E ducation, healthcare, jobs and taxes ruled the discussion during Tuesday’s Republican gubernatorial debate.

Three out of the four Republican candidates for governor attended the debate in the Downing Student Union auditorium at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Candidates Matt Bevin, James Comer and Hal Heiner were in attendance. Candidate Will Scott could not attend the debate.

The debate was co-sponsored by the Americans for Prosperity, the National Review and the WKU political science department.

Heiner described himself as an unlikely candidate, one with a civil engineering background and a multitude of jobs. “If you could name a job, I probably had it,” Heiner said. “To dishwasher, to janitor, to surveyor, to cutting lawns as I went through college.” Bevin described himself as a husband, father of nine children, a military veteran and a small business owner.

“I look forward to the day when everyone asks ‘Why is everyone moving to Kentucky?’ instead of the other way around,” Bevin said.

Comer received a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from WKU in 1993 and currently serves as the Agriculture Commissioner.

A look back: Ransdell Hall turns 4 years old

BY LASHANA HARNEY

Four years ago, President Gary Ransdell said the university’s dedication to Education and Environmental Design — the college of Architecture, Engineering and Environmental Design — had been any more successful or eventful than the past four years.

“I’ve been in this job 18 years, I’ve made some friends,” Ransdell said. “I’ve got to continue to earn the designation that the Board of Regents very generously bestowed upon me with the naming of the building while I was serving as president,” Ransdell said. “That’s my challenge, to continue to earn that honor.”

In the past four years, Ransdell said WKU continued to expand in the past four years.

“The world has become a complex environment, with climate change, economically, geopolitically,” he said. “What happens in one country instantly affects our country. Our students need to be global citizens and understand how the world works and what all they can have in it. I don’t want our students to graduate without having some confidence in a global context.”

Ransdell also had confidence in the eco-friendly nature of his namesake building. Chief Facilities Officer Bryan Russell said Ransdell Hall was designed to accomplish LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification.

House Bill 2 requires that any building costing more than $25 million must meet minimum LEED certification standards. However, GHG consistently went above those requirements.

“Hay, it’s more than just the building,” Russell said. “It’s about the property. It’s about the windows. It’s about the outdoor lighting. It’s about the material choices, everything. There’s a whole lot that goes into the LEED certified facility depending on what level you achieve.”

Ransdell said he plans to move forward with the same momentum. “I’ve been in this job 18 years,” he said. “I don’t know if the last four years have been any more successful or eventful than the previous 14 but it would be great if we achieved successes… and I hope we continue to be productive in the next four,” he said.

The home of WKU’s College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Ransdell Hall, turned four years old on April 29. The university spent $35 million to accommodate more than 1,000 students through its academic programs.

“Celebrating 40 years of service to the community, Ransdell Hall is a shining example of a building designed to function as a cultural center,” Assistant Vice President for Public Relations, Kristin Wagener, said.

It was a product of WKU’s signature LEED program agreen initiative that aimed to incorporate the most advanced energy-saving technology into the new building. The building is the first LEED-EB rated building on WKU’s campus.

Before the opening, WKU dedicated Hall on April 29, 2011. The dedication was unanimous by the Board of Regents. The hall caused a new home for the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

President Ransdell said this dedication continues to challenge him in making WKU the best it can be. “I’ve got to continue to earn the designation that the Board of Regents very generously bestowed upon me with the naming of the building while I was serving as president,” Ransdell said. “That’s my challenge, to continue to earn that honor.”
WHY
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS?

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VISIT WKUHERALD.COM OR WKUTALISMAN.COM TO APPLY
Elizabethtown campus offers military, nontraditional students opportunities

BY ABBY PONDER
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

The Elizabethtown/Fort Knox campus offers valuable opportunities to military, nontraditional students. Nearly 90% of student veterans are on the Elizabethtown campus. The campus prides itself on providing opportunities to military members, mostly through the VA and the GI Bill. The campus is a “veteran-friendly” environment, said Evelyn Ellis, the regional chancellor of WKU Elizabethtown.

