5-9-2016

UA12/2/1 Graduation Edition

WKU Student Affairs

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Congratulations to the May and August Graduates from Ogden College of Science and Engineering
GRADUATION SPECIAL SECTION

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When I was a high school senior, I vividly remember sitting at one of those Focus on WKU events and tweeting a picture of the College Heights Herald, a paper that I idolized for years as a little high school journalist. What the tweet said I couldn't tell you, though I'm certain it had plenty of hashtags. What happened next, however, was unforgettable: the Herald retweeted me.

It was a sign from Frances Richards herself that I had picked the right college for the next four years, and I was destined to work for the greatest college newspaper, our dear Herald. One day, I assured my young self, I would be editor-in-chief for the greatest college newspaper, our College Heights Herald, a paper that has filled a binder with tacky, carefully cut out magazine designs sealed in plastic sleeves, and I mailed them off to campus. I spent the summer before freshman year spamming the editor-in-chief's email. When I arrived on campus for M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan, I was in luck; a page designer had quit at the last minute, and they needed someone to fill in.

I leaped into the air, pumping my fists and screaming the news. I called my parents. I cried a little.

From then on, Student Publications has taught me so much about journalism, design and leadership. But more importantly, it gave me the most incredible people and memories of my college experience. Because of Student Publications, I live with the two best roommates in the world in the best — if kind of sketchy — house in the world. We call our house Pocolo because we are weirdos. We host a fake reality cooking show in our grimy kitchen.

I gained a “squad” at the Herald at a time when I needed a family to lean on. We hung out every weekend, and we went through some amazing and tough times together.

I found a best friend who will always get Starbucks with me and chow down at El Maz when we have bad days. When she found out I got an internship, she ran out to Baskin-Robbins and bought me an ice cream cake.

There's more: the homemade Kelly Clarkson card I received one year when I spent a birthday in a budgeting meeting; the semester when a group of Herald editors made up a sport where you aggressively hit balloons around while listening to Katy Perry and Destiny's Child; the trip to the Talisman's Canadian printer and college media conferences in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago.

I've learned something from every editor, adviser and staffer I have worked with over the years at both the Herald and the Talisman. Working with such talented and dedicated people has been such an honor, and it has truly helped shape me as a student, journalist and person.

With budget cuts becoming an annual tradition at WKU, I think it's important to realize how important spaces like Student Publications are for students and the community. No, the work we do is not directly related to STEM, and who knows if it will help with performance-based funding. But I know the memories I am taking away from Student Publications are ones that will stay with me for the rest of my life. There is no limit to the value of Student Publications, and that fact makes it worth difficult to track. You could look at the top newspapers and media properties that hire our alumni, or you could look at all the awards both publications have won over the years.

But you don't have to look that far. You can step foot in our office and see the happy, powerful family we have and know the value. You can look at our work and understand the importance. The true value of the Student Publications experience is the family you gain — one that will support you when you succeed, help you up when you fail spectacularly and always be a shoulder to cry on.

So thank you, Student Publications, for being the best home this weird, nerdy, queer student could ever ask for. I'm forever grateful.

—CAMERON LOVE
TALISMAN
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 GRADUATES!

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Congratulations to the WKU Graduates Who Studied Abroad

Alex Aguirre
Charlotte Alexander
Whitney Allen
Stanley Altfeld
Aleisha Anderson
Anna Anthony
Jennifer Antoniotti
Nicole Armstrong
Anja Arthur
Michaela Ash
Nathaniel Askins
Clint Bacon
Haddy Badjie
Lauren Bailes
John Bailey
Alexis Baker
Bethany Banker
Brooke Barber
Peyton Barnett
Amanda Barth
Ashley Barton
Sarah Basham
Lee Baxter
Amanda Belcher
Abigail Belknap
Kathleen Bell
Claire Bellar
Eppiphanie Benton
Hannah Benward
Scott Berger
Taylor Berzins
Emily Blankenship
Allison Bogard
Luke Bosse
Jamye Bowins Hardy
Andrew Boyles
Elizabeth Brand
Susan Breidenich
Lawaynia Brewer
Brittany Broder
Demarcus Brooks
Audrey Brown
Evan Brown
Katherine Brown
Leah Brown
James Buchanan
Rachel Burba
Laura Burchfield
Kelsey Burton
Kathleen Bush
Emily Buttram
Rachel Byrd
Jessica Canada
Leah Cannady
Jessica Cecil
Chloe Cesler
Bradley Chambers
Kierra Chandler
Joanna Chang
Emma Charpentier
Brian Chism
Allen Clark
Mallory Clouse
Laurel Clutters
Sawyer Coffey
Austin Cole
Jordan Cole
Afton Conner
Carolyn Contreras
Hannah Cooper
Alison Cox
April Craft
Dajana Crockett
Andrew Crum
Isaac Daniel
Katherine Daniel
Zoe Dannenmueller
Taylor Dant
Pamela Decker
Alissa Doan
Jamiie Doctrow
Steven Dossey
Naomi Driesnack
Morgan Duff
Brady Duncan
Virginia Durakovich
Elizabeth Ebelhar
Haley Edwards
Katherine Ellis
Emily Embry
Kinya Embry
David English
Lauren Ervin
Emily Enkavo
Allison Evans
Carolyn Evans
John Evans
Katherine Fane
Simon Fasano
Clay Ferguson
Christopher Fields
Alexis Fischer
Leslie Ford
Megan French
Kelly Fussman

