Alumni giving increases: best in five years

BY ANNA LAWSON

As of December, WKU is receiving the majority of its donations from alumni. The $4.7 million raised from former students made up around 45 percent of total gifts from July to December of 2014.

John Paul Blair, associate vice president of Advancement, said that this year is shaping up very well, and the first six months of this fiscal year, which is from July until June, is the highest level they have achieved in five years.

"It is over $10 million at this point," he said. "It is standard for alumni to be the largest support group for universi ties. They are the ones who have the most motivation to invest back because of the amount of success it has provided them."

Blair said they have also seen $8 million in new pledges, which is the best in seven years. They also have 75 new pledges, which is the highest ever in the last ten years.

He said he’s very grateful for the alumni and friends who are taking part in the growth of WKU.

"I always hope the university continues to be grateful to the alumni and friends who are investing in the future of our students by making gifts to WKU," he said. "I express apprecia
tion for that because they are the real heroes, those who give sacrificially to support." Blair said they have over 100,000 alumni that maintain close commu nity with. Blair deals specifically with “major gifts,” gifts higher than $25,000.

Anything smaller is considered an institutional gift. He said this fiscal year they have $6.5 million in major gifts which is the highest it’s ever been and is also a $4.7 million in endowment gifts.

Campus pride surrounds LGBT community

BY JESSICA VOORHEES

With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, couples throughout campus —both straight and LGBT—will celebrate romance, chocolate and love with each other.

For Dalani Rainwater and her girlfriend Tri Sanders, they’ll commemorate the day with a movie.

The couple have been dating for three years. Rainwater said she and Sanders pose for a portrait in their dorm room in Bemis Lawrence Hall, on Feb. 11. They have been dating for three years. Photo quote by Rainwater.

For Dalani Rainwater and her girlfriend Tri Sanders, they’ll commemorate the day with a movie.

The couple also celebrates consecutive birthdays with one another—Nov. 1 and Nov. 2—and they were born in the same hospital.

“We’ve just like two best friends, basically,” Rainwa ter said.

Rainwater said she and Sanders went to rival high

WKU Foundation acquires land

BY JESSICA VOORHEES

The WKU Foundation bought the property adjacent to the Agricutural Alumni Center by the parking garage.

Kathryn Costello, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, said the Foundation had the best means of developing the space and that it has a business model that en sures longevity.

Rick Dickhouse, executive director of the WKU Alumni Association, said WKU initially intended for tenants to move into the property, but decided the WKU Foundation would provide more financial stability through complete ownership.

"The university decided it was more effective under the control of a private entity that has resources," he said.

Costello said the downtown development committee intended to complete Block 12, where the land is located, through a 30-year payment plan, but the WKU Foundation financed it faster. She said the WKU Foundation pays a lease and will completely own the space in six years.

Costello said the development au thority will reimburse the WKU Foun dation for supplying the funds. She said the board will then make a decision whether the Alumni Associa tion or the WKU Foundation will control the property.

The land purchase would help ac complish the WKU Foundation’s goals of "promoting the welfare and future development of Western Kentucky University’s educational goals by managing assets and maintaining do nor records for the benefit of Western Kentucky University."

"There’s no conflict," Costello said. "It will just be what makes the most sense."

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continued from FRONT

ALUMNI CONTRIBUTED FROM FRONT

which is a 13% percent increase compared to the first six months of last year.

For the first time in WKU history, the endowment has surpassed the $140

Kerby attributed this loss of foot-

Continued from FRONT

terms to create a more LGBT friendly

ACADEMICS

motto, according to Blair.

"Major gifts take a lot more time

"Our goal is to always increase en-

But instead of a potentially tragic Ro-

The College Heights Herald

"Trying to balance all that is really a

"We are starting to see the growth and want to be a

"We have changed our engagement

"We have a lot of innovative ideas to

"Trying to balance all that is really hard on the university," he said.

"We lost ours and now we look bad," Rainwater said.

"We have changed our engagement

"Trying to balance all that is really hard on the university," he said.

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"We have a lot of innovative ideas to
Students look to address homing issues in BG

BY ANDREW HENDERSON

When switching through the channels on television, one often passes through the news outlets and sees glimpses of conflict. Conflict could include white versus people of color, heterosexual versus homosexuals, or even white Muslims. Sometimes it can be difficult to see how any of these peaceful discussions can occur between different groups, but that doesn’t mean such talks shouldn’t be had.

