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WKU Student Affairs

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A delayed DEGREE

Kentucky’s graduation rate drops in high schools

BY MACKENZIE MATHEWS
WKUHERALD.COM

Kentucky has seen a decline in the number of high school graduates in recent years. The descent was marked by a drop in the number of high school seniors who graduated in 2003 and 2010. The U.S. Department of Education anticipated that the growth of Kentucky high school graduates will continue to decline.

Jennifer Howard, coordinator of College Readiness, has been working to create a marketing plan that will maintain a steady enrollment for WKU. She said the decline has been focused around traditional high school-aged students.

“With this closing of the growth in the traditional-age student population in Kentucky, WKU is re-casting its efforts on recruitment to different populations at WKU. We’re showing tremendous strength in our student body,” she said.

“We have to be nimble. We have to be creative. We need to figure out how to attract students who are not in the traditional age,” Howard said.

TO SEE MARKETING PAGE A2

Athletics and Academics gap totals $25K

BY SHELBY ROGERS
WKUHERALD.COM

With a budget cut looming over Kentucky public universities, college departments across the state are preparing themselves for austerity measures.

However, some departments might be feeling less of a strain than others.

WKU spends over $30,000 per student-athlete and only $1,000 per full-time student — nearly a $25,000 gap — according to a study by the Knight Commission, a third-party organization that looks at both academic and athletic spending for universities across the country.

Faculty regret Patricia Minter raised concern over the spending disparity in last month’s Board of Regents meeting, citing the study and other statistics in her sole opposition to the creation of new head football coach Jeff Brohm’s contract.

“In my opinion, it’s not fine, but it’s not the essential part that is ultimately really nice and amounts of money for something we continue to pay such large amounts for,” Minter said.

“Apparently, we don’t have a problem?”

TO SEE SPENDING PAGE A2

In My SKIN

TO SEE IN MY SKIN PAGE A2

Student finds camaraderie with fellow non-trads

BY KRISTINA BURTON
WKUHERALD.com

I had been out of college for a decade before Barbara Morrow last found herself in a classroom.

For Morrow, a 35-year-old janitor, being in class with younger, traditional students in her general education courses proved to be “aggravating” at times.

“I was there for a purpose,” Morrow said. “I wanted to get in, get through my classes and be done, but a lot of the younger ones just kind of mess around.”

Motherhood put the thought of college on hold for Morrow in her senior year of high school.

“I had my first daughter three months before graduation,” Morrow said.

“Morrow, who is in her second semester in the nursing program at WKU, said she knew it was just the “right time” to go back to school in fall 2011.

“All of my kids were in school, so it was time for me to go to school,” Morrow said. “Plus, I had stayed home with them until they started school, so I knew I’d need something to do with that time.”

Morrow said the maturity levels of students changed whenever she got into the classroom.

“Being there where everybody has a purpose makes it a lot different,” she said.

Morrow said she’s thankful that her husband and parents helped her financially so she didn’t have to maintain a job on top of being a full-time mother and student.

“I know people who work full-time jobs, have kids at home and they’re full-time students,” Morrow said. “I don’t understand how they do it because I’m barely making it through with my sanity as it is.”

Morrow is a member of Women in Transition, a campus group for non-traditional female students.

“A lot of the women in there are nursing students, so they’ve been a lot of help,” Morrow said. “When I was doing my prerequisites, they’re there studying so it gave me a heads-up on what to expect.”

Morrow said a lot of the women in WIT have helped by giving her a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen. She said she would have “gotten lost in the crowd” if not for WIT.

Jennifer Howard, WIT advisor, said Morrow is a very active member and has shown tremendous strength in her studies while managing all of her other responsibilities at home.

Bonnie MacPherson, a 76-year-old junior and fellow member of WIT, said she enjoys the camaraderie of students that WIT provides.

“WIT provides. It gives non-traditional female students the opportunity to meet with their peers,” MacPherson said. “You meet people in the same situation and you know you’re not in this by yourself, which is very important.”

Morrow said the highlight of going back to school later in life is having a purpose.

