international/ or the WKU Study Abroad link at http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad/. You can also check out the CEBS Teacher Services website at http://edtech.wku.edu/~teachsvs.

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\text{\textbf{Fast Facts}}
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At the national level, only 20 percent of students who completed their education training and were certified during the Spring semester of 2009 were employed as teachers during the Fall semester of 2009.

WKU graduates exceeded these national statistics by almost 300 percent, as 56 percent of its Spring 2009 teacher education graduates were gainfully employed as teachers during the Fall semester of 2009.

An even more impressive 100 percent of WKU Spring 2009 graduates who participated in an international placement during student teaching were employed as teachers in the Fall 2009 semester!
THE HORSE IN KENTUCKY

By Theresa Clark
Horse. The mere word brings a certain “look” to the enthusiast’s eye while the rest of the world wonders why. Is it his spirit? His strength? His power? His beauty? His mind? His personality? Yes, horse lovers answer, but add that it’s so much more. While not easily expressed, when the connection happens, both horse and man know it. Whether it’s a young girl imagining a ride on her pony, a rough and tumble cowboy spending weekdays herding cattle and weekends bronco riding, trainers and jockeys hoping to race the next Kentucky Derby winner, a breeder plotting a bloodline cross to produce show ring World Champions, or a backyard owner riding the trails, one intriguing element of every human-equine relationship is discovering that innate “something” that binds man and beast, soul to soul, and spirit to spirit. It may be a lifelong endeavor, but horse lovers all agree that it is a worthy and fulfilling quest.
“Why is Kentucky
the horse capital of the world?”

“The Horse in Kentucky,” a $1 million permanent
interactive exhibit at the Kentucky Museum, will address
that question. Though the full exhibit will premiere in
September 2011, a special preview will coincide with the
World Equestrian Games in September 2010.

“When looking to replace Western 100, our conversa-
tions drifted to ‘what makes Kentucky unique?’ We
couldn’t get away from the effect of horses on every
aspect of Kentucky life,” said Timothy Mullin, Director of
the Kentucky Museum at WKU.

This will be a blockbuster exhibit for the Kentucky
Museum and will attract many thousands who might not
otherwise visit,” explained Dr. Mike Binder, WKU’s Dean
of Libraries. “It will provide compelling stories and
images that encompass the 52 breeds prevalent in
Kentucky. We look forward with great anticipation to its
opening.”

No matter breed affiliation or horse industry
involvement, those approached about the project share
Dr. Binder’s excitement, including Kentucky First Lady
Jane Beshear, known for her lifelong involvement with
horses. “The history of Kentucky is deeply intertwined
with the history of the horse,” she said. “Since the days
of Daniel Boone, Kentuckians have raised, bred, raced,
competed and sold the finest horses in the nation. This
exhibit will illustrate how important the horse has been
and remains to be to the Commonwealth. From our rich
thoroughbred heritage to the upcoming 2010 Alltech FEI
World Equestrian Games, Kentucky has proven to be the
horse capital of the world again and again.”
Vicki Fitch, executive director of the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the bureau was pleased to support the exhibit with a gift of $35,000. "The Horse in Kentucky exhibit will be an excellent addition to the inventory of horse attractions in Kentucky," she said. "This one-of-a-kind exhibit will certainly illustrate why there is nothing like Kentucky and its love for horses," she added.

For more information about "The Horse in Kentucky," contact Josh Hawkins, WKU's director of Development for Libraries and Student Affairs, by phone: 270.745.2730 or email josh.hawkins@wku.edu or visit the exhibit's website at www.horseinky.com.

Breyer Horse

WKU student Jared Carrier holds an unusual distinction. In 2007, his world champion Tennessee Walking Horse mare, Bluegrass Bandit, became the first mare of the breed depicted as a Breyer model.

"With her color, looks, and impeccable show record, she was their choice," Jared explained.

Upon graduation, Jared plans to train at his family's Gobblers Knob Farm near Franklin, perhaps expanding beyond Walking Horses.

"I love developing young horses the most," Jared said. "I'm lucky to do what I love on a daily basis."
The World is Coming to Kentucky

*The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games that is.*

By Jeff Younglove, '84

From Sept. 25-Oct. 10, 2010, the second-largest sporting event in the world will make The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington home. Generally termed the “Equestrian Olympics,” this is an event for Kentucky that's been several years in the making. The 2010 games will mark the first time they have ventured outside of Europe and, if organizers’ plans are on target, the impact both culturally and economically for Kentucky and the region will be significant.

More than 600 competitors from more than 60 countries, along with 700-800 horses, will compete in the games, which are expected to welcome more than 600,000 attendees and generate more than $150 million for Kentucky's economy. In addition, approximately 2,000 media will descend upon the state from across the globe with at least 500 million estimated TV viewers looking in on Kentucky during the 16-day event.

Additional "firsts" will mark the 2010 games, it is the first time the games have ever had a title sponsor (Alltech, headquartered in Kentucky), the first time the games have included eight disciplines, and the first time that Para Dressage has been a part of the world games schedule. Para Dressage provides riders with physical disabilities the opportunity to compete in high-performance equestrian sport.

While the actual disciplines highlight the 16-day event, visitors to the games will have plenty of opportunities to participate in several different activities, including the Equine Village showcase and the Kentucky Experience exhibit hall, which will feature the best the Commonwealth has to offer. Hosted by the Kentucky Department of Travel, it will include hands-on craft demonstrations, information on Kentucky icons, entertainment stages, bourbon tasting and more, all promoting Kentucky as a "destination point" for world travelers.

These 16 days will be filled with opportunities to showcase Kentucky on a worldwide stage with a worldwide event. For more information, visit AlltechFEIGames.com. ☺
Horses are in our blood

Five generations and counting. That's the span horses have been a part of the Bettersworth and Harris families.