Sasha Ross, coordinator for Bemis Lawrence Hall, is trying to shorten those differences and start a conversation. Ross is leading the Intergroup Dialogue Program at her graduate institution. Ross is heading Voices of Discovery: An Intergroup Dialogue Program coming to WKU. The program is based on a model developed in the late ’90s at Arizona State University and continues at the University of Denver.

As part of an internship Ross had previously, it was her job to launch an intergroup dialogue program at her graduate school. She then brought the idea with her to WKU. Her goal for these groups is to go beyond the superficial conversations of acknowledging differences between groups and learning more about what these differences mean.

“It’s hard for people that are different to know that we are part of a university community that seeks to give all its community members’ voices” Ross said.

Saundra Ardrey, department head of Social Responsibility, is another professor involved in the program. Students in Ardrey’s graduate level Cultural Competence in Public Administration class are also required to participate in the program. “It’s important for students going out into public administration to be aware of diversity,” she said.

Sasha Ross, graduate student from Indiana, is a student in Ardrey’s class who is looking forward to the program. “I hope to be more understanding of many groups other than my own,” Ross said.

“I understand that when we engage with others who are different, that doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be tried. It can occur between different groups, but there is conflict. Examples could include whites versus homosexuals or Christians versus Muslims. Sometimes it can be difficult to see how any of these peaceful discussions can occur between different groups, but that doesn’t mean such talks shouldn’t be had.”

Students look to address homing issues in BG

“Coming from a Muslim background, I see there are a lot of microoppressions surrounding Muslims,” Samad said. In contrast with Samad and Smith, Nathan Dalrymple said he was more interested in the students of color and white students. “I feel racial discrimination to still be an issue facing WKU. I think that people cannot ignore it in hopes of it going away.”

“Besides the way that the best example of these multiple races in this country is shown here at WKU. I see things for the beautiful traits that make each individual,” Dalrymple said.

Despite Voices of Discovery approaching a debut, students have high hopes for the program’s future. “I’m talking about the potential of someday making this a sustainable program and making it a class people can take credit for,” she said.

Community unites in the face of tragedy

In times of tragedy, people have a way of rallying together to support one another. On Feb. 1, planning started in September of 2014. This chapter reached out to members of the International Student Society of America and Inter Harnessing and challenged Birming Student Chapter competitions to raise awareness on the topic of discrimination and to facilitate a community dialogue around affirmative action and critical credit. In 2009, the WKU Best Buddies chapter, said. “They work so hard to help so many people.”

In spite of the hard times, the A3 movement is also promoting their mission and their website, available for viewing on their Facebook page, WKU Best Buddies. “It’s been difficult, but we’re all working hard at helping out,” Smith said.

The family is grateful for the support of the community. Everyone has just been so helpful and especially the family,” Tichenor said. “We’re blown away.”

Students look to address homing issues in BG

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BIG REDS: WKU STANDS OUT AS A CULTURE OF ACCEPTANCE

Even at full speed ahead, "Flash" still flat-lines

Around this time four years ago, I was prepar-
ing to graduate high school. I was packing for my move to Bowling Green and I was still preten-
ding to be definitively straight.

Why was I coming from a conservative small town in Kentucky, raised by the most strict and moral Christian stan-
dards? When I ended a relationship like that... I was a woman who was fairly loudly trying to prove he wasn't into dudes. The thing was, I wasn't a typical woman.

My hometown of Madisonville didn't present me with many opportunities to be out and proud. I saw how the few open-
gay men were treated and it was something I didn't want for myself. I very much still believed, at that point, I could choose to be straight and so could everyone else.

After a few months of participating in the WKU culture and having "expe-
riences," I eased into the coming out stages, and things went surprisingly well. I didn't lose any friends worth minding and I was still feeling at home where I was living. My en-
tire life and belief system underwent a dramatic shift.

In the four years I've been here, WKU has been subjected to campus pride evaluation, banished events for LGTQ awareness and provided benefits for faculty involved in same-sex domestic partnerships. These successes make me proud of Gallianiversity.

However, the state of Kentucky still has a long road ahead. Legally, sexual-orientation and gender identity can only speak up to mention her late-
father Buck Keeley (Flash). "The Flash" stays only speaks up to mention her late-
mother Iris West, portrayed by Danielle Panabaker, as a character who is extremely important. She is still the main female char-
acter, played by Candice Patton, who is a lead role and the main displayed.

Viewers are asked to invest in a TV show that includes shockingly few women. Central City, in contrast to Arrow's Starling City, is a ‘50s-era, light-hearted metropolis stricken with petty criminals and quid-pro-quo deals, for example.

