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WKU seeks reaccreditation, decision to come next December

BY JESSICA VOORHEES
NEWSPAPER@WKUHERALD.COM

WKU is up for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges this academic year.

The SACSCOC is a regional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that reviews colleges to ensure they meet certain standards in areas such as academics and administration.

Richard Miller, vice provost and chief diversity officer, said the SACSCOC accreditation is vital because it allows the university to offer degree programs and students to receive federal financial aid.

“An institution loses its accreditation, that is a huge deal,” Miller said. “You try to avoid that at all costs.”

Colleges and universities undergo the reaccreditation process every 10 years.

“We’ve been relatively successful over the years at being accredited by SACSCOC and we try to do everything we can to maintain that accreditation,” Miller said.

President Gary Ransdell said he would be surprised if any problems emerged during the process and is confident WKU will be reaccredited.

“It’s a very thorough process and we’ve devoted a lot of time and thought and energy to prepare for the reaccreditation process,” he said.

Miller said he established several committees, such as a leadership review committee, which broke into subcommittees to study specific areas, such as the mission of the institution and the role of the Board of Regents.

The task forces compiled a report for planning and program development and a member of the leadership committee, the said process involves documenting and reviewing everything the university does.

“It gives you a state of how you operate a good educational practice,” Miller said.

Miller said an internal and external committee will review the institution, and then SACSCOC will provide an on-site and off-site review committee for additional review.

The on-site committee will come to campus April 17 to 19 to talk with faculty, said the process involves the institution as well as additional committees.

“WKU seeks reaccreditation, decision to come next December”

See SACSCOC PAGE A2

Fall-to-fall enrollment numbers decrease

BY KAE HOLLOWAY AND TREY CRUMBIE
NEWSPAPER@WKUHERALD.COM

WKU’s fall-to-fall enrollment is down for a second consecutive year. WKU’s enrollment for this semester is 20,178 students down 278 students from the 20,456 students enrolled in fall 2013. President Gary Ransdell said that part-time students are not only in decline on WKU’s campus, but others as well.

It’s that time of the year again.

Betsy Pierce, the Counseling and Test Prep Center will also continue to offer free tutoring sessions to help students going back into the workforce.

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See enrollment PAGE A2

Students prepare for Finals Week

BY LEAH BROWN
NEWSPAPER@WKUHERALD.COM

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It’s “a market driven economy,” she said.

“WKU seeks reaccreditation, decision to come next December”

See SACSCOC PAGE A2

WKU ATHLETICS AMONG MANY EXPERIENCING DEFICITS

SPORTS, PAGE B6

Students prepare for Finals Week

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NEWSPAPER@WKUHERALD.COM

It’s that time of the year again. Procrastinators fill the common areas of Mass Media and Technology Hall with last minute cramming until the early morning hours while Einstein’s line is out the door with zombie-like students begging for more coffee.

However, there are alternatives offered on campus to cope with the dreadful stress of finals.

Betsy Pierce, the Counseling and Testing Center’s outreach coordinator, said the center will offer sessions to help students the best way to deal with stress and reduce stress. They do so throughout the year.

The Academic Success and Retention Center will continue to offer free tutoring sessions to any student in need, said student staff worker, Mount Sterling, Lauren Halewood (right), of Henderson, rubs her head in frustration after discussing the answer to a finance question during a late-night study group with classmates Samantha Cosmes, (left), of Owensboro, and Gabbin Mckam, of Russellville, on the third floor of Helm Library on Tuesday.

Lauren Halewood (right), of Henderson, rubs her head in frustration after discussing the answer to a finance question during a late-night study group with classmates Samantha Cosmes, (left), of Owensboro, and Gabbin Mckam, of Russellville, on the third floor of Helm Library on Tuesday.

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What do you mean there are MISSING LINKS?
That’s impossible!

Some students may find studying off campus beneficial as well. Louisville junior Hannah Dickerson said she spends most of her time doing homework at Sperner’s Coffee at the Square. She plans to study for her finals there as well.

“Next week I will be staying up a little later than normal,” Dickerson said. “Starting this week I will be making studying guides so I don’t have to cram.”

Next week, students may be waking up a little earlier than normal. Exam times for classes are set at different times than when the class originally meets. Students can find their exam schedules for fall semester on WKU’s official website.

Many students will receive the luxury of extra study time on Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. since no exams are scheduled during those time slots.

White House, Tennessee senior Lauren Sanders said she is using this week to figure out how difficult finals week will be.

“I’m just finishing homework, trying to get grades back so I know how much I need to study,” she said.

SACSCOC
Continued from FRONT

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SGA passes alcohol resolution during final meeting

By LASHANA HARNEY

Discussion of alcohol and smoking on campus dominated most of the two-and-half hour Student Government Association meeting on Tuesday, the final meeting of the semester.