The legacy began in 1888 when 12-year-old A.C. Bettersworth received his first horse. The youngster bred his American Saddlebred mare, Daisy, and the adventure was underway. A.C. had a goal to show and breed great representatives of one of Kentucky's native breeds—a dream that was realized through "My Own Love," a stallion whose name now appears in the lineage of many outstanding Saddlebreds across the United States.

Two of A.C.'s sons, Vernon (V.J.) and Jewell (J.R.), kept the Bettersworth name in the forefront of the horse business, both in the show ring and in the breeding shed. Summers were filled with blue ribbon and championship rides, beginning with the Kentucky county fair circuit in May and ending at the Kentucky and Tennessee State Fairs in September. Top Saddlebreds and Roadsters emerged from Bettersworth Stables and Westwind Farms show after show, year after year.

Though V.J. and J.R. were successful in business and active in both civic organizations and local government, perhaps the words of V.J.'s wife, Jo, describe them best: "(They) eat, breathe and live horses."

As did the next generation of Bettersworths, V.J.'s daughter, Anne ('65) was quite the rider and award winner throughout her show career. She happily recalls that "horses were my best friends."

Her brother, Joe ('67 College High), won numerous class-
“Let's buy a pony.”

How many journeys into the horse business have begun with a similar suggestion? Probably too many to count. The funny thing about this particular idea is that it came from a father who stood well over six feet, and whose children, almost out of their teens, had inherited his height.

When recalling the story, brother and sister, Jason ('00) and Amanda Cole ('02), can't help but chuckle. But their dad, Tommy Cole ('77), wanted to do something fun for the nieces and nephews. Mom, Diane, agreed, so a quest began.

While they never rode her, Amanda recalls loving the feisty 4-H pony they purchased, even if she was "a little above our beginner level."

Being around Pepper made the family realize that their home, the beautiful 1839 Carter homestead off Carter Sims Road in Warren County, was the ideal location for a horse operation. They just needed to find the perfect breed to inhabit the property's rolling hills.

While attending a 4-H exhibition, Diane spied a beautiful breed, with a chocolate-colored coat, flaxen mane and tail, and a presence that said "look at me." It was a beauty alright, but what about its disposition? They didn't want a flighty breed, but one with a sweet and even temperament. That's exactly what they discovered in the Rocky Mountain Horse, so, they had to have one.

They not only found one, but two. Two that established what has now become a top training and riding stable called South Forty Farm.
New Beginnings

Julie Peterson had a dream. Inspired by a book she read in college, she hoped to open a center where she could offer individuals with disabilities the chance to ride horses.

New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding Center is Julie’s dream fulfilled. From spring to fall, program coordinators and volunteers work with individuals who have emotional, mental, behavioral and physical disabilities. Participants learn numerous skills such as grooming, preparing to ride, and cleaning up afterwards, besides actually riding a horse.

Some start out with a full complement of assistance, with a leader and two side walkers. Sometimes participants never progress beyond that, but others advance to riding without assistance. No matter what, all participants are impacted by the encouragement they receive and the pride they feel in having done something they never thought possible.

A perfect example of this is Victoria Kelly. Victoria is the daughter of John and Linda Kelly, the driving force behind the Kelly Autism Program at WKU. Twelve years ago, Victoria began as an observer at New Beginnings, but she soon went from the sidelines to joining in wholeheartedly.

“It’s amazing to see the confidence she has gained,” Linda Kelly said. “From scrambling on from a platform to now using a mounting block. From helpers all around her, to now riding alone, using the reins to guide the horse herself. To see that smile on her face—that look of confidence and pride—it’s wonderful. We are really lucky to have them in Bowling Green.”

Julie, her staff and volunteers take great satisfaction in endorsements like Linda’s. “Our goal is to strengthen the minds, bodies, and souls of those with disabilities by providing a recreational outlet with therapeutic benefits,” she said. “To see positive changes in the riders both spiritually and physically fulfills our mission.”

For more information, call 270-782-6496 or visit the New Beginnings website at www.nbtr-bg.org.

Adding an estimated $4 billion to Kentucky’s economy each year, horses definitely have a profound influence on the continued well-being of the Commonwealth. These stories provide just a few highlights on the unique relationship between man and animal. The next time you see a hoof print in the dirt, remember the impact the horse has had on Kentucky’s heritage and the value it brings to our future.
When Ali Wright was considering her college choice, she had plenty of options close to her North Carolina home.

She chose Western Kentucky University because the Biology Department provides opportunities for incoming students to participate in hands-on research activities. "I wasn't sure I could have had that opportunity at a school back home," Wright said.
Now, seven years later as Wright is completing her master’s thesis, she has become the first WKU student to complete the entire DNA sequence of an organism – the genome of a bacterial virus.

“It’s a pretty amazing accomplishment for a single student to sequence an entire genome,” said Dr. Rodney King, associate professor of biology, whose research projects include genomic analysis of bacteriophages and phage-host interactions.

At Dr. King’s laboratory in the Complex for Engineering and Biological Sciences, Wright finished sequencing and annotating the genome of a bacterial virus isolated from the environment. “Bacterial viruses are the most numerous organisms on our planet and impact bacterial evolution, infectious disease and global processes such as carbon and energy cycling,” he said.

Wright, a 25-year-old from Wake Forest, N.C., began working in Dr. King’s lab as an undergraduate researcher with a functional characterization of the virus. After completing her bachelor’s degree, she decided to expand her analysis by determining the sequence of the entire viral genome as the thesis project for her master’s degree.

“Completing this project is a tremendous accomplishment and we are fortunate to have the technology and resources available at WKU for this type of endeavor,” Dr. King said. “Ali’s work also is a testament to the importance of undergraduate research.”

To determine the 41,538 base pair of DNA sequence, Wright became proficient in using the DNA sequencing equipment in the WKU Biotechnology Center and in using bioinformatics software to complete the assembly and analysis of the viral genome.

“It was like putting together a puzzle,” Wright said.

