BUYING INTO THE BARREL

WKU starts brewing, distilling program with Alltech

BY EMMA COLLINS
HERALD@WKU.EDU

This semester, WKU successfully opened the largest on-campus brewery in the United States and was approved to launch its Certificate in Brewing and Distilling Arts and Sciences program.

The certificate is a joint project among three colleges: Potter College of Arts and Letters, Ogden College of Science and Engineering and Gordon Ford College of Business. It is the result of hard work by Andrew McMichael, assistant dean of Potter College, and Cathleen Webb, associate dean for research at Ogden College.

Graduate and undergraduate certification in Brewing and Distilling was approved at the second quarterly WKU Board of Regents meeting in April. McMichael said the idea for the program really began to take shape during the summer of 2014 when he and Webb spent several days visiting various sized breweries.

When they visited each brewery, McMichael said they asked the brewers two questions.

“What would you want to see on a transcript from someone from Western if you were going to hire them?”

“What do you wish you had known if you were going to hire them?”

Webb said knowledge in all of those areas was consistent. Most brewers said they wished they had more knowledge about how to make a business plan, how to manage employees, how to make a label and how to navigate the law.

Those answers provoked the foundation for the certificate program, which requires students to take classes from a variety of disciplines. Currently, the undergraduate certificate requires classes in brewing and distilling, entrepreneurship and history as well as an internship in brewing or distilling.

Webb said knowledge in all of those subjects will help students understand all sides of the industry.

“In a craft brewery that person, the brewer, has to be the sanitation manager, has to be the fermentation scientist, and so they need a little bit of everything,” Webb said. “A liberal arts degree is very appropriate.”

The program also includes another aspect brewers said was often missing — hands-on experience.

“Another thing that we took away from the summer of 2014 was that hands-on experience was absolutely critical, and the more hands-on experience an employee had, the more likely they would be to be hired,” Webb said.

SEE BREWERY PAGE A2

BY MONICA KAST
HERALD@WKU.EDU

Students, faculty and staff were able to ask questions about the budget reduction plan announced earlier this week in a forum hosted by the Administrative Council and department of human resources on Thursday afternoon in Downing Student Union.

President Gary Ransdell opened the forum by giving background on the state budget cuts that have been talked about since January. Ransdell said that at the beginning of the year, he was optimistic about the state budget. That changed, however, when Gov. Matt Bevin announced cuts to higher education.

“The whole world changed in terms of our perspective on our financial circumstances,” Ransdell said. “Fast forward, we spent most of this legislative session, instead of playing offense, trying to capture additional funding in the state budget process.”

Ransdell said the council’s priority with the budget reduction plan was to protect credit-bearing academic programs, personnel and essential student services. He said 24 programs will be affected either by elimination or consolidation.

A major part of the budget reduction plan is the transfer of WKU custodial, building services, groundskeeping and waste management on the Bowling Green campus to Sodexo, a privately owned employment management system. As a result of this transfer, Ransdell said, 202 employees were able to keep their jobs.

Employees who will be transferred to Sodexo in the fall were able to ask questions.

SEE BUDGET FORUM PAGE A2

BY MONICA KAST
HERALD@WKU.EDU

Administrators host budget reduction open forum

Faculty, staff and students met with President Gary Ransdell, members of the Administrative Council and the director of human resources in the budget reduction forum on Thursday, April 28. More than 36 million in spending will be cut to achieve a balanced budget for the university.

MATT LUNSFORD/HERALD

Available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily

© 2016 HERALD NEWS, PAGE A2

LIFE, PAGE B1

STUFFED CRUST DEEP! DEEP! PIZZA
LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA

LARGE PIZZA
low brewery supervisor Joseph Walls.

McMichael said the beer will not be sold on campus. Instead, it will be marketed to local restaurants.

"It's just a really neat experience," Baker said when she first began working at the brewery.

Baker said she had no experience in the history of brewing. Webb said that in the past, the industry was built…

"I may not get universal agreement from everyone, but in my heart, I'm genuine about making sure that those who have been affected are happy with Sodexo," Baker said.

"We have received multiple emails in the last week and a half from students who are interested in doing the cater-

"Our commitment to diversity is no different," Darst said to Ransdell. "All of these programs directly serve diversity."