"Seniors in high school or college who are thinking about military service should know that Elizabethtown is a very smooth transition," Ellis said. "We serve a very important purpose in educating the students that are here that serve our lives and the lives of our countrymen. We do everything we can to do the best service possible." The university’s decision to keep the campus open after receiving the decision to move the campus to Bowling Green was very smooth, she said. It’s been a success, and they have experienced at WKU still exist on the Bowling Green campus.

Bruce Marchionda, professor of sociocultural studies at WKU Elizabethtown, said the average student here is military, and the campus prides itself on providing opportunities to military members, mostly through the VA and the GI Bill. The campus is a “veteran-friendly” environment, said Evelyn Ellis, the regional chancellor of WKU Elizabethtown.

"We have to change the Military Disability Eligibility Program in a way that serves both the taxpayers and the people who are retired, and a lot of people who are retired feel VA benefits to come to us and serve this country," Comer said. "We can operate government more efficiently."

"I've been provided texts that consume alcohol," Lowder said. "I've been provided texts that have sexualized me, texts that have been brought before Judicial Affairs, but I'm not cross-examined or his allegations are being turned over to the police."

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A tentative ‘student syllabus’ for fall 2015 profs

In the weeks leading up to graduation, I’ve done a bit of reflecting about my time here on the Hill. College is a time where you meet people and form relationships that last a lifetime, but perhaps the people that shape your future most are your professors. With our grades and futures in the palms of their hands, they run classes similar to the way judges do their courtrooms—largely unrestrictive. They have complete power to run classes as the framework. Be respectful toward your partner. When your students start asking questions, it’s not acceptable to cup your palms of your hands, they run classes as the framework.

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“Samuel has taught me patience. He has taught me that love for one’s child is indeed, unconditional. Finally, Samuel led me to realize that the world is a better place than I have ever imagined,” said Robert Dietle, in reference to his son Samuel.

Most teenagers have to deal with the typical moods that come with their age. Samuel Dietle is one of those teenagers, but he also has to deal with the struggle of having severe autism. With that, Samuel has trouble making connections with his peers at school. School is not the only different thing in this 13-year-old’s life. His parents, Ferrel and Robert have to adjust to the daily routines and necessary appointments that Samuel has because of his severe autism.

When Samuel was first diagnosed, he was more than 3 years old. “Since his behavior didn’t exactly match our idea of autism, it was surprising,” said Robert. “Ferrel and I quickly discovered that the term autism covers a wide range of behaviors and developmental delays. This is why we prefer to say that Samuel is on the autism spectrum, rather than he is autistic. ‘We want to avoid any suggestions that his condition defines him.’”

Samuel’s father, Robert, is the history department head and an associate professor, and his mother, Ferrel, teaches German and Spanish at Bowling Green High School. “Our careers as teachers and scholars inevitably made us hope that Samuel would be academically inclined,” said Robert. “Our most fundamental hope remains unchanged, though.” Ferrel and Robert hope that Samuel will be able to lead an independent and happy life.

**PHOTOS BY ERICA LAFSER**

**TOP LEFT:** Ferrel, Samuel’s mother, unlocks the car door for Samuel after his speech therapy at the Clinical Education Center. He attends this session every other day during the week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, when he does not have speech therapy, he goes to the Kelly Autism Program.

**TOP RIGHT:** Samuel changes the information on his calendar to fit the new day. His father, Robert, looks over his shoulder to check that he is doing it right.