Wright says the many research opportunities she has enjoyed truly complemented her coursework, particularly as an undergraduate. “What I learned in the lab sometimes helped me understand what I was learning in class and vice versa,” she said. “I think also working in a lab gives you an idea of what research is really like and the kind of work and mentality that it requires. This can help students decide early on whether or not they want a career in research or what kind of research they like.”

Wright will complete her master’s degree in December 2010. Her work on the bacterial virus will now become part of Genbank, the National Institutes of Health’s genetic sequence database. In May, she will present her master’s thesis during the American Society for Microbiology conference in San Diego. Thousands of scientists attend the annual meeting of the world’s largest microbiology society. Wright has received travel funds from the Biology Department and a grant from the Kentucky-Tennessee branch of the ASM to attend the May 23-27 meeting.

“Ali has made a significant contribution to a larger body of knowledge on viruses and to our understanding of their evolutionary relationships,” Dr. King said.
In 1953, a young man named Jimmy Feix graduated from Western Kentucky University after excelling as a four-year letterman at quarterback. He returned as WKU's head football coach in 1968 and led the program admirably for 16 years, posting a school record 106 wins and leading the Toppers to a pair of NCAA Division II runner-up finishes in 1973 and 1975.

Thus, this past November when the Hilltoppers had a head coaching vacancy for only the eighth time since 1948, the best direction to go became crystal clear and WKU tapped into its glorious past and named Willie Taggart head football coach on November 23. He became the first alum since Feix to man the program and joined Feix as the second quarterback in school history to lead the program as head coach that he also led as a student-athlete.

A standout quarterback who set 11 school records for the Hilltoppers from 1995-98, Taggart is one of only four players in WKU's 91-year football history to have his jersey retired. An All-American as a senior, he was also the 1998 I-AA Independents' Offensive Player of the Year and graduated with a bachelor's degree in social sciences. As an assistant coach on the Hill, Taggart helped guide WKU to eight consecutive winning seasons from 1999-2006 and served as co-offensive coordinator for the Toppers 2002 I-AA National Championship team. Taggart, his wife Taneshia, and sons Willie Jr. and Jackson are all thrilled to call Bowling Green home again.

"I cannot begin to explain how excited and proud I am to be the head football coach at WKU," Taggart said. "I loved attending class here and am proud that I received my degree from here. I loved playing here and am proud of the success we achieved. And I am proud to have coached here as an assistant coach and to have played a role in helping WKU win a national championship. I am so proud to represent all the WKU players that have contributed so much in the 91-year history of this program, and I am looking forward to continuing to build on our great tradition and history.

"I bring passion, dedication, enthusiasm and competitiveness to everything I do and that is what WKU will get from me every single day. This is a tremendous university with first-class facilities, and there is no reason we cannot win and win consistently here. Quite simply, WKU is in my DNA and I cannot wait to get started."

Before joining the Hilltoppers, Taggart served as running backs coach at Stanford from 2007-09. He joined the Stanford coaching staff following a 1-11 season in 2006 and was.
was instrumental in the development of the Cardinal offense and running game. Stanford, ranked as high as 14th in the nation by the Associated Press in 2009, posted an 8-4 regular season record with wins over nationally ranked Southern Cal and Oregon. Stanford led the Pac 10 in total offense (411.4 ypg.) while ranking second in the conference and 11th in the nation in rushing offense (224.3 ypg.). Stanford's 2,692 rushing yards in 2009 broke the school's single-season rushing yardage mark that had stood since 1949 (2,481).

The Cardinal were led by senior running back Toby Gerhart, who under Taggart's tutelage ranked second in the nation in rushing (144.7 ypg.) and earned the Doak Walker Award given to the nation's top running back. Gerhart carried a cumulative 3.25 grade point average as a management, science and technology major. He also rushed for a Stanford single-season record 1,736 yards and 26 touchdowns in 12 games in 2009, breaking his own single-season rushing record of 1,136 yards set in 2008, and was one of only five players invited to New York City for the 2009 Heisman Trophy Award presentation. He finished second in the final balloting in the closest race in the award's 75-year history. Gerhart, who was also named the Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year, was one of only two Pac-10 players named to the first team on both the All-Pac-10 Team and the Pac-10 All-Academic Football Team. The Cardinal's Sun Bowl appearance in 2009 marked the school's first bowl game since 2001.

Taggart was at the helm of the Cardinal running game that finished second in the Pac-10 Conference in rushing offense in 2008, averaging 199.6 yards a game on the ground. Stanford's season rushing total of 2,395 yards was the third-highest mark in school history. In addition, Taggart's work with Gerhart helped the junior rush for a then single-season school record of 1,136 yards, as Gerhart became just the fifth running back in school history to go over the 1,000-yard mark. Gerhart had one career start prior to the 2008 season. A tireless recruiter, Taggart was responsible for recruiting Florida, Georgia and Kentucky for the Cardinal along with Riverside County, Calif.

Prior to his arrival at Stanford, Taggart spent the previous eight seasons on the WKU coaching staff (1999-2006) and helped guide the Hilltoppers to eight consecutive winning campaigns during the stretch. He worked with current Stanford head coach Jim Harbaugh in his first three seasons of coaching from 1999-2001. Taggart started his coaching career as WKU's wide receivers coach in 1999 before working with the quarterbacks from 2000-06. He was also the co-
offensive coordinator in 2001 and 2002, helping lead the Hilltoppers to the Division I-AA national championship in 2002, and was promoted to assistant head coach in 2003.

Under Taggart's guidance from 2003-06, quarterback Justin Haddix set school career records with 8,890 yards of total offense, a 57.1 completion percentage, 50 touchdowns and a 137.28 pass efficiency rating. Haddix also finished his career ranked second all-time on the Hill with 541 completions and 7,929 yards passing.

Taggart helped coach an offensive unit that set school records for points (432), total yards (5,479) and first downs (263) en route to the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA national championship. The Hilltoppers ranked second in the nation in pass efficiency and sixth in rushing, and averaged 38.8 points per contest in four playoff victories.