"Flash" not only fails to employ fe-
male creators exclusively, they force ro-
me sex roles of the only two lead

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Open forum encourages students to come to the table and comment on topics of personal and social concern.

Send to: wkuherald@wku.edu
Readers may submit letters and commentaries online at wkuherald.com.

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters must reach the office by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.
2. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters must be no longer than 300 words.

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CAMP COUNSELORS
- Assures with Summer Camp leaders group activities; some counselors work with special needs children, teens, & adults. Must be knowledgeable in recreation/arts activities; may require CPR, & 1st Aid Certification. 40 hours per week, May thru August; weekend may be required. Age 17+. $8.37/hr.

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City of Bowling Green
TENNIS INSTRUCTORS
- Tennis Quest Instructors - begins training this month with flexible hours.

City of Bowling Green
LABORERS
- Parks & Recreation Department
35-40 hour/week, with occasional week-end work required. Operates assorted equipment for the assigned department. Responsible to follow best industry practices in training and maintaining facility grounds; lead pick-up; minor building and equipment repairs; minor maintenance; storage room and offices. Valid driver’s license and acceptable driving record. Send application and cover letter to the Human Resources Department, as required, with three to six months of experience working with various light equipment. Pre vet student, exercise. Pre vet student, exercise. $9.65/hour.

City of Bowling Green
GREENSKEEPER
- The City of Bowling Green is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace.

City of Bowling Green
PARKS & RECREATION
- Offers a variety of programs and services to the public. Positions are available on a part-time and full-time basis as needed throughout the year. Interested applicants can apply online at www.bgky.org/hr/jobs or at the Human Resources Department in City Hall, 1001 College Street, Bowling Green.

City of Bowling Green
LABORERS
- Parks & Recreation Department
- Operates riding and push lawn mowers, weedwacker and string trimmer as assigned. Assists with other maintenance, cleaning and maintenance of kennel building and dog exercise. Pre vet student, exercise as needed to train with the position. Please email description of relevant experience and photo references to 2 references to cjohnson@bgky.org

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ALLSTAR Photo Lab is seeking a qualified part-time graphic design person to work in our lab/design area. Must have a good working knowledge of Photoshop or higher. Start training this month with flexible hours and a great work environment. Please send resume to Richard@4allstar.com or call 270-781-6051 ext 12.

ALLSTAR Sports Photography is seeking photographers, photographer-trainers and coordinators. Must be able to take care and work with children and work on the go, adhering to equipment and transportation. Experienced photographers can earn up to $40 per half day/night shooting. 15 hours/week, seasonal work and primarily on Sundays. Please send resume to CustomerService@4allstar.com or call 270-781-6051 ext 12.

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Mount Juliet, Tennessee freshman Miriam Gaines, left, Lexington junior Jamie Harvener, middle, and Bowling Green sophomore Hannah Scott, right, rehearse for The Dance Project on Monday, Feb. 9 at Gordon Wilson Hall. The Dance Project will be Feb. 13-15 at Gordon Wilson Hall and will feature several dances.

RIGHT: Clarksville, Tennessee sophomore Alexandria Tucker rehearses for The Dance Project on Monday.
BOTTOM LEFT: Jameelah Baker, of Charlotte, North Carolina, instructs and choreographs dancers for the upcoming show.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Louisville junior Mara Brand, left, and Winchester junior Vivian Brackett, right, work with the lights for the upcoming show, The Dance Project, on Monday in Gordon Wilson Hall.

PHOTO
WKUHERALD.COM
FEBRUARY 12, 2015 > WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Backstage pass
PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN
Cocomo offers unique experience

JOHN GREEN

Cocomo Confections was conceived out of an amateur chocolatier's desire to turn her hobby into a profession. The quality of the chocolate here beds well for this decision. As for the interior, the old diner ambiance invokes the image of drugstores or ice cream shops of the early 20th century. The doors are bordered by bins of candy and soft, vintage music emanates from the speakers.

That had a big impact on me — just to see that someone took the time to let us know, ‘hey, you all made a difference,’ he said.

Cocomo offers an array of traditional deli-sandwiches. Though, there is little to set it apart from what you could find at any other sandwich shop.

Of course, sandwiches aren’t the only thing people come here for. It is what sits at the counter: the chocolate. In this respect, Cocomo does set itself apart. Where many chocolatiers choose a machine-dipping process, Cocomo opts for the more traditional hand-dipping method. This might take longer, but it results in richer chocolate shells and makes each candy unique.