**LEFT:** Samuel rides LeRoy at New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding with instruction from Ms. Pixie.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Samuel rides LeRoy at New Beginnings and practices halting and trotting. New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding in Bowling Green is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by using the horses.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Samuel folds the classroom laundry almost every day to start learning household chores. Samuel is in the 7th grade at Bowling Green Junior High.
Tsunami delivers steamy pho that is pho-real good

The annual NPC Kentucky Derby Festival Championships took place Saturday, April 25. Jared Coffell won first place in the men’s class A, collegiate class A and teen division, along with another national qualification for men’s physique at the national level. "My goal was to win first place in all three classes, but I didn’t think that I had a chance to win the men’s class," said Coffell. "When I won I was so pumped."

The wide array of Asian restaurants that populate Bowling Green, Tsunami is the rare place that serves Vietnamese cuisine. For this alone, it’s a place worth checking out.

The inauspicious dining room was narrow and dim. Instrumental elevator-esque music hummed quietly in the background. In appearance and atmosphere, it mimics many of the casual Asian places in town that traffic in fried rice and teriyaki chicken.

Tsunami also actually provides some of those very items in the small Chinese and Japanese sections on the menu. This seems a bit disconcerting from an authenticity perspective, but that’s not why you come. The real draw to this Vietnamese restaurant is, naturally, a popular and traditional Vietnamese street dish: pho.

Conventional pho consists of a meaty broth filled with linguine-shape rice noodles, morsels of meat and a variety of different condiments. Tsunami’s pho with steak was no different. Visually, the size alone made for an impressive looking bowl of food. It seemed more appropriate for sharing. A white mound of slippery rice noodles simmered amid rings of raw onion and thinly sliced slivers of steak.

While the steak was rare when placed in the bowl, the heat of broth cooked it quite quickly. Tsunami’s pho came with a mound of bean sprouts, fragrant
The leading ladies of each genre are crowned

"Not Your Typical Woman" is the title of a piece that appeared in the WKUHERALD.COM on April 30, 2015. The article discusses the rise of feminism in modern TV and the portrayal of women in visual media. It highlights the importance of female success and a parody of male criticism. The season addressed women in upper-politics, the gore and blood, the show educates audiences on sexism too frankly for Americans. "Not Your Typical Woman" is one of the most beloved comedies on TV, providing viewers interesting commentary and humorous, "Carter" has yet another obstacle to overcome more challenges than your average female protagonist (superhero or not). The show is about how things are to be, which is led by men. Men of substance, men of godly goodwill. The season addressed women in upper-politics, and annoyance, as well as bitchy and a push over—

"Leslie Knope" is a character from the show "Parks and Recreation," one of the most beloved comedies on TV, ended this year. The star of the show is Amy Poehler, a clear front-runner for comedy's strongest woman. Poehler's character, Leslie Knope, displayed over the years, viewers know her character. It is one of the most relatable personalities in comedy. Perhaps because she has experienced the array of human emotions on screen (sometimes within the same episode). Knope knows what it feels like to be embarrassed and proud, to be frustrated and accomplished. Knope was an interesting composite of contradictions. She was determined and distinguished, likable and annoying, as well as bitchy and a push over—

Knope, provided viewers interesting commentary on social struggles still inherent in certain cultural institutions. Knope tapped the comedic list because she is genuinely a good and likable person. It is hard to say no to someone like Knope because she just doesn't give up. Ever. Beyond the silly, gimmicky personality traits Knope displayed over the years, viewers know she is a real person. It is one of the most relatable personalities in comedy. Perhaps because she has experienced the array of human emotions on screen (sometimes within the same episode). Knope knows what it feels like to be embarrassed and proud, to be frustrated and accomplished.

The most admirable facet of Carter's success is her ability to manipulate her position in society for her own gain. Carter is able to use her womanliness to outwit her enemies and friends. She plays with the idea that women are limited in knowledge and unable to be physically threatening. The agent deserves some recognition. If Carter isn't fighting for approval amongst her peers, she is fighting for respect in her society. Not to mention, Carter is beautifully fighting criminals in almost every episode. Perhaps more impressive, Carter lacks superhero abilities that allow many of Marvel's other cinematic characters to succeed. Carter is a woman who was told by her own culture, oh, peers and men to back down, yet she is a woman whose will and determination alone overcomes all odds.