"I'm concerned, but I'm not defeat-

"I want to try and make sure that those representatives from Sodexo, and specifically in the communication department, would meet individually with repre-

"We have not received any offers to partner with other universities."

"Neither Andrew or I would have dreamed that this work and still serve students," Crow said.

"We have not received any offers to partner with other universities."

"If we would have known that the innovation of WKU's program, students would have an opportunity.

"I'm concerned, but I'm not defeat-

"It would definitely lose to that full-time — become a master brewer or someone who really enjoys brewing and distilling," Baker said.

"Some of the people I've talked to said there is no question of the consolidation of IRSC and the Alive Center.

"I'm confident in my team to make any adjustments that would be required," Crow said.

"We have not received any offers to partner with other universities."

"Neither Andrew or I would have dreamed that this work and still serve students," Crow said.

"We have not received any offers to partner with other universities."

"If we would have known that the innovation of WKU's program, students would have an opportunity.

"I'm concerned, but I'm not defeat-

"It would definitely lose to that full-time — become a master brewer or someone who really enjoys brewing and distilling," Baker said.
Under a new scholarship program, incoming college students will be eligible to receive free tuition while they pursue a two-year degree or certificate, but the program will not be offered until 2017 due to a line item veto from Gov. Matt Bevin.

Students will receive their free tuition through the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program.

House Speaker Greg Stumbo, one of the bill's sponsors, said the program, which was vetoed by Bevin, will help college students to receive free tuition if they choose to pursue an associate degree, a certificate or a diploma.

"I think it's the most exciting program — not because I'm sponsoring the bill, but because if it really does give us a leg up on getting our kids work ready for the 21st century," Stumbo said.

Stumbo said the program — not because of a diploma.

"Developing and implementing a properly functioning Work Ready Scholarship program will take a great deal of time and effort," Bevin said in his veto message. "Those, the most powerful thing we need to do is to develop the program for implementation in fiscal year 2017-18."

Original students who received money from FAFSA or other scholarships will be covered by the Work Ready Scholarship. "It's going to make a huge difference in student debt," Stumbo said.

When it is passed, I think it's going to be something that is going to be very helpful to students and our youth in making sure that we continue their education without tremendous debt," Rockey Adkins said.

"That search is continuing."

"No one has indicated to me that we are not going to pursue that is something that is going to be very helpful to students and our youth in making sure that we continue their education without tremendous debt," Adkins said.

6 WKU colleges face empty faculty position eliminations
It’s not that we don’t think you have problems... it’s more like your treatment is no longer essential.

Voices your opinion

Edited by: Emily Vogler
Assistant: Audrey Stoudemire

TO THE EDITOR

When I first visited WKU as a prospective student, I met with a professor who was the chair of the fine arts department. They asked if I wanted to visit the art center, and if I did, they would take me. I went, and it was amazing. The center was full of people, and it was so beautiful. I loved it, and I knew that this was where I wanted to go.

Later, when I was accepted to WKU, I was excited to start my journey. I was so happy to be a part of the WKU community. I knew that this was where I belonged.

But then, something happened. The university decided to cut some of its programs. They said that they needed to save money, and that they couldn’t afford to keep everything open. I was shocked. I didn’t understand why they would do this. I thought that they were just trying to save money.

I know that the university has to make tough decisions sometimes. But this one was really tough. It hurt me. I felt like I was losing something that was important to me.

And now, I’m not sure what to do. I don’t know where I fit in. I don’t know if I’m going to be able to afford to go to WKU anymore.

I’m so sad about this. I don’t want to leave WKU. I love it here. I love the people, I love the campus, I love the art center. I don’t want to lose it.

But I have to be realistic. I have to think about what’s best for me. And sometimes, that means making tough decisions.

So, I’m not sure what I’m going to do next. I’m just hoping that things will get better soon. I’m just hoping that I can still afford to go to WKU.

Emily Vogler
Assistant: Audrey Stoudemire
Thousands of “mudders” took to the woods surrounding Gregory Lake RV Park in Drakesboro this past weekend for the second annual Mudfest. Rainy days made for perfect muddy conditions for the many four-wheelers and ATVs that tore up the already soggy trails. The scent of bonfires, engine fumes and hot dogs hung in the air and made for a unique atmosphere that few outside this culture experience. Organizers estimated that about 10,000 attended the event this year and hope for an even bigger, wilder event in 2017.
Two sides of the same leaf

THC: Tetrahydrocannabinol
A type of cannabinoid with psychoactive properties found in marijuana and hemp that produces a high.
- Average THC concentration in marijuana is less than 0.3 percent.
- In general, grown mostly from female hemp plants. Grown generally 6 feet apart from other plants.