TO SEE IN MY SKIN PAGE A2

Come to our Job Fair!

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Beech Bend Park Summer Jobs

We need Supervisors, Managers, Lifeguards, Ride Operators, Food Service Cashiers, Ticketing/Retail Clerks, and EMT’s!

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SPORTS

Comback catcher

PAGE 10

65°/27°

7/23/16 THU

9/3/16 TUE

59°/32° SAT

5/26/16 THU

8/2/16 SAT

4/30/16 SAT

5/15/16 THU

3/11/16 SAT

6/8/16 SAT
Mr. Mundie said that while the university has experienced cutbacks, he sees the benefits of athletic spending. "Obviously, any cut that we incur increases the challenges that we have," he said. "I feel good about the fact that the WKU football program has fully utilized its spending. Compared to the rest of the country, the WKU department is on the edge of the most economically efficient athletic departments in the nation, ranking second overall. In the last six years, the WKU athletic department experienced cuts of over $300,000. Stewart said trimming would be in order for the Athletic Department if another cut is received. "While a reduction amount hasn't been distributed to the divisions yet, Athletics would look for ways to trim our supplies and probably continue cutting budgets that are used for athletic facilities," he said in an email.

"I think it's mostly due to teen pregnancy and trouble at home, which there's not much we can do about that," Hunter said.

"Do it for yourself — not anybody else," Morrow said. "You have to do it for you. The expense of tuition isn't a valid excuse to not do it," MacPherson said.

While reasons behind declining enrollments are unknown, the trend has become evident in local high schools. Jesse Meredith, a senior at Edmondson County High School, wants to go to college in order to pursue a career as a radiologist, and he said he is looking at WKU as one of his college choices. Though he has maintained his dream of going to college since he was a child, Meredith knows several people who have already graduated or dropped out. "I think it's mostly due to teen pregnancy and trouble at home, which there's not much we can do about that," he said. He reported that someone entered his room in PFT and moved her items around on Feb 18.

"Most people aren't taking college very seriously — for your physical, emotional and mental well-being," MacPherson said. "I think it's mostly due to teen pregnancy and trouble at home, which there's not much we can do about that," he said. He reported that someone entered his room in PFT and moved her items around on Feb 18.
Julie Lee worked as a dietician and diabetes educator and was an executive chef at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. Ohio prior to enrolling in WKU to teach food and nutrition courses.

“I loved the pastries,” Lee said. “I loved working in kitchens, but I also love being an educator.”

Lee has taught in both the hospital and culinary sides of the major, and wants her students to draw on the background knowledge they have learned in her class to think on their feet when they are working.

Hopkinsville senior Ernest Simmons said that Lee’s classes have helped prepare him for a job.

“She relates everything we talk about in class to everyday life so that it is not just textbooks but is related to what is actually going on in a restaurant environment today,” Simmons said. Lee said that she tells her students to “logic through it” because she believes it to be the most important thing to do. Simmons has experienced this firsthand while studying under Lee. “Lee would really have us think, for ourselves and work our way through some problems we may have,” Simmons said.

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Lee worked full-time as a pastry chef while she was a full-time student. The long hours she put in to get through school came at a cost. She graduated with not only a degree but also with diabetes — leading her to specializing in Diabetes Education.

“Diabetes is just my passion,” Lee said. “I don’t think enough people understand it. A lot of people think it is a death sentence, and it doesn’t have to be.” Lee said her diabetes was triggered by only getting four to five hours of sleep every night while completing her degree and that people don’t realize how significant sleep deprivation is.

“I’m very against cramming for tests,” Lee said. “You stay up all night studying...that is just like taking a test after drinking one or two beers.”

Lee keeps herself busy. While teaching full-time at WKU, she is also working on a doctorate and working part-time at the hospital.

“I like to broaden people’s palettes and experiences,” Lee said. Lee’s education as well as international cuisine. She teaches an international cuisine class during the summer that fulfills a general education world cultures requirement.

She compiled 455 recipes for the first week course, requiring the students to cook two recipes three days a week in the class.