"Salem," now in its second season, is a gritty, brutal retelling of the infamous Salem trials. Though the show itself is full of revolutional female characters, Mary Sibley stands out the most. "Salem" topped the list above other dramas because of the complex issues of female representation in society tackled by Sibley alone. Sibley is a collection of taboos. She is a cunning social climber and marauder power house within her town and coven—all while usurping gender and economic roles through various schemes. Sibley toes two separate spheres of society. She not only sacrificed her life to lead the marginalised, she also cleverly her way into a position over Salem. The show illuminates subservive ways the oppressed use to access authority. And, perhaps by rewriting the gore and blood, the show educates audiences on the consequence of inhumanity in self-cultivation as well as rebellion. The show details the struggle of the marginalised, the deprivasion of the lower classes and the frustration of the victorius. Her character also brings unconventional portrayals of female sexuality and pleasure to the small screen.

Sibley, especially in the latest season, is often accustomed for her gender. Hathorne, Sibley's newest property, men of substance, men of godly goodwill. The season addressed women in upper-politics, and annoyance, as well as bitchy and a push over—"Salem" topped the list above other dramas because of the complex issues of female representation in society tackled by Sibley alone. Sibley is a collection of taboos. She is a cunning social climber and marauder power house within her town and coven—all while usurping gender and economic roles through various schemes. Sibley toes two separate spheres of society. She not only sacrificed her life to lead the marginalised, she also cleverly her way into a position over Salem. The show illuminates subservive ways the oppressed use to access authority. And, perhaps by rewriting the gore and blood, the show educates audiences on the consequence of inhumanity in self-cultivation as well as rebellion. The show details the struggle of the marginalised, the deprivasion of the lower classes and the frustration of the victorius. Her character also brings unconventional portrayals of female sexuality and pleasure to the small screen.

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Poetry festival showcases student work, alum reading

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT
lifewkuherald.com

After receiving golden programs with the 10 finalist poems inscribed inside from members of the English Club, people made their way into the Russell Hall auditorium for the 2015 Goldenrod Poetry Festival Reading on Tuesday night.

Hovet celebrated with the participants and read several of his own poems. He also acknowledged the support of the English Club, which hosted the event.

Hovet said this year marks the 21st year of the Goldenrod Poetry Festival. The festival was started by students in 1995 with the purpose of showcasing student work and presented by the English Club.

“I was really excited, and I really only entered to meet Sared, and I accomplished that,” she said with a laugh. “I felt a surprising amount of calmness, and I enjoyed getting to sit there and kind of hear myself, you know, it was based on something personal so it was actually happening to me.”

After all the finalists had read, Jared Holfelley, advisor for the English Club, introduced Jones, a 2009 WKU graduate.

“I was Skyping in from his BuzzFeed office in New York City, as this was clearly the very stable Empire State Building in the background. I emphasized that Derek Ellis, of Owensboro, won first place in the contest. Interestingly, in second, and Isaiah Fish, of Louisville, in third. All three winners received a certificate and a cash prize.

“Small leaves, sliced jalapeños and a savory broth was pleasant as is (if something to share),” he said.

“Beyond Breath” follows a character, known references contained inside. “Prelude to Bruise” follows a character; known only as “Boy” throughout out his life.

“I felt a surprising amount of calmness, and I enjoyed getting to sit there, and it wrote itself, you know, since it was something to personal that actually happened to me.”

Author of the finalist poem “A Walk After Midnight on Repeat”

Sara Jane Alexander

“The Brothers Cotchery”

Camron Carpenter

“I wanted to see two things: how creative and talented our student film makers are, but also combat them to learn a lot about what is happening in the world of film in 2015.”

Ted Hovet
English Professor

“We want to see two things: what are the different types of films being screened and award nominations can be found at Western Kentucky film festival.com.”