Cannabidiol (CBD): A type of cannabidiol with psychoactive properties found in marijuana and hemp that produces little to no high.
- CBD blocks THC from binding with receptors in the brain.
- CBD reduces the effects of THC.

General uses
- CBD has anti-inflammatory properties and is used for pain relief.
- CBD can help with anxiety and depression.
- CBD has been shown to help with sleep disorders.

THC is psychoactive.
- THC can cause paranoia, hallucinations, and panic attacks.
- THC is the chemical that produces a high.

CBD is not psychoactive.
- CBD does not cause a high.
- CBD can help to prevent or reduce the effects of THC.

Cannabis sativa species as marijuana, hemp plants have very little tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is the chemical that produces a high. THC levels in marijuana average “about 10 percent,” while hemp holds less than 0.3 percent THC, according to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. There is not enough of the chemical for people to use hemp as a psychoactive drug.

At the farm, agronomy professor Todd Willian rubs a baby plant leaf between his fingers and to see if any cannabis smell will be produced. Willian specializes in the study of plants at WKU and helps supervise students and researchers who work with the crops. He admits the only way people

can distinguish between hemp and marijuana is to test the plant for its THC content. In the U.S., less than 0.3 percent is considered hemp, and anything more than that is marijuana.

William said another common misconception is that hemp crops can be a place for people to hide marijuana.

When marijuana and hemp are planted together, the cross pollination ruins the THC content in marijuana, making it useless as a drug. Research came at a convenient time just 10 years after the Senate approved the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco at the protest of Kentucky and surrounding lawmakers. This regulation, passed in 2004, ended price supports still in place from the Food and Drug Administration. There is not enough of the chemical for people to use hemp as a psychoactive drug.

In 2013, farmers only had one year to get. The incentive for Kentucky law to plant what will be its third year of hemp is to test the plant for its THC content, and it’s sure hemp mainly holds the chemical CBD.

By the U.S. Department of Agriculture but by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The 1938 Controlled Substances Act outlawed hemp, along with marijuana, in the U.S. Moreover, the production of hemp isn’t controlled by the Department of Agriculture but by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

While the plant is of the same cannabis sativa species as marijuana, hemp plants have very little tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is the chemical that produces a high. THC levels in marijuana average “about 10 percent,” while hemp holds less than 0.3 percent THC, according to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. There is not enough of the chemical for people to use hemp as a psychoactive drug.

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While hemp and marijuana share some similarities, a major difference is the main chemicals in both plants. Generally, marijuana holds a greater amount of THC than hemp, and in turn hemp mainly holds the chemical CBD.

According to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the state’s first hemp crop was grown in 1775, and it produced 40,000 bushels of hemp by 1810. The 1938 Controlled Substances Act outlawed hemp, along with marijuana, in the U.S. Moreover, the production of hemp isn’t controlled by the Department of Agriculture but by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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Bernie Sanders campaign opens bowing in Bowling Green

BY BRITNY MOORE  HERALDFEATURESP@WKU.EDU

Welcomed by a bright red bust of Bernie Sanders, the campaign office opens in Bowling Green. Daniel Deriso, field organizer for the Sanders campaign to the right people. "We are creating the domestic infrastructure. There are companies out there that make hemp products, but they just don't use domestic hemp anymore."

Hendrix is the president of Hendrix Hemp. "When we have hemp, everyone is interested in farming again — notable, younger generations to become involved," Hendrix said. "We don't know if we are going to win this state." Hendrix said the office is scoped to independent, "In Kentucky, hemp is cool," Hendrix said. "Everyone thinks it's cool that Kentucky is leading the way in something. We can kind of be the Silicon Valley for this."
Class project attempts to break Guinness World Record

BY EMMA AUSTIN
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

When five senior public relations students saw a disconnect between WKU's campus and downtown Bowling Green, they decided to do something to bring the two communities together.

The five students began working on a semester-long project as part of their senior capstone class with Ken- nette Payne, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

Frankfort senior Sanyer Coffey said the class communicated with other students and established the need for downtown events to cater more closely to WKU students.