In Taggart's first year calling plays in 2000, WKU ran for 293.4 yards per contest, leading the Gateway Football Conference and ranking second in the country in the category as WKU claimed the league title and advanced to the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoffs. In his first season in 1999, WKU ranked eighth in the nation and first in the conference in rushing.


During his collegiate playing days at WKU (1995-98) Taggart was only the third WKU athlete in the past half-century to hold down the quarterback slot for the Hilltoppers for four straight years. Taggart, who set 11 WKU school records, had his jersey retired on October 23, 1999. He currently is WKU's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (47), ranks second in scoring (286 points), pass efficiency rating (127.71) and rushing yards (3,997), is tied for third in most 100-yard rushing games (17) and is tied for fourth in touchdown passes (30). At the time, his rushing yards were the most in NCAA Division I history for a quarterback.

In each of his last two collegiate seasons, he was a finalist for the prestigious Walter Payton Award which is an honor given annually to the top offensive player in I-AA football. Taggart finished fourth in the balloting in 1997 and seventh as a senior the following year. Jim Harbaugh recruited Taggart to play at WKU for his father, Jack.

As a prep standout at Manatee (Fla.) High School, he was a first team all-state and all-conference selection as a senior after guiding the Hurricanes to the state 5A Championship game. He led MHS to the state title his junior season and helped the school post a 26-4 record during that two-year span while recording more than 3,000 yards passing and 975 yards on the ground.
# WKU Football Schedule 2010

For ticket information, contact the WKU Ticket Office at 800.5.BIG.RED or online at wkusports.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Lincoln, Neb.</td>
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<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Lexington, Ky.</td>
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<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>South Florida</td>
<td>Tampa, Fla.</td>
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<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Florida International</td>
<td>Miami, Fla.</td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Louisiana-Monroe</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>* Parent and Family Weekend *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>* HOMECOMING *</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Arkansas State</td>
<td>Jonesboro, Ark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>Troy, Ala.</td>
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**Save the Date**

**WKU Homecoming 2010**

October 30, 2010

2 pm
Haven't Seen Your College Friends in Several Years?

Call them and plan your Alumni College adventure together!

The 8th annual Alumni College is a lifelong learning program for WKU alumni and friends. The program gives participants an opportunity to stay on campus while taking fun, educational classes. Participants enjoy a variety of classes from dance to religion to football and pop culture. This year's program will feature NASA Astronaut Col. Terry Wilcutt (74).

Alumni College allows alumni and friends to enjoy the great traditions of the past but also see the exciting changes that are taking place at WKU today!

Marilyn Eaton-Thomas is a 1972 WKU graduate who currently resides in Frankfort, Kentucky. To the right is a letter written to her college friends following her Alumni College experience…

Hey WKU alumni buddies! Janet Neale Crow and I journeyed back to Bowling Green last Thursday afternoon for Alumni College. We wanted you all to know that two old friends were thinking about you during our stay on campus.

During Alumni College, we stayed at Bates Runner Hall, which used to be Regents Hall. It is one that has been totally renovated with a bath in each room. Dormitory life was a big part of college for all of us and, as you know, was where we formed our long lasting bonds of friendship.

We did quite a bit of walking on campus which was a familiar activity from 35 years ago. The major difference now is that the campus is this amazingly beautiful park. They have closed roads and reduced the size of parking lots and in their place created walkways, attractive vistas and lovely gardens. There are benches everywhere and interesting statuary. Janet and I took up with the statue of a young woman who appears to be rushing to class. It is located in front of Grise Hall where I spent most of my time. Of course the Guthrie Bell Tower adds distinction with both size and sound. Now the lower part of campus is almost as neat as the top of the hill.

Five '72 graduates attended. We had lunch together one day and it was really neat sharing the same four years and remembering the many concerts we attended during those years and the many significant historic events of the time.

During Alumni College, we took classes about eBay, toured the TV station, and learned some neat things about Duncan Hines. The entertainment was good which included a scavenger hunt across campus, a boa type dinner at a mansion on Cemetery Road and a final dinner at Ed Diddle Park on the Hill. The only thing missing was each of you. We'll be back and hope you will be joining us!

Your friend, Marilyn
Classnotes

Gulliver Gnome ('57) of Bowling Green, Ky. recognized by "Garden Ornamental Magazine" as 2010 Gnome of the Year. Whether traveling across the USA or in foreign lands, Gulliver continues to spread the spirit of WKU.
Adventures of the

Bilbao, Spain
October 2007
Bill '66 and Wynne Watson Brandenburg '66

South Africa, Africa
June 2005
Anna Bisig '05

Machu Picchu, Peru
March 2008
COL (Ret) Bradley Freeman '76

Acropolis of Athens, Greece
June 2009
Dr. Josh Detre '00 and Dana Stephens Detre '00

Badlands National Park, South Dakota
July 2006
James T. Kirkwood '88, '90, Dana Gregory Kirkwood '88, Sylvia and Parkman Kirkwood

**DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!**

Please list names of each person in picture and their graduation year.
Please include date and location of picture.
Send pictures to: WKU Alumni Association,
Attention: WKU SPIRIT Red Towel Travels
1906 College Heights Blvd. #31016
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1016
or email to alumni@wku.edu
Pictures will not be returned.
RED TOWEL
See all the Adventures of the Red Towel online at alumni.wku.edu/redtoweltravels.

New Orleans, Louisiana
February 2002
Korlin Harrison '78, '86 and Larry Johnson '83

Uganda, Africa
September 2006
Mike Padgett '04

Mount LeConte, Tennessee
April 2007
Mt. LeConte Hikers and Liars Club members

Rome, Italy
June 2007
Patrick '80 and Rebekah Miller Haugh '79

Tunisia, Africa
November 2005
Leslie Tate Kann '87 and Natalie and Elly
Class Notes

Class Notes is a feature, which allows WKU Alumni Association members to update fellow classmates on significant accomplishments and events in their lives. Sustaining memberships are $35 annually or $50 for a Lifetime Membership. If you wish to join the Alumni Association or publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them to WKU Alumni Association, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #31016, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1016 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

1950s
David Livingston ('52) and Joyce Livingston of Bowling Green, Ky., received the first Frankfort Arts Foundation Lifetime Achievement in The Arts Awards.