‘There’s something for everybody to do,’ he said. ‘There’s a position for people to play.’

Tanner Knutson, 17, a junior at South Warren High School, is a junior firefighter at the WVFD who joined last year. Knutson said he feels the age gap between him and the rest of the volunteers is “weird,” but that it helps the new member feel more comfortable. Moreover, Knutson said he feels the volunteer fire department is a great place to make friends and in the future, it will be easier to find a job. "There was something I was really interested in," Knutson said. "I thought, if I’m going to be in Bowling Green, I might as well start a business." Augenstein said.

When most WKU students see Skipper, Bob’s name, it’s usually in an email informing them about whether Skipper has been at the fire department for about 25 years.

Weekly guide to the BG restaurant scene

BY TYLER PROCHAZKA

Media Relations director also volunteers as a firefighter

When most WKU students see Skipper, Bob’s name, it’s usually in an email informing them about whether Skipper has been at the fire department for about 25 years. However, the director of Media Relations does more than fluctuate because his dad was one in Jefferson County.

Dr. John Greer, WKU Director of Media Relations, works part-time at a volunteer fire department, located in Warren County.

The clear star here is the counter, which is laden with a colorful and fragrant collection of chocolate delights. There are a lot of familiar crowd-pleasers, ranging from bourbon balls to chocolate-covered strawberries.

Of course, sandwiches aren’t the only thing people come here for. It is what sits at the counter: the chocolate. In this respect, Cocomo does set itself apart. Where many chocolatiers choose a machine-dipping process, Cocomo opts for the more traditional hand-dipping method. This might take longer, but it results in richer chocolate shells and makes each candy unique.
AUGENSTEIN CARRIES ON THE FLAME
of his fraternity, Sigma Al-
pha Epsilon. Burden, worked at Steamer Seafood for two
summers and said it was
"the two most fun sum-
mers of my life.

"We worked very hard
and had some great ex-
périences outside of work," Burden said in an
email interview. "The res-
taurant is a staple on the
island, and work was a
blast every single night.

"The manager position at
Steamer Seafood has always
Waronsky's only job, and
she said this is because
working there has been
the most fun job I could
evimagine having.

One of the reasons she
enjoys her job so much
is because of Augen-
stein's treatment of
her and the other
employees.

"He is a fabu-

lous person to work
with, and he teaches
us something new
every day," Waronsky said.

Burden also said Au-
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Nationally-ranked opponents await WKU softball in Florida

By ALEXUS RICHARDSON
SPORTSW@WKUHERALD.COM

After a successful start in Troy, Alabama that saw center pitcher Miranda Kramer throwing the program’s eighth no-hitter in history, the WKU softball team will now travel to Tallahassee, Florida, for the Unconquered Invitational, where they will open up competition against nationally-ranked Michigan (No. 8) and host school Florida State (No. 13).

The Lady Toppers were able to close the Alabama State game with a score of 9-0 in the final game of the weekend. With 19 strikeouts, a no-hitter, 12 hits against Troy and 15 hits against Alabama State, the Lady Toppers have set the tone early for the upcoming season.

“There was a lot of nervousness with it being our first day out there,” Kramer said. “We have a lot of underclassmen, and right now we’re just trying to understand each other and trust our instincts.”

Kramer, a senior transfer from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in her first year as a Hilltopper has already brought in national attention.

On Tuesday, Kramer was announced as the Louisville Slugger NFCA National Pitcher of the Week, as well as ESPN WPNV National Player of the Week. She also earned Conference USA Co-Pitcher of the Week for her performance against Old Dominion.

Kramer totaled 36 strikeouts with just four hits and three walks in 18 innings of play over the weekend. Her 19 strikeouts against Troy set the school record for individual team strikeouts in a game, while ranking most in C-USA history.

Following pitchers Latina Frank, Hannah and Shawna Sudder had also have successful weekends. Frankie went three for four with two runs scored and Sudder had one hit.

Senior Preisle Cruz put up her first home run of the season and fellow senior Danni Pugh had two grand slams and a home run as well. The team is hoping to build off of last week’s performance with focuses on base running, pitching and defense.

“Our focus has to be there because our competition is in the cream of the crop,” Head Coach Amy Tudor said about this weekend’s tournament. “Those teams are very good and I’m expecting it to be fast.”