“We kept brainstorming and brain- storming on what event we could do downtown that sounded like students,” Coffey said. “We asked ourselves what we do that they would want to come to.”

Eventually, Coffey said one of the students had the idea to break a Guinness World Record.

“We all loved the idea,” Coffey said. “So we went on the website and saw one of the records was the longest human chain through a hula hoop.”

The class saw this as a way to in- tegrate business and PR from around the community. By setting up the human chain downtown College Street, they used the record-breaking attempt to sym- bolize the joining of campus with downtown Bowling Green.

According to the Guinness World Records website, the record for the longest human chain ever to pass through a hula hoop was last broken on August 3, 2014, by Misha Collins, through a hula hoop was last broken.

“When’s the last time any of you played with a hula hoop?” Ransdell asked the crowd before he passed the first hoop down the line.

Although the group didn’t succeed in breaking the record, Payne said the point of the event was not to break a world record.

“The point is to try to get more stu- dents participating in things going on in the downtown area,” Payne said.

Payne said this goal has been a part of the capstone class for three years now. “We reorganize the ideas every year, and the students follow through with different projects,” he explained.

Payne said they have been working with the Downtown Redevelopment Authority to come up with different ways to entice students to go downtown and participate in activities and fa- cilities, including restaurants, the Capitol Theater film festival and the Hot Rods Stadium.

The record-breaking attempt on Friday was a part of Rue de la Rouge, a street festival organized by the cap- stone class to involve each of these businesses.

The class also developed BGVC, a website offering information about multiple Bowling Green businesses including Hilligans Bar and Grill, White Squirrel Brewery, Spencer’s Coffee and more.

After meetings with the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, Payne said the merchants and vendors of Bowling Green have shown interest in finding out how to bring more students downtown.

“Don’t think just one activity is go- ing to move the needle,” Payne said. “It’s going to be a series of things that ultimately help better connect the community with the town.”

Impact Expo to highlight students’ community solutions

BY MADISON MARTIN
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

It’s that crazy time of the year when projects are being turned in, and material is being reviewed yet again, after the night. But other retail- eral classroom setting, an- other key component to an issue with minimal re- solution to an issue with minimal re-

Anyigbo said. “Dealing with adversity and trying to come up with a long-term solution to an issue with minimal re- sources is a hard thing to do.”

“Some positive effects of United 100 Solution projects vary from semester to semester, Houston native Kayla Anyigbo, another grad- uate assistant working with service-learning students, said their positive effects on community partners are un- changing.

“The students learn more things that they wouldn’t have learned in the tradi- tional classroom setting, and it also prepares them for life,” Anyigbo said. “Dealing with adversity and trying to come up with a long-term solution to an issue with minimal resour- ces is a hard thing to do.”

Shelton identified five pil- lars central to the $100 Solu- tion partnership: experiential learning, capacity building, sustain- ability and reflection. He said that they are all key to college stu- dents’ decision to pursue the opportunity to connect with and influence the world around them.

“Jones is a graduate assistant working with Area Safe Space, a shelter for those who have experienced domestic violence, along with building and repairing women's beds for HOTEL INC."

Kene Anyigbo

Anyigbo said. “Dealing with adversity and trying to come up with a long-term solution to an issue with minimal resources is a hard thing to do.”

“One of the things that the $100 Solution learning skills that you would … wouldn’t have oth- erwise learned,” Shelton said.

While $100 Solution projects vary from semester to semester, Houston native Kayla Anyigbo, another grad- uate assistant working with service-learning students, said their positive effects on community partners are un-

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One such presentation is the repair slide shows. According to the ALIVE Center’s website, the $100 Solution is a framework for students to develop their service skills as they work with the community to address the $100.

“Our goal with the Impact Expo is to let people know there has been something you can be done, and … what else there is to do,” Louisville grad student Kamila Jones said. Jones is a graduate assistant at the ALIVE Center who helps train 100 Solution stu- dents in the program and in gran-

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By Bailey Townsend
HeraldSports@WKU.edu

As the countdown to the Conference USA championships continues, the Hilltoppers and the Lady Toppers track and field teams have been using every opportunity to improve before the final meet.

This weekend, the men’s relay teams competed in the esteemed Penn Relays while both teams competed in the Memphis Invitational. The Penn Relays, held at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, is the oldest and largest track and field competition in the United States.