The Western Kentucky Film Festival starts on May 2 and ends on May 8.

“I really nice to know those things are run and created,” he said.

Hovet said he hopes not only for WKU students to come out to the festival, but for the Bowling Green community to come out as well and see things for themselves.

“We want them to see two things: we’re creative and talented our student film makers are, but we also want them to learn a lot about what is happening in the world of film in 2015,” Hovet said.

The Western Kentucky Film Festival started in 2006 and is run by the Department of Media and Communication at WKU.

“The Milkman” was inspired by her love for classic 80s slasher horror films. The film is about a milkman who kills his customers. She said having a man that is bipolar was a nice twist on the typical horror genre.

Leilouise senior Michael Shannon serves on the festival’s sponsorship committee. She said the quality of the film stands to say something about film making. The best director, best narrative, and best documentary awards will be given.

The curriculum changes were in place for all students. The festival also offered him insight. Hovet said he hopes not only for WKU students to come out to the festival, but for the Bowling Green community to come out as well and see things for themselves.

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My journey to becoming Miss Black Western

By Shantel-Ann Pettway

“...and now our new Miss Black Western is...” I hoped I could at least place. “Peninsee cousin love, Pettway.”

I stood in the spotlight with my heels, crimson and tawny laurels, my elbowsflogged, my knees numb, my hands sweating, my stomach churning. “Three, four, six, seven and 10.” I had made it.

I was a leader of an organization that was started in 2012. I was a reporter for the Herald and if that wasn’t enough, I was also a student.

I no longer knew what the future held. I was a leader of an organization that was started in 2012. I was a reporter for the Herald and if that wasn’t enough, I was also a student.

I didn’t realize I had predicted the future in my jokes.

I joined the Miss Black Western pageant. It was more than I could handle when I first began to practice with the girls, who already knew their walks and introductions.

I knew the Hobnail awards were, “Hi, my name is...” grades, and the non-existent smile was, “Hi, my name is...” grades. I told myself and my jokes.

Every day wasn’t all smiles. Sometimes we argued about what outfits we wanted to wear, who was late to prac-tice and who was playing too much during practice.

In the week of the pageant was the best part of the year. Everyone was doing great. Nervous. Yet, we still bonded.

I fought past my nerves and ran through the competitions unscathed. The question and answer part was the only thing separating me from the title. In the hallway, we spread out. I didn’t think I was pageant material. I achieved something I worked for. I didn’t think I was pageant material.

I knew how much of my life it would take away, how many Blackboard deadlines would slip my mind after prac-tice or how bad my feet would hurt from walking in heels everyday.

I was a leader of an organization that was started in 2012. I was a reporter for the Herald and if that wasn’t enough, I was also a student.

The organization was founded by McKenna with the use of arms and legs. Gehrig’s Disease.

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The question and answer part was the only thing separating me from the title. In the hallway, we spread out. I didn’t think I was pageant material. I achieved something I worked for. I didn’t think I was pageant material.

I had a few hats on campus. I was a leader of an organization that was started in 2012. I was a reporter for the Herald and if that wasn’t enough, I was also a student.

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Fiji throws ‘Ugly Suit’ party for greater good

By Trey Crumbie

Chris Rosati, a North Carolinian man who was diagnosed with muscle disease called Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, for his acts of kindness McKenna decorated with white fluff to make it look like a cloud, a dyed-tuxedo and one decorated with spoolesh and tulle.

Along with the raised money, Fiji will give a video on CBS and said his goal strick-...
A man walks into a basketball arena on a cold, early November night while the home team gears up for its lone exhibition game of the young season.

He takes his usual route, maneuvering through fans on the way to the seat he’s grown accustomed to for a half century: section 105, row F, seat 1.

He’s no stranger here. He’s walked this walk many times. He’s strolled through Western Kentucky University’s Diddle Arena and just about every inch of the campus more than most could fathom.