1960s
M. David Alexander ('63, '66) of Blacksburg, Va., received the 2009 Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach from Virginia Tech.

Joe Bugel ('64, '65) of Sterling, Va., retired from the Washington Redskins as offensive line coach after coming out of retirement in 2004. Joe coached football for 32 years and has two Super Bowl rings.

Joe Bill Campbell ('65) of Bowling Green, Ky., has joined the law firm of Hughes and Coleman. Campbell is a former chairman of the WKU Board of Regents: a past chairman of the Council on Postsecondary Education and past president of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Bill Coyne ('67) of Brentwood, Tenn., celebrated his retirement from BMI on Oct. 24, 2009. Several of his Delta Kappa Nu / Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers were in attendance for his retirement celebration.

Golden Anniversary Club Reunion
May 14-15, 2010
Inviting graduates from 1959, 1960 and 1961
Honoring the Class of 1960
Celebrating the Class of 1960

1970s
David L. Maraman ('70) of Carmel, Ind., has been promoted to president of M&I's Florida Region Bank.

Barry Williams ('70) of Bowling Green, Ky., was presented the Paul J. Just Award by the Alumni W-Club during Homecoming weekend. Williams, who is director of Facilities and Community Development for Commonwealth Broadcasting, has been the “Voice of the Lady Toppers” for 35 seasons and broadcast his 800th game on February 28, 2010 at FIU. Williams is also chairman of the board of the Capitol Arts Alliance and immediate past-chair of United Way of Southern Kentucky and Kids on the Block. He and his wife, Lynn, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in May. They have a son, Jim, Paramedic supervisor for the Medical Center, who is also a WKU graduate.

Do you ever think back to 1960 and your days on “The Hill”? Do you wonder how your college roommate is doing? Do you remember cheering on Coach Diddle and the Hilltoppers or dancing at the Talisman Ball? Does this bring back some great memories?
Romeo Crennel ('69, '70) of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was named defensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Johnny Britt ('75) of Bowling Green, Ky., was one of the first in Warren East High School's history to have his jersey retired.

David Paul Gibson ('76, '81) of Bowling Green, Ky., composer and director of music at The Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green and instructor in WKU's Department of Music, will have his third opera, VERLAINE AND RIMBAUD, featured in a retrospective exhibit on the life of the French Romantic Period poet Arthur Rimbaud. Prepared under the supervision of Rimbaud scholar Claude Jeancolas, the exhibition will take place at the Bibliothèque Historique de la ville de Paris in Paris, France, from March through July 2010, and then will be moved to the birthplace of Rimbaud in Charville, France through the end of the year. Documents surrounding the premiere of Gibson's opera, which took place in Boston, Massachusetts, in January of 2005, have also been selected for the exhibition's catalogue.

Bill Maskill ('71) of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been named one of four finalists for Division II Coach of the Year. Bill is the football coach at Midwestern State University.

New Addition in your Family?

Johnny Britt ('75) of Bowling Green, Ky., was one of the first in Warren East High School's history to have his jersey retired.

Jeff Knott ('70) of Apollo Beach, Fla., a recognized healthcare policy analyst for Fox News Radio, contributor to TVFoxBiz News and author of nationally award-nominated book "Navigating the Healthcare Maze," is teaching the course Consumer Healthcare Literacy at WKU.

Heidi Zimmerman ('78) of Nashville, Tenn., has been named permanent legal counsel for MTSU.

Jeffery Holland ('78) of Vicksburg, Miss., was named the director of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and the director of Research and Development and chief scientist for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Eugene Myatt ('80) of Mount Herman, Ky., has been named to the board of directors of Peoples Bank.

Bill Hance ('80) of Nashville, Tenn., has been named assistant vice chancellor for Vanderbilt University Medical Center News and Communications.

1980s

Bill Hance ('80) of Nashville, Tenn., has been named assistant vice chancellor for Vanderbilt University Medical Center News and Communications.

ATO Recolonization

Alpha Tau Omega, America's Leadership Development Fraternity, will be the newest fraternity coming to campus in Fall 2010. With its focus on excellence and partnership with the University, ATO is reorganizing the chapter and recruiting men who have the desire to be a leader on campus. National fraternity staff will be on campus for several weeks recruiting potential members who will form the new organization. Originally founded as the Barons Club in 1934, a local men's social club, ATO was chartered as the Zeta Omega chapter in February 1967. The chapter closed in the late 70s. Several alumni members reunited during Homecoming weekend and helped established the Zeta Omega Alumni Association with Carl Dukate ('67) serving as president.
Marvin "Marv" Barker ('81) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was promoted to senior program manager for Science Applications International Corporation, a FORTUNE 500 company that solves problems of vital importance to the nation and the world in national security, energy, the environment, critical infrastructure and health.

Wendell Grant ('81) of Columbia, S.C., shares the success of his son, Diamond Grant, who won the national championship race in 15 novice at the National Bicycle League BMX Grand National race in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 5-6, 2009. Diamond is a U.S. Open champion who has won 15 Southeast Regional races and several national races from Kentucky to Florida.

Bill Porter ('83) of San Antonio, Texas, has been appointed chief operating officer for Paris Regional Medical Center.

Steven Johnson ('83) of Decorah, Iowa, was appointed executive director of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

Susan Asher ('84) of Elizabethtown, Ky., has been named executive director of the Women’s Crisis Center.