Head Coach Erik Jenkins was proud of how his team performed at the Penn Relays, saying that they did a good job against the best in the NCAA and the world.

The men’s relay team recorded strong finishes at the meet, one of the highlights being a sixth place finish by 4x100 relay team. This team consisted of senior Ja’Karyus Redwine, junior Kyree King, junior Emmanuel Dasor and sophomore Julius Morris.

The 4x400 men’s relay team of Redwine, Dasor, junior Ventavius Sears and freshman Maor Seged also found success in Philadelphia, placing runner-up in their event. They finished with a time of 3:08.74.

The Hilltoppers also competed well in the hurdles with senior Venavius Wyatt finishing in 11th place in the 110-meter event.

While some of the Hilltoppers were competing in Philadelphia, the rest of the team was at the Memphis Invitational. Just like the Penn Relays, this proved to be a successful meet for the track and field program.

Sophomore Jonathan Hayes had a stellar performance at the invitational over the weekend, recording two top-two finishes.

Hayden won the 110-meter hurdles event with a time of 14.28 seconds. This time was only 0.01 seconds off from his career best.

Hayden also finished runner-up in the 400-meter hurdles with a career best time of 53.11 seconds.

Hayden wasn’t the only Hilltopper to find success on the track as the rest of them gained five top-10 finishes. Junior Corey Parks was one Hilltopper who performed well this weekend, placing fifth in the 100-meter dash and sixth in the 200-meter.

The Lady Toppers were also successful at the Memphis Invitational. Senior Shantol Hemley stood out at the event as she set the second-best time in program history with a time of 2:09.16 in the 800-meter race. WKU had two runners place in the top 10 in the 100-meter event as freshman Jadda Beasley came in ninth and sophomore Peli Akachukwu led the Lady Toppers in the field as she won the high jump event with a season-best record of 1.75 meters.

Overall, both teams were very successful this weekend and are heading to the C-USA championships with some great times on their side.

When asked how they are going to prepare for this championship meet, Jenkins responded with his plan.

“We want to train wisely, stay healthy and stay positively determined over the next two weeks,” Head Coach Erik Jenkins

With a season full of career-best performances, the Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers look to continue their success come championship time.

The 2016 Conference USA Outdoor Championship will take place May 12-15 at Middle Tennessee State University.

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Junior Sandra Akachukwu led the Lady Toppers in the field as she won the high jump event with a season-best record of 1.75 meters.

Overall, both teams were very successful this weekend and are heading to the C-USA championships with some great times on their side. When asked how they are going to prepare for this championship meet, Jenkins responded with his plan.

“We want to train wisely, stay healthy and stay positively determined over the next two weeks,” Jenkins said. “We have worked hard to put ourselves in a position to be successful.”

With a season full of career-best performances, the Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers look to continue their success come championship time.

The 2016 Conference USA Outdoor Championship will take place May 12-15 at Middle Tennessee State University.
Lady Toppers drop series against nationally ranked FAU

BY HUNTER FRINT

The Lady Toppers lost their series against the nationally ranked Florida Atlantic Owls this weekend after winning the first game, but dropping the last two contests. The Owls won both Saturday and Sunday with a win-and-in关 212-20 (11-9 CUSA) on Saturday and a scoreless 1-0 win on Sunday. The Owls were kept off the board until the 11th inning, allowing FIU catcher's glove and allowed him to make the Conference USA tournament. This was an ideal situation as he can sit on the bench and watch, as he did when he was injured. I've been around a while, and I've seen a few fastball wild pitches go right over the plate and the hitter like the rest of them and nobody realizes. He's an interesting player, and he has a chance to stick on the NL roster.

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Hilltoppers have big day at draft

BY JOHN REECER
HERALD SPORTS@WKU.EDU

If, for whatever reason, you haven’t been taking the WKU football program seriously, that probably changed Saturday, when the man credited for throwing the game-winning touchdown, and the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville had combined.Still not impressive? How about this: Higbee had more rushing attempts than any player in the Western Kentucky Big South Conference, but also more tackles. And yet, the WKU football team has done just fine, thank you very much.

Higbee was the fourth tight end taken in the 2016 NFL Draft. He was selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the fourth round. Higbee is a 23-year-old, 6-foot-4, 243-pound Florida native. Higbee is a versatile tight end who can line up on the line of scrimmage and in the slot. He has played as a football defensive player for the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers since 2013, and he played as a defensive end for the University of Louisville in 2014.