Less than 25 feet from his seat, folks bombard him with admiration, handshakes, hugs, pictures and other countless signs of affection—many that in one way or another he positively influenced during five decades at WKU.

“You can tell right away, I’ve been here for awhile,” the 92-year-old man says.

It takes the conclusion of the “National Anthem” before he finally finds time to sit down.

Before the basketball is tipped, he notes that the team’s shooting shirts worn in pregame warm-ups weren’t “tough enough.”

During the game, grunts resonated from his general direction every time a WKU player made a miscue.

“Take it to the basket,” he said after a player clanked a 3-pointer off the back of the rim with more than 25 seconds remaining on the shot clock.

To his delight, the team won 105-84 that November night. But that didn’t stop him from identifying possible areas for improvement. He’s always wanted the best for the school and for the people who attend it.

That’s just who he is: Lee Robertson, a WKU graduate and icon.

Mr. Western
The embodiment of “The Spirit Makes the Master”

BY KYLE WILLIAMS
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Lee Robertson having a word with former WKU golfer and current professional golfer Kenny Perry, who plays on the PGA Tour and the Champions Tour. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL JUST/ WKU SPORTS HISTORIAN
Robertson grew up in Calhoun, Kentucky, a 448-acre city in McLean County with a current population of less than 800 people. He attended elementary and high school in his hometown, graduating from Calhoun High in May 1941. Six months later, Robertson, a good old-down-to-earth country boy, joined countless young Americans who stepped up to defend their country.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked U.S. forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the amiable high school graduate found himself heading into unfamiliar territory.

"I didn't know what Pearl Harbor was, or where it was, or how it was," Robertson said. But the next summer, he became a soldier in the U.S. Army, and a year-and-a-half later, he sailed to the jungles of New Guinea for full combat. Robertson, who rarely left Calhoun, found himself 8,823 miles from it. But he brought the strongest staple of his personality with him—optimism.

"The Army has a way of regimenting you," he said in an upbeat voice. "Thing it, that's good. The Army is good for you." Robertson's positive nature allowed him to enjoy his time in World War II, but it was obviously far from a walk in the park. He and a fellow trooper overcame a near-death experience during a night battle toward the end of the war in the Philippine Islands.

“When we flew up there in troop carriers, (the Japanese) were running in our area,” Robertson said. “There was one Japanese with a hand grenade raised that was between me and the highway where the vehicles were, which silhouetted him easily. One of the guys that was under the tank with me fired on him, hit him and killed him. But he was getting ready to let that hand grenade loose in our area.”

Robertson spent 38 months in the Army before heading home on Dec. 24, 1945, the same day his brother, Sam, returned. “You could say we had a pretty good Christmas that year,” Robertson said. The Army did two things for Robertson: it systemized him, and it earned him opportunities in the form of the G.I. Bill. The latter led him to a decision that continues to define his life going on a century later.

"The next spring in '46, one of my buddies came by in the afternoon and said to me, 'Lee, let's go to college,'” Robertson said. "Let's go to college!" He enrolled at Bowling Green Business University and opted to study cost accounting. It didn't take him long to realize that route wasn't meant to be, spurring him to consider a different option. Shortly after, Robertson pitched for an independent baseball team from Morgantown, Kentucky, which landed him $25 a game, including a game on WKU's diamond against Bowling Green. He pitched seven innings and managed a couple hits to go along with his impressive outing on the mound. E.A. Diddle, who coached the WKU baseball team at the time, was in the stands at that game to watch Robertson pitch. Robertson became fond of Diddle and decided to follow in his path. Robertson yearned to become a coach. In fall of 1948, he enrolled at WKU—one of 1,100 to 1,200 students at the time—and began his health and physical education degree with minors in English and biology with the expectation of teaching while coaching.
In 1948, 1949 and 1950, Robertson lettered in baseball under Diddle. Despite his above-average skill set, his time as a WKU baseball player was limited. On a cold, rainy March day in 1948, while pitching against the University of Louisville, he injured his left knee. "I was up there, and I slipped and tore my knee completely up," he said. "… (Diddle) came out and got me and picked me up in his arms like a baby and he said, 'Robby it was a good time for it to go out. The bases are loaded and nobody out.'"