To motivate the SGA, Executive Cabinet's official statement on the issue. The SGAResolution 11-14-F Resolution 11-14-F was introduced and passed during the final meeting of the semester.

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At Western Kentucky University we take many steps to ensure the safety of our campus family. Ensured campus lighting, sprinklers in residence halls, a closed circuit TV monitoring network throughout much of the campus and multiple warning systems in place for storms and other potential dangers are but a few of the ways we are taking added precautions these days. These are also among the reasons WKU recently received a “Safe Community” designation from the National Safety Council, making WKU only the fourth university in the nation to gain this recognition.

However, the recent loss of WKU student Tyler English in a house fire at his off-campus residence prompts us to step back and reevaluate our efforts to ensure the safety of those populating our community. The death of a young student, another opening ring true.

Happiness is:
- the absence of fear in the world.
- successfully completing last year’s resolution by being a better member to smile through the tears.
- having a whole semester to relax until internships start.
- the annual tradition of using the girls’ pants for Christmas.
- the @WKUAdmissions office is headed to the home of @WKUGaryRansdell for a holiday cheer.

VOICE YOUR OPINION

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries. To submit a letter or commentary:

1. Letters should be 250 words. Comments should be 200 words. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.

2. Originality counts. Please don’t submit plagiarized work.

3. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.

4. Letters should include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.

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We welcome your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

Are you interested in learning more about WKU’s employees or of its administration? Do you have an opinion? Tweet us @WKUHerald as well. Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

CONTACT US

Advertising: 270.745.2653 advertising@wkuherald.com

Let your voice be heard! If you have an idea, suggestion, or concern you’d like to share with us, please let us know.
ACROSS
1 One may be under a jacket
5 Drift on the breeze
9 Military group
14 Basically
16 Storyteller of a sort
17 Where dogs chat?
18 Sobriety symbol
19 Hosp. test
20 Pilot’s stat.
21 Manifest
22 Harsh
24 Where donkeys make noise?
26 Fight a cold, say
28 Ages and ages
29 King of Naples in "The Tempest"
32 Fed. property overseer
33 Traveling, in a way
37 Where horses are treated for laryngitis?
40 Scrabble piece
41 Singer DiFranco
42 Alias
43 Small matter?
44 Freudian topic
45 Where lions practice intimidation?
49 Not upfront
53 Show
54 Historic opening?
56 Guernsey sound
57 Savage
58 Where birds sing?
61 Drivel
62 Most tacky
63 Pace product
64 Coltrane collaborator
65 Entreaty

DOWN
1 Feelings
2 Make official
3 Suit material
4 “Shame on you!”
5 Excellently
6 Vet. sch. course
7 TV monitor
8 Round tool part
9 Western omen
10 Lasso
11 Steam
12 Curling slider
13 Legendary guy traditionally wearing black boots
15 What mayo might be
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23 Garnet
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27 Kind of map
29 Social worker?
30 Island garland
31 Cook’s supply
33 Pester
34 Norm: Abbr.
35 It might be electric
36 “... you happy now?”
38 Any day now
39 Young laptops
43 Spring bloomer
45 Loads
46 René Fleming’s field
47 Spring time
48 Brings in
50 Drive forward
51 Western omen
52 “... go!”
54 Rounded tool part
55 Smell
58 Old films channel
59 “The __ Sell Out”: 1967 rock album
60 Nunue
HOLIDAY ON THE HILL

PHOTOS BY NICK WAGNER/HERALD
Louisville freshman Maggie Sullivan, left, and Independence freshman Zena Gavin decorate cookies during Holiday Hysteria at Downing Student Union on Wednesday.

RIGHT: Brazilian freshman Felipe Silva poses for a photo with Old Saint Nick during Holiday Hysteria at Downing Student Union on Wednesday.

TOP: Independence freshman Zena Gavin decorates a sugar cookie during Holiday Hysteria.

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FREE appetizer with The Purchase of a Large Signature pizza when you show your WKU Student ID

1/2 Off any lunch item with The Purchase of a regular priced lunch item when you show your WKU Student ID

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Your Partners For Health
Shake Rag could use a shake up alongside a slew of different southern comfort food models. One can find a southern diner with an open door and a southern restaurant. The menu definitely fits the comfort food model. One can find an array of fried fish, and barbecue along with a slew of different southern sides such as macaroni and cheese, green beans, and collards. The daily special was a traditional country-style fried chicken. Served in two thongs and glazed with a sweet tomato sauce, the meal was soft and succulent but featured a nice outer crust. Unfortunately, it seemed a little under seasoned. Those looking for excitement will find it mostly in the sauce — it was similar to ketchup but packaged a nice outer crust. They packed an appetizing dish with a little more soul.