WKU Softball will conclude its four-game homestand against Nebraska on Feb. 19, Nebraska at 11:00 a.m. CT and Georgia Tech at 1 p.m. CT.

**SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM**
WKU men’s basketball Head Coach Ray Harper draws a technical foul against Conference USA opponent Rice on Feb. 7 at Diddle Arena. The Hilltoppers would go on to lose to the Owls 72-68 in only their third home loss of the season. LAKE FRANKERHELDER

Title Eight

Hilltoppers hit the road with C-USA title in sight

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE SPORTSPWYKHERALD.COM

While March is traditionally known as a college basketball month by sports fans, it is February that pins conference foes against one another, battling for conference and national positioning. In this final month of conference play, the Hilltoppers sit at 16-7 overall and 9-2 in the Conference USA, finding themselves in a three-way tie for first place in the league. They will have to find ways to win on the road, traveling away from Diddle Arena for five of the team’s final seven games.

“Going to be interesting,” Head Coach Ray Harper said, Monday on his weekly radio show. “You’ve got three teams tied with two losses, and then you have two teams right behind those three with three losses. You’ve got five teams right there bunched together, and four teams are going to get a bye, going into the conference tournament.”

Hopefully we can continue to win,” The teams Harper is referring to include the Hilltoppers, Louisiana Tech and UAB, who all stand at 9-2 in conference play, UTEP and, previously ranked, Old Dominion remain within striking distance at 8-3 and 7-3, respectively. WKU has boasted a 2-1 record against the other teams in the top four of the conference. A road showdown

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL PAGE B3**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL PAGE B3**

**BASEBALL PAGE B3**

BY JOHN REECER SPORTSPWYKHERALD.COM

WKU baseball set to exceed expectations in inaugural C-USA season

Helpful to continue to win.”

While March is traditionally known as a college basketball month by sports fans, it is February that pins conference foes against one another, battling for conference and national positioning. In this final month of conference play, the Hilltoppers sit at 16-7 overall and 9-2 in the Conference USA, finding themselves in a three-way tie for first place in the league. They will have to find ways to win on the road, traveling away from Diddle Arena for five of the team’s final seven games.

“Going to be interesting,” Head Coach Ray Harper said, Monday on his weekly radio show. “You’ve got three teams tied with two losses, and then you have two teams right behind those three with three losses. You’ve got five teams right there bunched together, and four teams are going to get a bye, going into the conference tournament.”

WWW.KHDFERAL.COM SPORTS

By Jonah Phillips

Coming off its 20th win of the season, the WKU women’s basketball team looks to establish themselves as the top team in the Conference USA—something that has not occurred in several years. WKU’s 20th win of the season was reached in the second fastest amount of time in program history per calendar date on Feb. 7. The only team to do it faster was the 1985-86 team that reached 20 wins by Feb. 4, and would go on to reach the final four of the NCAA tournament.

The Lady Toppers, unlike their male counterparts, will play five of their last seven games in Diddle Arena, where their team has gone nearly unblemished this season at 9-3. They will welcome Marshall University into Diddle Arena on Saturday—a team they defeated 67-53 on Jan. 8.

“We have to really try to do is to fo- cus on the areas that we struggled on last time we played (Marshall),” Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard said. “We have to go back and address these issues. Another thing is they didn’t shoot as well as they normally do. They have two girls that can really shoot the three—and from deep.”

Against Rice, the Lady Toppers found a balance in their offensive attack, registering five players with double-digits points. Junior0Choice Coach and Alasia Greer led the pack with 19 points each. Greer was on the verge of a triple-double performance—an accomplishment she has not achieved in seven games in Diddle Arena, where the team has gone nearly unblemished this season at 9-1.

The Hilltoppers face five of their last seven games in AHSAA Region 2, where they will face top teams Tennessee, Alabama and SMU, among others.

» Men’s Basketball: The Men’s Basketball team starts a three-game swing this weekend, starting with the Marshall Thundering Herd on Saturday. Check WKUHERALD.com for a game preview.}

**BASEBALL PAGE B3**

Baseball Head Coach Matt Myers speaks about the upcoming season to reporters during the Baseball Media Day, Tuesday at Diddle Arena. The Hilltoppers ranked 9th in the preseason Conference USA coaches poll, but Myers said he won’t let the low ranking phase him.

“Why we are really trying to do is fo- cuss on the areas that we struggled on last time we played (Marshall),” Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard said. “We have to go back and address these issues. Another thing is they didn’t shoot as well as they normally do. They have two girls that can really shoot the three—and from deep.”

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