Robertson remained on the team for the next three seasons and saw spotty time on the field, but what he took most out of that experience was his time with Diddle. He graduated in 1950 and used that experience to begin teaching and coaching at Park City High School until 1952 when he went back to McLean County to do the same at Livermore High School—an archrival of Calhoun.

It was at that time Robertson met his eventual wife, Joyce Bennett, who lived a hop and a skip away in Calhoun, but had never come in close contact with him due to a 10-year age difference. Like many other people in Robertson’s life, she was taken aback by his gregarious personality. "I had gone to college at Murray and came home in the spring," she said. "I was in the backyard having washed all my clothes from college and hanging them on the line, as we did then, and this car drove up in the drive and he said, 'Hey! You want to go to Park City with me to pick up my clothes?' Well, it was Lee.”

The two soon became a couple. Joyce transferred to Kentucky Wesleyan to stay closer to her significant other, who was still at Livermore. They were engaged by December 1952 and married on April 2, 1953. In 1957, Robertson completed his master’s degree and found himself on the move again, this time with “Mama Joyce,” as he deems her, to Glasgow as assistant superintendent of Barren County schools. By 1958, he advanced to superintendent.

But it wasn’t long before he got a chance to come back to WKU. Former WKU President Kelly Thompson urged Robertson to become director of the alumni program and the placement services program. "I didn't know what either one of those meant, and Kelly Thompson didn't know, either," Robertson said. "So I asked him, 'What am I supposed to do?' He said, 'You need to come and find out.'"

Despite the uncertainty and a lower salary, Robertson took the job. "I was in the right place," Robertson said. "I've been pretty dang lucky to get where I am.”

His personality and work ethic allowed him to orchestrate several successful projects while head of Alumni Affairs and Placement Services, which included bumping up the number of on-campus clubs from one
This place is so meaningful to me. It's my home. It's me. It's my life— it has been.

Lee Robertson

1993 WKU golf team picture. Robertson guided the men's golf team to a 364-361-7 record in six years as head coach. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL JUST/WKU SPORTS HISTORIAN

"This is the most meaningful thing of my life. It's my life, it's my home, it's me. It's my life— it has been."

Lee Robertson

When watching WKU thump Pklve in its exhibition, Robertson was on the move again to see yet another Hillsb Franklin next morning—Dr. Craig Burd, a former football player and a current orthopedic surgeon. Robertson's knee, the same knee he tore up while pitching for WKU, required reconstructing. His energetic lifestyle that had been a staple of his personality for years finally caught up with him. "At 52, I'm still pretty active," Robertson said. "I'm most like an aircraft. I can land anywhere—fast or slow."

Lee Robertson also was named the first-ever Spirit of Western award winner in August of 2002. The award recognizes an individual who represents enthusiasm for WKU, loyalty to the institution and principles of the WKU experience and its motto, "The Spirit Makes the Master."

"He's a unique person because he's really the embodiment of the tradition feel of this institution, which is continued about 'The Spirit Makes the Master,'" said Kathryn Costello, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations. "He lives and breathes that."

In 2005, Robertson was named to WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, which recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of alumni who have made significant contributions in their field.

"Whether he claims to be descent or not, he's up there for a reason. "When I first heard about?it at the alumni center and see what some of them have done in life, I don't deserve to be up there with that gang of people," Robertson said. "It (clicked me down)."

In 2007, Robertson received the Paul J. Award for outstanding contributions to WKU athletics for his career as a baseball player and golf coach.

"When you're talking to him, you're the most important person in the world. "There's not a fraudulent bone in his body," said just WKU's sports information historian.