Shake Rag is unabashedly southern and perfect for the Nashville crowd. By trading in the muted flavors of the South for something a little bit smokier, they've added a nice southern influence make it an adequate option for some traditional home cooking, but its nostalgic features that make it so special.

One drill sergeant took Pulley aside and commended him on his decision to join the military. Another friend reminded him how he had the world at his feet. Words like these inspired Pulley to go back to school to get his Bachelor of Arts in music. Pulley, who has been a member of the military for his entire life, began singing classically in high school after his choir teacher encouraged him to further his vocal education.

"He told me like, 'Hey, I can do anything you set your mind to, but I'm going to take you up to see my voice teacher from college because I think you've accelerated past the level I feel comfortable teaching."' Pulley said. Once a week for a year-and-a-half, Pulley's teacher drove him to Bowling Green from Nashville to receive lessons from Elizabeth Vollenkam, a Juilliard School of Music graduate who was teaching at WKU. It was during these lessons that Pulley fully began understanding his ability to train his voice and become an opera singer.

During an American idol-style competition at the OrchestraKentucky, Pulley met Wayne Pope, an assistant professor of music at WKU. "He had a very promising, wonderful voice," Pope said. "We spoke with him and after that found out that he had been studying with one of our teachers and was coming to Western." Pulley originally planned on becoming a music teacher, but changed his mind after joining the Army.

"The one of points of becoming a high school music teacher is to help the kids, honestly, what to expect," he said. "If I went into teaching right out of college, you're not going to have that experience to tell those kids." It was through the encouragement of the military that Pulley came back to the Hill last fall. Today, Pulley sings for the Nashville Opera. Last summer he spent time at the Cincinnati Camerata of Music, one of the top music programs in the world. He also frequents churches singing in "O Holy Night" as a go-to opera piece, no matter the season. He will sing the "Star Spangled Ban- nerc," "My Old Kentucky Home" and "College Hymns," WKU's alma mater, at the commencement ceremonies next weekend. "We pick someone every semester to sing at graduation," Pope said. "It's always an honor. We try to find outsiders. One area that contributed to Pulley being chosen were the results of a juror petition at the OrchestraKentucky, he said. "For me, I wanted to find people who are at the top of their craft and then pick them.

"It was a weakness that I didn't want to expose," Pulley said. "I wanted to be a singer, but I was scared. My first sergeant, the highest ranking officer in my unit, said 'Hey, I think you have the world at your feet. You don't have to go do that.'" Pulley's teacher drove him to Bowling Green from Nashville to receive lessons from Elizabeth Vollenkam, a Juilliard School of Music graduate who was teaching at WKU. Pulley met Wayne Pope, an assistant professor of music at WKU. "He had a very promising, wonderful voice," Pope said. "We spoke with him and after that found out that he had been studying with one of our teachers and was coming to Western." Pulley originally planned on becoming a music teacher, but changed his mind after joining the Army.

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What? We don’t use OXFORD COMMAS in journalism? Like, why?

It’s going to be okay. It’s a part of the EXPERIENCE.

Hiring Photographers, Designers, Reporters and Sales Representatives at the College Heights Herald for the Spring 2015 Semester. Editorial board applications due November 25 | Staffers due December 8 at the Student Publications office.
The Republic of Cuba, located approximately 90 miles away from Key West, Florida, has gradually been opening its doors to tourists, especially for those who wish to study there.

"That's probably one of my favorite things to do," he said. "It's enjoyable to see people coming into the studio. There will be approximately 63 other students are upcoming winter. Approximately 75 "studyin" plans to visit many places in the country.

"The people come through some of the regular customers and some new customers," Dwyer said. "At the Gallery Hop, you see people coming into the studio. It's a fantastic experience, it's a great way to sort out challenges and expand one's own worldview, and college is a great time to do that…"

"Just know that "if you're going to invest in that, you want to make sure you're investing in it for the right reasons," Barnaby said, adding that it is important to figure out how this trip will benefit a student academically.

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Doughty enjoying another record-breaking season

BY KYLE WILLIAMS
SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

Prior to the football season’s beginning, redshirt senior receiver Willie McNeal said his quarterback, fellow redshirt senior Brandon Doughty, would have a season to remember.

Twelve games, 44 touchdowns and 4,344 passing yards later, McNeal was correct.

One year after setting new school records for passing yards, completion percentage, single-game completions and single-game passing yards, he broke all of them again with 4,344 yards, a 67.5 completion percentage, 46 single-game completions and 593 single-game passing yards.

Doughty also set new marks of 58 career touchdowns, 44 single-season touchdown passes — which is just one shy of any other team in the FBS — and eight single-game touchdown passes.

“I think he’s played tremendous,” Head Coach Jeff Brohm said. “He’s had an outstanding year. He’s definitely rose to the occasion, he’s improved in every area of his game … He did extremely well all year in getting rid of the ball quickly, being accurate, making good decisions, processing information.”