For Higbee, Saturday was a disappointing day. He had 10 catches for 102 yards and two touchdowns in the 23-21 loss to the University of Tennessee. It was his best game of the season, and it came against a team that was expected to be one of the Top 25 teams in the country.

Higbee was drafted by the Rams with the 124th overall pick in the fourth round. He was the third tight end taken in the draft, following Hunter Henry and Hunter Henry Jr. Higbee is expected to compete for a roster spot with veterans Brian Quick and Adarius Pettis.

Higbee steps onto a Rams roster after a successful college career. He was named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference and All-American teams in 2015. He also was named to the All-America team by USA Today and the Sporting News.

Higbee is a versatile tight end who can line up on the line of scrimmage and in the slot. He has played as a football defensive player for the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers since 2013, and he played as a defensive end for the University of Louisville in 2014.

For Higbee, Saturday was a disappointing day. He had 10 catches for 102 yards and two touchdowns in the 23-21 loss to the University of Tennessee. It was his best game of the season, and it came against a team that was expected to be one of the Top 25 teams in the country.

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President Gary Ransdell fields questions from students, faculty and staff during an open forum discussing budget cuts facing WKU on Thursday, April 28. During the forum, Ransdell was asked why he won’t be taking a salary cut as part of WKU’s response plan. “Because I said so,” he said.

I n August 2015, Gary Ransdell stood onstage in front of a crowd of WKU faculty and staff at the annual presidential pep rally called the Fall Convocation. Ransdell praised Gordon Emslie, the former WKU provost, who was reassigned to faculty status after five years as the university’s chief academic officer. Few in the crowd applauded as Ransdell articulated Emslie’s “successes.” Some folks cheered a little — why was not clear — and Van Meter Hall remained mostly quiet, save for Ransdell’s swelling voice.

A little more than five years earlier, Emslie and David Lee — then dean of the Pottier College of Arts and Letters — became finalists for the provost job. Emslie got it. But in 2011, when Ransdell introduced Lee at the conversation as provost, replacing Emslie, the hall erupted in applause.

“Next week, Emslie begins his well-earned sabbatical before assuming his teaching and research duties as a full professor in physics and astronomy in January [2016],” Ransdell said. “Thank you, Gordon.”

With that, Ransdell ended a five-year Emslie experiment met with faculty and staff disapproval. This moment of sobriety kick-started a year of harsh truths for Ransdell. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Ransdell faced much: a new governor hell-bent on getting support for higher education, a $1.4 million dip into reserves to cover a budget shortfall, a $6 million budget cut, a foundation that’s losing money, declining enrollment, grief over insubstantial raises for faculty and staff for the better part of a decade, and a series of annual workplace surveys that show growing dissatisfaction with his leadership.

“My last day in office will be June 30, 2017,” wrote Ransdell in his retirement email. “As provided in my contract, I will then begin a six-month sabbatical leave from July 1 to December 31, 2017 — at which time my employment at WKU will end.”

When Ransdell started as president in 1997, he made $149,000. In 2016, his salary is $427,824. In 2012, Emslie tightened 2009’s loosened admission standards. Undergraduate enrollment took its first dive in more than a decade, dropping from 18,115 to 17,517. The 2013-2014 freshmen class of fall 2013 had better ACT scores, but overall retention rates dropped since 2000 from $2,290 annually to $948.

Athletics spending went from $19 million in 2010 to a projected $22.9 million in 2015, WKU budget documents show. The football team’s budget is $6.4 million in the 2015-2016 budget. It includes $500,000 for team travel costs, $2 million for employee wages and $320,394 labeled “Materials — Contingency.”

The football team finished a successful 2015 season, and Head Coach Jeff Brohm got a $200,000 raise — private money, the news media reported. But here’s the bottom line: the WKU athletics budget is twice as large as the revenue it produces regardless of their performance.

There is another side to President Gary Ransdell’s legacy that should be told. The Hill and its people look radically different today than they did two decades ago. The man who rebuilt WKU did so according to his vision — but at what cost?