Darryl Dockery ('84, '92) of Morgantown, Ky., recently presented a lecture on using liturgical and other forms of sacred music in the public school classroom and the blending of traditional and contemporary music in the worship service at the Kentucky Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. Darryl is the choral director at Butler County High School and a part-time instructor at the WKU Owensboro campus.

3 Generations ... Same School

When Jenny Wimsatt started teaching fourth grade at Oakland Elementary School last fall, she didn’t have to worry about having someone to go to for advice. Her mother Patty Wimsatt, and great-aunt, Madge Simon, were able to give her specific tips.

Both Patty and Madge taught at the school for most of their careers. Patty, who retired in 2008, taught there for 22 of her 30 years as a teacher. Madge Simon, 92, was the third of five generations of teachers in her family. She started teaching at Oakland in 1950 and retired in 1986. Before that, she taught in a one-room school in Edmonson County.

Jenny, who graduated from WKU in December 2008 and spent the spring 2009 semester as a student teacher, started her career in the same classroom in which her mother started. Also, some of the children Patty had in her first-grade class are now in Jenny’s fourth-grade class.

Patty said her daughter has been learning about being a teacher since she was a little girl. "It’s not a job that you walk out at 4 o’clock and you leave it behind," she said. "It’s a job that you take with you."

Patty said her daughter started at WKU as a nursing major but switched majors after deciding to be a teacher. "I don’t know that I encouraged her to be a teacher. I just really think it is a family trait that she has inherited to be a teacher."

Jenny said she knew she’d made the right career decision when she was in the middle of her student teaching.

"I had no money in my bank account. I had a to-do list a mile long and I caught myself smiling," she said. "I was like ‘Jenny, now what are you doing smiling when you have all of this other stuff to do? And I remember just thinking ‘I’m happy.’ I know this is where I’m supposed to be.”
WKU Students to Pedal Across the USA to Raise Money and Awareness for Alzheimer’s Research

A group of WKU students will be cycling across the United States this summer to raise money for Alzheimer’s research.

The Fiji’s Across America fundraiser is being conducted in memory of Barrett Cummings, the grandfather of ride founder and WKU student Tyler Jury of Elizabethtown.

The group hopes to raise $75,000 to benefit the Greater Kentucky/Southern Indiana Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and to increase local, state and national awareness as the students ride about 3,200 miles from California to Virginia.

The ride will begin in late May in Oceanside, Calif., and end in July in Yorktown, Va. The students will travel through nine states—California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Virginia.

In addition to Jury, riders include Chaz Vittitow of Louisville, Mitchell White of Bowling Green, Justin Cave of Glendale and Wade Haga of Lexington.

Last fall, riders attended Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walks in cities across Kentucky, including Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville and Lexington, to promote the trip. They are currently seeking corporate and individual sponsorships.

More information about the trip, including a link to the group’s Facebook page, is available online at http://fijisacrossamerica.com.

Mike Curnutte ('84) of Greensburg, Ky., received the Rescuer of the Year award from Rescue. He is a member of the Campbellsville/Taylor County Rescue.

Steven C. Barber ('84) of Santa Monica, Calif., released his film “Unbeaten,” narrated by Dan Aykroyd, at the Sundance Festival. This film is a documentary that followed 31 paraplegics as they prepared for the 267-mile road race called Sadler’s Alaska Challenge.

John Howser ('85) of Madison, Tenn., has been named director of Vanderbilt University Medical Center News and Communications.

Pamela (Schoon) Gerard ('85) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been named vice president for Institutional Advancement at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

Lillie Mason ('86) of Russellville, Ky., was selected to be in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame.

Jeff McCall ('86) of Nashville, Tenn., was promoted to vice president of Ingram International and National Accounts at Ingram Content Group.

Karen (McDonald) Morrison ('86) of Adairville, Ky., was selected for the Leadership Louisville Program. This is a 10-month program that will involve research of community, improve various professional and leadership skills and focus on the issues that impact the future of Louisville.

Scott Siers ('86) of Plano, Texas, was appointed as vice president of Business Development of McLane Foodservice.

Teresa (Johnson) Ramey ('87) of Florence, S.C., has been promoted to vice president of Student Affairs at Francis Marion University.

R. Barkley Payne ('87) of Chicago, Ill., received the Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Dentists, which recognizes individuals’ exceptional contributions to dentistry and the profession.

Vicki Phillips to Receive Honorary Degree

The WKU Board of Regents has approved awarding an honorary doctorate to Dr. Vicki Phillips ('81, '88), director of the Education Initiative in the United States Program for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

A native of Falls of Rough, Ky., Dr. Phillips is a first-generation college graduate, earning her bachelor’s in elementary education and master’s in school psychology from WKU. She received a doctorate in education from the University of Lincoln in England.

Dr. Phillips will receive the degree during May commencement.
Kris (Caudill) Jarboe ('89) of Frankfort, Ky., received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for her work with students in math.

**1990s**

Roland Shelton ('90) of Olathe, Kan., was named general manager for the Terre Haute Rex baseball team.

Robert “Lynn” Kearney ('91) of Campbellsville, Ky., was awarded the KAHPERD Outstanding Health Education P-12 Award.

Jason P. Wright ('91) of Atlanta, Ga., has been named partner at Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP which is a full-service commercial law firm.

Derek Shadoan ('91, ’04) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named principal of EnSafe Inc.

Mike Sprague ('92) of Maceo, Ky., was selected to officiate the 2009 men’s and women’s division one cross-country championships at Indiana State University and the men’s and women’s division two cross-country championships at the University of Southern Indiana.

Gary Pearman ('96) of Hodgenville, Ky., was named Elizabethtown Independent Schools’ 2009-2010 ExCEL winner.

Kim (Frazor) Carter ('97) and Scott Carter of Spring Hill, Tenn., announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Caroline born on November 20, 2009, at Baptist Hospital in Nashville. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ½ oz. and was 20 ½ inches long.

Bryan Ayars ('97, '98) of South Lee, Mass., has been named chief executive officer of Community Health Programs in Great Barrington, Mass.