Lee said that she persists her friends from other countries for recipes that she gathers recipes from international students as well.

Simmons said his favorite part of being in Lee’s classes is her diverse background.

“Can she give us a story about anything and how she has traveled and worked in different restaurants and different situations and hospitals,” Simmons said.

Along with her collection of eight hundred cookbooks, one professor is adding flavor to WKU with her years of experience in the field of nutrition and dietetics.

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'Spring' into warmer fashion trends

BY KAE HOLLOWAY & KEVIN FOREE
LIFE@WKU.COM

If this week has brought anything to you, it’s been a taste of spring, a desire to throw on those dresses and skirts, to soak up the depths of the closet, and a desire to stroll through websites to see what just might add to your spring wardrobe.

This week, I will bring you my take on what will be in style once the weather gets warmer with a little help from your Fashion Editor, Elliott Pratt.

Fashion, to me (and by me, I mean Keva), is something much more than what we adorn ourselves with. Fashion can allow you to express your identity, voice your opinion, and can speak volumes. No matter what we wear or how we wear it, your fashion will reflect a part of who you are. Fashion gives me the opportunity to be anything I want to be and to feel how I want.

Girls, you will start with you. While I wish I could sit alone and take up the whole paper explaining why each trend will be huge, I can't. However, I will touch on some of my favorites for just a few huge trends.

This spring, stack your wardrobe with pink pastel everything, bold prints, bright colors, clashing separates, and wild dress socks. You'd be surprised if this week has brought anything, it's fair to say true to yourself and make your style as refreshing as the impending warmer season. Retailers are taking notice. Now, this may not come as a surprise and may even be shocking to those of you, like me, that have had an uninterrupted love of high-waisted denim for years. However, don't view this as a crave. Getting more retailers sold and display high-waisted anything will make the times difficult search much easier.

Keppel will also be making the re- turn this season, and probably this summer. A simple black jumpsuit was probably my best investment in spring. The simple piece can be dressed up with heels, flashy jewelry, and a red lip. Or, it can be dressed down with sandals, no makeup and more laid back. No matter which way you choose to style it, you'll feel fabulous. Back to those bold prints, though. When I say bold, I mean bold. Think of Claire Underwood in Netflix's "House of Cards." She is a force to be feared. The scar behind this British line and how that makes her stand out. It just is just any #2014 trend with #2014 color.

Currently, Pittlo has a line out for superhero: Target. The line consists of various dresses, skirts and tops, jackets and lots of printed multi-color throws and bright colors. The clothes are rela- tively cheap, too. I myself have scoured the racks at the local Target and found fabulous clothes.

There's also the always obvious florals. Don't use two quick to quote Miranda Priestly and said, though, florals are a timeless trend.

Anyway, now to turn it over to Kevin and the fashionable men on campus.

This season, take a risk. Don't ever wanted to experiment with your fashion, now it's the time. Try out florals, bright colors, clashing separates and add some stripes to your florals. Don't be afraid of stripes. Just about any geometric pattern will work for you.

Botanical prints are no longer just for the women. Something better way to cel- ebrate spring than with a mini pink skirt? Botanical prints are re-juvenating and colorful just like spring. A nice red print dress shirt is the perfect way to add a pop of color. Contrast the blues with a pink skirt, or maybe pair it with a blouse that's sure to shock.

As Sharp, she butts heads with both Francis and Claire. She also falls under the "machiavellian sides" of work with Claire, especially in this season, and her storyline gives us a bit of that. *Denotes editorial board

For more fashion tips, check out his blog at www.KeverynPratt.com. Find him on Twitter @KevaPrattKevaPratt. This column is written for the WKU Herald.

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THE REMOTE
House of Cards paints the White House black

BY RYAN PAIT
LIFE@WKU.COM

Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful? Is TV's most twisted power couple too powerful?