Robertson's plan was to coach for a single season, but he extended that to six years in accordance with the need from the athletic department and finished with a 364-361-7 record.

Although he spent six years as head man, his most memorable time on the course came during his first season. During a friendly match in 1998, Gordon B. Ford, a graduate of Bowling Green Business University, expressed to Robertson his interest in having the business college at WKU named after him and his mother, Mattie Newman Ford.

Robertson and other WKU officials then received a hand-written $10.6 million offer from Ford—the largest gift to the university at the time—leading to the college of business being named after him and his mother, Mattie Newman Ford.

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"He left the hospital that morning to watch the football team notch a 45-7 win over the University of Texas at El Paso on Senior Day before making his way to the basketball team drop a 60-63 decision to Belmont University. He then checked back into the hospital that night."

Despite his apparent discomfort, his spirit never wavered.

"That fundraising—it's not rocket science," Robertson said. "It's building relationships and not trying to go too fast. It's not any magic that I have. It's tenure."

"He wanted to be there so badly," Joyce Robertson said. "That's just his mentality.

Kyle Williams joined the College Heights Herald sports staff in January 2013 and spent last semester as sports editor before graduating in December 2014. He now works in his hometown of Lafayette as a digital sports producer for The Courier-Journal.
Crucial series against rival MTSU next for Hilltoppers

BY JOHN REEEKER
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The WKU baseball team (22-20) will travel to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for a three-game series against Middle Tennessee State (24-20) starting Friday night at 7 p.m. Currently, the Blue Raiders are on top of the Conference USA standings with a 13-6 record in league play while the Hilltoppers are coming off an extra inning victory against Lipscomb University currently coming off an 11-3 loss against Austin Peay University.

"It's a big series," junior outfielder Austin Peay for us but we will be ready for that series the day prior in a double header win over Austin Peay on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at Nick Denes Field.

"We have got to keep our..." Head Coach Matt Myers said. "They are going to come out fighting..." Myers said. "They are the best home team in the league. They are the top team in the league in that ball park." The Conference USA Tournament will complete their last three game series. A doubleheader will take place Saturday beginning at 2 p.m.

"This weekend is big for us because if we sweep them, we have a 4-0 record moving forward..." Myers said. "They have a good pitching staff and a good offense but..." Myers said. "They are going to come out fighting in that ball park." The team travels to Murfreesboro for this weekend to play Middle Tennessee State, the top team in the league as they have won 10 conference victories.

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When Anderson Miller went to bat Tuesday night at home against Austin Peay in the eighth inning with the score tied at 5 and the bases loaded, he wasn’t able to capitalize on the opportunity to put the game away.

Instead, the junior outfielder smashed a ball to centerfield in the 10th with senior Ryan Messex on first and freshman Steven Kraft on second to end the game in walk-off fashion. The match-up against the Austin Peay Governors took nearly four hours to conclude.

The win is the first in walk-off fashion for the Hilltoppers (22-20, 11-7 C-USA) since March 2014 and just the third since the dramatic 14-inning thriller against then nationally ranked Kentucky in April of 2013.

Miller’s stylish win began with Kraft, a freshman in his first career start for WKU. For an inexperienced Hilltopper with just seven prior at-bats to his name, Kraft set up the game winning run, and managed a 3-for-4 mark from the plate with double and a walk.

Sophomore Ben Morrison put up a crucial performance for the Hilltoppers as the seven Governors that came to bat with him on the mound. Coming in for a pivotal ninth and tenth inning performance, Morrison earned his second win of the season.

The Hilltoppers played a reverse away format in Clarksville, Tennessee Wednesday night, but as of press time for this edition of the Herald, the results were not finalized.

The team travels next to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for a vital three-game series against MTSU. Despite posting an impressive non-conference record that includes going undefeated against all Kentucky opposition, the Hilltoppers are still batting for a spot in Conference USA post-season play.