Eric Johnson ('92) of Louisville, Ky., was named partner at the CPA firm Louis T. Roth & Co., PLLC in Louisville.

D. Brett Hale ('94) of Louisville, Ky., was named senior vice president of Corporate and Government Relations for Churchill Downs Inc.

Tonya (Hudnall) Matthews ('94) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named one of the Top 40 under 40 by the American Chamber of Commerce in the Fall 2009 issue of the CHAMBER EXECUTIVE Magazine.

**TopperTalk Spotlight**

Meet Heather Gohman! Heather is a Physical Education major from Elizabethtown, KY. Heather has been in the TopperTalk program for three years, and has worked her way up to student supervisor, the top leadership position for a student. When not helping callers, Heather enjoys working out, reading, and hanging out with her friends. Heather is graduating in May and will be missed!

TopperTalk is the WKU phonathon program that keeps alumni information up to date, and gets to talk about the numerous ways of giving back to your alma mater.
Britney Schneider ('98) of Louisville, Ky., is interior design specialist for Arhaus Furniture in Louisville.

Tim Bischoff ('98) of Lexington, Ky., was named PBS Communications Professional of the Year.

R. Jarrett Muncy ('98) of Atlanta, Ga., has been promoted to associate at the architecture firm Lord, Aeck & Sargent.

Pavel Begun ('99) of Toronto, Canada, recently had his hedge fund profiled in Barron's.

Chris Geoghegan ('99) of Louisville, Ky., and his wife, Jeni-Rebecca, are proud to announce the birth of their son, William Parker, on February 21, 2009. Will weighed 6 pounds and 11 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Jean-Marie Lawson ('99) of Louisville, Ky., was selected as one of the 2010 Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program Class IX participants.

2000s

Matt Gerbig ('00) acting under the name “Mathew Alan,” of Encino, Calif., was selected as the star of the Folgers Coffee holiday commercial.

Amanda (Coates) Lich ('00) and Stewart Lich of Brownsville, Ky., proudly announce the birth of their son, John Robert “Jack” Lich, born on June 16, 2009. Weighing 9 pounds, 7 oz. and measuring 22 inches long, Jack joined a sister, Ava Kate (6), and a brother, Cam (4).

Dr. Joshua ('00) and Dana (Stephens) Detre ('00) of Baton Rouge, La., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Grace. She was born on April 30, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long. She was welcomed home by her big brother, Caden Wayne.

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association provides the perfect way to become involved with the activities at WKU. It exists to provide parents an opportunity to play an active role in the education of their student, while also providing a forum for networking with other parents and University administrators. The Parents' Association raises money for projects that will benefit the student body. Some of the projects funded in the past have included emergency telephone poles, leadership material, and a 21st birthday card advising about alcohol awareness. To become involved, please contact Amy Miller at amy.miller@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

David Patterson ('76) of Williamsburg, Va., is “Private” David Patterson, a 60-year-old retired U.S. Army Colonel who is a trooper with the 1st Maine Cavalry, a Civil War re-enactment group. He and his horse, Rusty (far left), stop at Beaverdam Creek in northern Virginia during a two-day ride. Each man carries a Sharp's carbine, an 1860 revolver and a saber. They gallop through the woods, ducking tree limbs and shooting their guns from the saddle. David enjoys riding through the Virginia countryside in pursuit of Confederate rebels. He and his wife, Jean, live in Williamsburg.

to a city near you!

TOUR 2010

June 4 - Lexington, KY
June 14 - Louisville, KY
June 15 - Elizabethtown, KY
June 17 - Nashville, TN
June 22 - Owensboro, KY
June 25 - Glasgow, KY

For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at 888-WKU-ALUM via email at alumni@wku.edu or visit online at alumni.wku.edu.
Eric ('01, '09) and Crystal (Allen) Self ('00) of Smiths Grove, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Merick Clare, on Oct. 5, 2009.

Jana Sublett ('01, '06) of Bowling Green, Ky., has joined the National Corvette Museum as rental facilities coordinator.

Ryan Meredith ('01) of Hendersonville, Tenn., received his MBA from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University in May 2009. Ryan was presented the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, which recognizes the graduating MBA student who has achieved the #1 rank in the class.

Emily Schulten ('02, '04) of Atlanta, Ga., released her poetry collection, Rest in Black Haw, in November 2009 from New Plains Press.

Matt Long ('02) of Pasadena, Calif., played the role of Dylan Hewitt in the ABC show "The Deep End."

Bob ('03) and Crissy (Hodges) ('05, '09) Rowland of Bowling Green, Ky., are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Noah Barret, on July 17, 2009. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Madelyn Anetrella ('03) of Louisville, Ky., was named director of Volunteer Services and grant administrator for the Salvation Army Louisville Area Command. Madelyn also served as the 2009 Angel Tree Program coordinator, which provided gifts of clothes, toys and food to more than 22,000 children and adults in Jefferson, Oldham, Spencer and Bullitt counties.

Tyson Adams ('04) of Louisville, Ky., has been selected to join the law firm of Stites & Harbison.

Matt Oatley ('04) of Louisville, Ky., has joined his sister, Laura Oatley ('01), and classmate, Cortney (Davis) Heck ('04), on the Oatley Team at the real estate firm Century 21, Joe Guy Hagan.

Emily Schulten ('02, '04) of Atlanta, Ga., released her poetry collection, Rest in Black Haw, in November 2009 from New Plains Press.

Matt Oatley ('04) of Louisville, Ky., has joined his sister, Laura Oatley ('01), and classmate, Cortney (Davis) Heck ('04), on the Oatley Team at the real estate firm Century 21, Joe Guy Hagan.

Sadie Burkes ('09) of Fayettetville, Penn., has been promoted to marketing officer at F&M Trust Co.

(Left) Mr. Paul Sanderford of Bowling Green, Ky., former WKU women's basketball coach, had a jersey retired in his name during halftime at the Lady Toppers vs. Troy game on February 6, 2010.