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The most notable addition to "House of Cards" is Spacey, played by Molly Parker of "Deadwood." He butts heads with both Francis and Claire. She also falls under the "machiavellian sides" of work with Claire, especially in this season, and her storyline gives us a bit of that. *Denotes editorial board

For more fashion tips, check out his blog at www.KeverynPratt.com. Find him on Twitter @KevaPrattKevaPratt. This column is written for the WKU Herald.
Louisville freshman Kaitlyn Fink (left) talks with Villa Hills sophomore Alexis Fischer (right) in the dressing rooms before "The Dance Project" rehearsal on Monday, Feb. 10 at the Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre.

Houston freshman, Dagny Hamilton, performs in "The Dance Project" at the Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre.

Louisville freshman Kaitlyn Fink rehearses her role for the "In the Beginning" performance in "The Dance Project" at Dance Arts on Saturday, Feb. 9.

TOP: Dancers stand before the judges and wait for results from their role auditions for "The Dance Project" on Friday, Feb. 8 in Gordon Wilson Hall. After receiving roles, they had only one week to learn their choreography and prepare their performances.

RIGHT: Louisville freshman Kaitlyn Fink (left) talks with Villa Hills sophomore Alexis Fischer (right) in the dressing rooms before "The Dance Project" rehearsal on Monday, Feb. 10 at the Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre.

FAR LEFT: Dancers perform "Ray of Hope" in "The Dance Project" show on Sunday, Feb. 16 at the Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre. After only a week of working with choreographers, the dancers gave three performances over the weekend.

Emmsie consults SGA, approves major change procedure

BY LEE BROWN NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

President Gordon Emmsie and his wife, Stephanie, are the first dual members of the faculty for Academic Enrichment. The two have been working in the department for over 15 years and have established a diverse resume that includes jobs at People magazine, BusinessWeek and various freelance publications.

She said there is an advantage to having professional experience as a journalism teacher, because any problem or story can be treated as a teaching moment.

“Caving for me is my passion,” she said. “It is the time where I can go disconnect from the world and do something that I love.”

Amanda Crawford will be joining the faculty of the Journalism & Broadcasting department in the School of Journalism & Broadcasting this coming fall.

“Doing these cave cleanups and restoring parts is something that the members of the Grotto love, and it has always been a Teaching moment,” she said. “I just saw a picture of them doing a cave restorations is something that the group traveled through the Grotto and were a guide, and in the cave, and were in the Grotto almost three years. The team is always looking for new members to share in the cleanup. (Photo by Chad Meltzer, photojournalist-in-residence of the Journalism & Broadcasting department)
Cornel West speaking as part of Cultural Enhancement Series

We look forward to students being engaged by one of the prominent figures in philosophy and activism.

In the first portion of the two-round tournament, student teams are charged with analyzing the sponsor company’s stock to identify its strategic strengths and weaknesses. The students then compose a research report making business recommendations to the company based on their analysis.

In the second round, the student team travels to Louisville to deliver an oral presentation of their research findings to a panel of judges. Their final ranking depends on scoring from both rounds.

WKU’s student teams have historically done well in the research report round, placing first in the competition in 2012. According to team leader and finance professor, Indudeep Chhachhi, student teams by helping them to hone their analysis.

"I’d say it’s a pretty big time commitment…we’ve probably put 150 hours into it," Ashby said.

The time commitment is nonetheless worthwhile, Ashby said, as participation is a great resume builder and an opportunity for networking.

"You definitely land a pretty good job if you make it to the national tournament," Ashby said.

Chhachhi said his team’s hard work ethic is likely to pay off.

"I think we have an excellent team of hard workers," Chhachhi said. "This takes a lot of work. You are competing with people who are excellent and this staff is not easy. If it were, everyone would be on Wall Street."

If WKU’s team wins the challenge, they will travel to Denver to participate in the national competition.

Go Toppers! Beat the Terps!
The first game for WKU (5-4-1) in this conference in each of his final three seasons with the Hooossilers, Downing transferred to Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Florida after one season with the Hooossilers. Downing then played two more seasons with the Hooossilers, winning 20 games and 25 total touchdowns.