The redshirt senior’s eight-touchdown performance ranks 16th on the all-time FBS list, and it’s the highest of any quarterback playing on the road in FBS history.

Then-No. 19 Marshall entered the game as the 14th-best total defense in the country. His 44 touchdowns and 4,344 passing yards are No. 1 among FBS quarterbacks this season to go along with his No. 2 ranking in points responsible for at 278, his No. 3 ranking in total offense at 357.3 yards per game and his No. 6 passing efficiency rating at 163.5.

In addition to Doughty’s nearly regular-season numbers, he completed 159-of-213 (74.6 percent) of his passes in six home games this season for 2,107 yards, 24 touchdowns and zero interceptions.

“I’m ecstatic for him,” Brohm said. “I think that he’s really had an outstanding year. To put up the numbers he’s put up is really mind-boggling. To put up the numbers he put up at home is even more mind-boggling. He’s put in the hard work. He knows what his strengths are. He’s improved upon his weaknesses. We try to play to his strengths, and he understands that … He leads by example.”

Doughty has orchestrated a Hilltopper offense that’s broken single-season records for points, touchdowns, total yards, single-game yards, passing yards, completions, touchdown passes, first downs, passing first downs and first-quarter points.

WKU’s new mark for points in a season sits at 528, surpassing the former total of 432 that was reached in 15 games during the 2002 season — three more than the Hilltoppers played this season.

Doughty, McNeal and company will have a shot at breaking even more records in the team’s bowl opportunity that was solidified with the Hilltoppers’ 67-66 overtime victory at Marshall.

Now, as WKU fans have grown accustomed to all season, we just have to sit back and enjoy the show.
Kevin Kaspar

Kasper released this statement on his Twitter account Tuesday after

“...We continue to fund these programs...”

Kevin Kaspar

April of that year.

Jimmy Feix, along with coach Jack Har-...
WKU athletics among several reporting deficits

SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

BY KYLE WILLIAMS AND ELLIOTT PRATT

The WKU athletics department reported a $16.4 million deficit in 2012-2013 to the NCAA, according to the most recent USA Today Sports college athletics financial data release last year. The report listed WKU's total revenues in 2013 at $72,576,582, generated from student fees, in-seat ticket sales, sponsorships, concessions – anything we sell for money – Stewart said. "The other third is as- signed from the university, and the other third comes from student fees. That's not unusual. It's a very normal al- location. So to imply there's a $16 million deficit, we're play- ing word games here, but I wouldn't use the word deficit," Stewart said. WKU entered Conference USA in 2013 with a budget of $22.9 million in 2013-14 – the highest of the league's 14 members. In the Hilltoppers' last season in the Sun Belt Conference, WKU brought home five conference cham- pionships. "We take great pride in the fact that this Texas A&M study, which is a legitimate study each of the past three years has ranked us as one of the 20- most successful athletic pro- grams in the entire country based on what we've achieved and what our resources are," Stewart said. Twelve of the C-USA's 14 members reported deficits of 43 percent or higher — the highest being Florida Interna- tional at 78 percent — to the NCAA at the time of the data- base's release. CBS Sports released a list of Group of Five conferences — Big 10, Big 12, Pac-12, At- hletic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference — having reported deficits, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham came in around a 64 percent subsidy percentage. "We have ranked us as one of the 20- most successful athletic pro- grams in the entire country, particularly because of its ef- fort on the lives of the student- athletes and coaches that have worked so hard to restore the quality of the program," Stewart said in a statement Tuesday. "We don't fully understand the de- cision, nor agree with it, but we respect it and the authority of the NCAA if they've made this decision, nor agree with it, but we respect it and the authority of the NCAA if they've made this decision." Stewart said the report isn't indicative of how the athletic de- partment has benefited from investments. "The way our budget works one-third of our budget is completely self-generated through ticket sales, sponsor- ships, concessions — anything we sell for money," Stewart said. "The other third is as- signed from the university, and the other third comes from student fees. That's not unusual. It's a very normal al- location. So to imply there's a $16 million deficit, we're play- ing word games here, but I wouldn't use the word deficit," Stewart said.

VOLLEYBALL

Bradley Carter/HERALD

For the eighth time in school history, the Lady Toppers are headed to the NCAA dance floor. The No. 1-ranked WKU volleyball team will travel to Champaign, Illinois for a matchup with Iowa State in the Ames Regional on Friday at 8 p.m. CT.

"I've taken great pride in the program he built are no strangers to conferences in the country," Hudson.

"We are aware of the study, but disappointed with the decision to discontinue the sport of football at UAB, particularly because of its ef- fect on the lives of the student- athletes and coaches that have worked so hard to restore the quality of the program," Stewart said. "We don't fully understand the de-cision, nor agree with it, but we respect it and the authority of the NCAA if they've made this decision."

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