STORY CONTINUED INSIDE

‘BECAUSE I SAID SO’
Ransdell prioritized spending money on athletics and construction projects.
"There was some squawking that perhaps we came into those meetings with an agenda, but we certainly didn't have one," Emile said. The "Gordons" shifted out of their roles early last year. On Jan. 4, 2015, Baylis' job was eliminated. Baylis was reassigned to a position teaching psychology classes. Emile suddenly stepped down from his provost position in August 2015, and he too took on a teaching position this semester.

Baylis still makes $169,452 a year. Emile makes $208,321. Barbara Reed, the interim dean of the graduate school and the faculty representative on WKU's budget council.

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There is no application on file for Emile's sabbatical. WKU paralegal Lauren Ossello said Ransdell's letter to Emile's sabbatical. WKU paralegal Lauren Ossello said Ransdell's letter to Emile's sabbatical. WKU paralegal Lauren Ossello said Ransdell's letter to Emile's sabbatical.

Emile's sabbatical, Ransdell said this back in fall 2015: "We haven't quite figured that out yet."

In a 2007 opinion piece Emile authored as dean of Oklahoma State University's graduate college, he argued that conducting research is directly tied to financial prosperity. The piece references a "human capital crisis" in fields requiring graduate-level education. "You want your degree to be as valuable as possible,“ Emile said.

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Survey said Emslie did not seek input from the people most affected by his decisions. Only about 17 percent said that he properly prioritized the budget.

A sabbatical is a paid leave for professors to "reflect, refocus and rejuvenate," Emile told the Courier-Journal in his autobiography. The New York Times recently reported that WKU's graduate college, he argued, that conducting research is directly tied to financial prosperity. The piece references a "human capital crisis" in fields requiring graduate-level education. "You want your degree to be as valuable as possible,“ Emile said.

"If I brought anything to the provost position, it was a data-focused decision making model,“ he said.

Graduate student enrollment has dropped about 9 percent since Emile served as provost. The New York Times recently reported that WKU's graduate programs enroll international students that don't meet basic requirements but are willing to pay. Ransdell notes that 132 students recently reported that WKU's graduate college, he argued, that conducting research is directly tied to financial prosperity. The piece references a "human capital crisis" in fields requiring graduate-level education. "You want your degree to be as valuable as possible,“ Emile said.

"I think he was frustrated and ready to resume his academic career, and I thought the timing was good for the university as well," Ransdell said last fall. "So we talked our way through it and came to a good, gentlemanly agreement."

As to what Emslie would do on sabbatical, Ransdell said this back in fall 2015: "It's my job to make sure it is."
Ransdell’s 2015 convoca-
tion remarks came to a
heartfelt close, but one that did not necessarily align
with his spending priorities.

“You are the lifestyle of this
university,” Ransdell said.
“You are the reason we do
the work we do here. It is
because you come to the
hills.”

He spoke those words of
praise a few months before
closing the fiscal year.

Getting a balanced gen-
eral fund budget has been
ever political capital I may
have accumulated over the years in the university, and
there was a lot of work
needed in both dollars and
Knowledge of our values,” he
wrote in his retirement an-
ouncement.

But now that the end of
the term plan. In his proposal,
he wrote that “the primary mo-
tivation is based on academic,
not financial, considerations.”
In meetings about the plan, he
described it as “very well
thought through.”

Emслиe referred to a change
in the university’s governance. He
said that the university should
be led by “a board of regents”
and that “an annual financial
report is required of the board.”

The senate’s annual Faculty
Work Life Survey reflected con-
troversial comments on the
plan for the university.

The survey includes a series of
rating-based questions and a
comments section. The ques-
ton underlines the need for an
clear direction for the university.

“Confidential,” the
senator concluded.

One student asked Ransdell why he isn’t taking a pay cut.
Ransdell, who has served as
vice president for academic
affairs since 1996, said he
wasn’t taking a pay cut.

“I’ve determined, is a prett
good number. We’ve done the
best we could, and it’s time to
separate the wheat from the
chaff,” he said.

The words came a half-year
before he announced plans to
retire on June 30, 2017.

Ransdell’s 1996 tenure
as president was a time
of change, both for the
university and for Ransdell.

He was named president of
WKU in 1996, after serving as
interim president for a few
months.

He spoke those words in
1996, as the university was
on the verge of a major build-

students’ dollars in the resources
available for the university.

By the end of the fiscal year,
WKU had experienced a
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But among faculty, there is
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While Ransdell is stepping
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