Having already played 10 games on the road during the previous two seasons, the Toppers get to enjoy the comforts of home this weekend. The WKU Softball Complex to begin a nine-game homestand starting this weekend. The Lady Toppers will be playing host to a variety of teams in the Big South Spring Festival and Hilltopper Softball Complex to begin a nine-game homestand starting this weekend.

Softball Toppers return home for weekend tournament

ATHLETES RETURN HOME FOR WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

BY BILLY BUTLERDE Sports@WKU Herald.com

WKU baseball coach Matt Myers looks out over the first base line this weekend, he'll see uniforms that hold a special place for him. But he'll also see former teammates and friends who face UNC-Asheville this weekend, the team he worked as a graduate assistant coach job, which he held from 2001-2010.

He took the job at the age of 28, which was unusual at the time. He is a baseball and football player and coach in college in quick succession. He then took the Bulldogs around and introduced them to the Big South Conference in each of his final three seasons with the Hooossilers. He also worked for 90.1 innings. Position players won't look to re-sign for senior third baseman; the addition of Downing brings that's he's been in the opposite bullpen come first pitch.

The Toppers will look to rebound against some top-notch competition as they are set to play a three-game weekend series at Nick Davis Field. "MTSU is their conference player of the year. The team dropped a 7-3 decision to Nashville University was Ashwood’s leading hitter during his one year with the Toppers. "We're excited to see how our guys respond. "I expect our guys to come out and be aggressive and attack the ball," Downing said. "Every weekend we expect to win two out of three. Michelle Ashwood, who currently play for WKU like Nick Denes Field is a special place for us and is doing a phenomenal job. "I think his ultimate goal was to come back to Bowling Green and be honest with you," Decker said. "He's in his comfort zone. His friends and family can watch him play. He's already at Western Kentucky, too. While he was in high school, he always wanted to come back to Bowling Green. I think it worked out well for him." Downing said, was a new opportunity for him, to play kids, Downing said. "I just feel like we're going to start things back up and play for my hometown."
Downing returns home to play for WKU

BY ELLIOTT PRATT
SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

There was a special conversation between a baseball player and an umpire Saturday during WKU’s second of a three-game series between Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky University. The interaction may not have been much, but it symbolized a homecoming for Ty Downing.

“The umpire asked me, ‘you must be from here or something’ because I had a lot of fans,” Downing said.

The 6-foot-1 catcher from Greenwood, Ind., is used to being productive at home. Downing said. “The umpire asked me, ‘you must be from here or something’ because I had a lot of fans,” Downing said.

The 6-foot-1 catcher from Greenwood, Ind., is used to being productive at home.

Downing was a multi-sport athlete in baseball and football. As a senior, he earned the Regional Player of the Year honor after hitting .437 with 51 RBIs and seven home runs.

The WKU softball team has seen plenty of action already this season in separate tournaments in Ft. Myers, Fla., and Los Angeles. But this weekend’s home stretch should give local fans a chance to check out the squad as it looks to follow up last season’s historic trip to the NCAA tournament.

The Lady Toppers have had some good results so far — the team currently sits at 5-4-1 through 10 games — but a few convincing wins this weekend would go a long way in proving this team has what it takes to top a UNC-Asheville team looking to pick up a few wins in its first weekend series of the season.

This weekend also marks the formal introduction of new softball coach Amy Tudor, who is making her debut on the Bowling Green diamond as the Lady Toppers finally get to take the field on their home turf in the four-game Hilltopper Spring Series.

When I look at the forecast for the next few days, it’s supposed to be in the upper-50’s all weekend, based on Tuesday’s projections — the first thing that comes to my mind is ‘baseball weather.’

I’ll be the first to admit I miss the summer-time baseball season. Basketball might be my favorite sport to watch, but I’m sitting outside on a nice day, relaxing in the stands (or in the press box if I’m on assignment) and watching a competitive sport. Maybe I’m just glad I don’t have to worry about freezing when I step outside anymore, but this week’s mild temperatures haven’t done anything for an afternoon at the diamond.

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WKU senior catcher Ty Downing waits for the referee’s call after attempting to tag out Southern Illinois freshman infielder Will Farmer during the game at Nick Denes Field on Sunday.

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