(Right) Mr. James Thornton of Louisville, Ky., was selected as the Kentucky Derby Festival's 2010 poster artist. His work was unveiled at the Your Community Bank Poster Premiere.
The WKU Alumni Association sincerely thanks its Lifetime Members for their loyalty and dedication to WKU. Listed below are the new WKU Alumni Association Lifetime members from Oct 22, 2009 - March 7, 2010. Show your “Spirit” by becoming the newest Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association! Call 888-WKU-ALUM (888-958-2586) or visit alumni.wku.edu/joinnow.

Mrs. Leslie Bedo Allen  
Mr. Robert O. Anderson  
Mr. Mark Alan Antonini  
Mr. Joshua P. Banbury  
Mr. Phillip W. Barnhouse, Jr.  
Ms. Katie Elizabeth Beard  
Mrs. Laura Ann Benneyworth  
Ms. Karen Christine Biggs  
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas L. Birkhead  
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Booth  
Mr. and Mrs. John Wayne Borders  
Ltc. (Ret.) Bobby Stephen Bowers  
Mrs. Leslie Leigh Bradshaw  
Ms. Diane Brennan  
Mr. David Wayne Brown  
Mrs. Sue Bunnell  
Christopher L. and Sarah J. Burford  
Ms. Courtney L. Burge  
Dr. L. Curtis Cary  
Ms. Martha Ellen Clark  
Mr. Kevin D. Clutter  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lee Collins  
Mr. Ronald Paul Crawford, Jr.  
Mr. Mark D. DeMoss  
Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Diemer  
Ms. Lydia Mari Dorman  
Mrs. Melissa Kaye Edmonds  
Mr. Leonard Ray Epley, Jr.  
Ms. Ada W. Ford  
Mr. Christopher James Gentry  
Ms. April Lashonda Glover  
Mr. James T. Harper  
Mr. Erwin Benedict Hartel  
Mrs. Martha Germany Henderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald N. Hinson  
Ms. Freda Hatler Hogan  
Dr. Charles Phillip Holland  
Mrs. Nancy and Phillip Holland  
Mr. Derek W. Hull  
Mr. Meredith Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Baron Jones  
Ms. Jo Nell Jones  
Mrs. Robyn A. Keeling  
Mrs. Doris Elaine Keith  
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Vincent Keith  
Mr. James E. Kerkhoff  
Mr. Kelly Jerome King  
Mr. Robert S. Kirkland  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Krauss  
Mr. Roy David Lester  
Mr. Christopher Edward Losso  
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Allen Mallard  
Mr. Jerald Wade Manning  
Mr. Jerry W. Markham  
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Stanton Marks  
Mrs. Bonnie Lea Marks  
Ms. Colleen Marie Mathews  
Mrs. Leila Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Adam Melloan  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shaw  
Montgomery  
Mr. Lawrence J. Multerer  
Mr. William Abe Music  
Mrs. Tricia Lynn Nevitt  
Ms. Laura N. Oatley  
Mr. Terry L. Parker  
COL (Ret.) David Patterson &  
Dr. Kathryn Scarborough Patterson  
Mr. Jonathan E. Philpot  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Owen Pichea  
Ms. Keely Blair P’Pool  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory W. Pryor  
Mrs. Elaine W. Reed  
Mrs. Greta Roberts  
Mr. David Eugene Rupp  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shirley  
Ms. Jenna Raye Smith  
Ms. LaTanya M. Smith  
Dr. and Mrs. Stacy Lynn Spencer  
Ms. Jessica Gayle Staten  
Mrs. Janet Sterett  
Mr. Brent M. Stinnett  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bradley Stinnett  
Mr. Micky Strader  
Mr. Robert Thompson Taylor  
Mr. Ray L. Thomas  
Mr. Jack Lee Thomason, Jr.  
Mr. Stephen Ray Torstrick  
MAJ and Mrs. David Lee Vanover  
Mr. David Scott Veech  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew A. Washam  
Mrs. Sheila Hanville Westlin  
Cpts. Heidi and Michael R. Whitecarver  
Mrs. Karla T. Wilkinson  
Ms. Emily Hunter Williams  
Ms. Carole J Willoughby  
Mr. and Mrs. Shaun Anthony Winter  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Douglas Workman  
Mr. John E. Yeates

Become a WKU Alumni Association Lifetime Member Today!  
Call 888-WKU-ALUM (888-958-2586) or visit alumni.wku.edu/joinnow.
In Memoriam

We pay tribute to all members of the WKU family who have passed away.

Mr. Harold Alexander, Student
Mrs. Charleen Allen, '71, '75, '78
CPT Daniel Anderson, '52
Ms. Ethel (Sell) Anderson, '61
Mr. John Annis, '72
Ms. Christine Atwood, '52
Mr. Robert Bacik
Mr. Thomas Bailey, College High
Miss Mary Bell, '48 BU
Ms. Theresa Bell
Mr. Roger Bessinger, '76, '77
Mr. Andrew Bird, '48, '51
Ms. Tyler Blackburn
Mr. Kenneth Bodkin, '72
Ms. Thelma (Lurding) Boyer, '37
Mrs. Diane (Riley) Brown, '51
Mrs. Betty Burns, '66, '74, '78
Dr. Robert Burress, '48
Mr. Ricky Bush, '82
Mrs. Maxie Bybee, '60
Mrs. Lucile (Riley) Callis, '34
Mr. Larry Campbell, '72
Mr. Henry Carlisle
Mr. James Carney, '71
Ms. Annette Carrico, Student
Ms. Elizabeth Carrico, Faculty
Mr. Roy Carrier, '74, '78
Mr. Shawn Carter, '05
Mrs. Sue (Oldham) Cheatham, '87
Ms. Glenda Colker
Mr. James Coles, '60, '62, College High
Mrs. Maxine Cook, '31, Staff
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