Stephanie Fusting
 Ashton Garber
 Socia Garcia
 Madison Gilinsky
 Mackenzie Goldwater
 Elaina Gordon
 James Graham
 Evan Gratz
 Isabella Greene
 Kaitlyn Greene
 Barrett Greenwell
 Ian Greer
 John Greer
 Brittany Greeson
 Kelsey Gregg
 Allison Gregory
 Brittany Groh
 Rachel Guffey
 Lorelei Gunn
 Hannah Guy
 Elisabeth Hackworth
 Hallie Haddock
 Mackenzie Haines
 Meghan Hall
 Courtney Hamilton
 Edward Hanshew
 Desiree Harmed
 Caleb Harper
 Breanna Harris
 Kayla Hatcher
 Garrett Haug
 Sarah Hay
 David Haydon
 Cesia Heinlein
 Jessica Henao Barragan
 Nicholas Henderson
 Zahjona Henry
 Dalana Henson
 Kristen Herner
 Cana Herron
 Alex Hezik
 Hayden Hickey
 Lindsay High
 Lindsay Hinken
 Sidney Hirsch
 Hayley Hoback
 Kelli Hogue
 Sarah Holbrook
 Megan Holl
 Logan Horral
 Margaret Hoshor
 Colton Hounshell
 Grant Hughes
 Seth Hulsey
 Kirsten Hunt
 Corena Hurt
 Sabina Husic
 Lisa Hutchinson
 Sean Jacobson
 Kendall Jarboe
 Amanda Jarrett
 Shauna Jesse
 Zili Jia
 Kody Johann
 Chaquille Johnson
 Jarred Johnson
 Sydnee Johnson Mills
 Erica Jones
 Jasmine Jones
 Laura Jones
 Rachel Jones
 Sayrah Jones
 Syndee Jones
 Zachary Jones
 Emily Keith
 Falon Keith
 Kelley King
 Luthor King
 Elizabeth Knebel
 Katherine Knight
 Elizabeth Lansden
 Austin-James Lanter
 Mary Lee
 Janis LeMaister
 Maya LeMaster
 Abigail Leofsky
 Clinton Lincoln
 Morgan Lindsey
 Amanda Lipp
 Paulina Littlefield
 Laura Looper
 Deleon Lott
 Cameron Love
 Rachel Luther
 Samantha Mallory
 Jack Marsh
 Kammi Mason
 Matthew Mattingly
 Evgenia Mausy
 Rauneshia Mayes Reid
 Chelsea McCarty
 Elisabeth McDermott
 Patrick McDowell
 Kate McElroy
 Emily McIntyre
 Christopher McKenna
 Molly Meacham
 Corinna Hurt
 Walter Milam
 Nolan Miles
 Erin Miller
 Sarah Miller
 Zachary Miller
 Benjamin Milligan
 Evan Mingle
 Jianna Mirabelli
 Callie Mobley
 Katherine Morrison
 Mara Muccigrosso
 Brandon Mudd
 Meredith Murrell
 Sarah Naas
 Alexandra Neumann
 Mary Newton
 Katelyn Nichols
 Charles Nold
 Elizabeth Oates
 Emily Oberhausen
 Aria O’Neal
 Jia Ong Ong
 Lindsay Overby
 Abigail Pace
 Juliana Pace
 Poorvie Patel
 Kelsey Patton
 Nicole Patton
 Rayshaw Payment-Kilog
 Sara Pecina
 Amanda Peerce
 Michael Pekel
 Taylor Pellerin
 Evan Pennington
 Kendall Pennington
 McKenzie Perdue
 Victoria Peters
 Shayla Pierrard
 Miller Pogue
 Ella Polk
 Abigail Ponder
 Emily Potter
 Trent Potts
 Karen Powell
 Kelsey Powell
 Abby Powers
 Julia Price
 Tyler Prochazka
 Andrew Reeder
 Tyler Rife
 Carson Riley
 Chelsea Ritter
 Ashnya Robinson
 Mattie Russell
 Christian Ryan
 Cyrus Sardinia
 Chandler Santos
 Robert Schafer
 Shelby Schafer
 Margot Schenning
 Mallory Schnell
 Alexandra Schulte
 Hannah Scott
 Julie Scott
 Molley Mollie
 Paige Settles
 Olivia Sheaffer
 Margaret Shelton
 Grant Shepherd
 Brenna Sherrill
 Bailey Shewmaker
 Molly Shircliff
 Emma Shoaf
 Megan Skaggs
 Nicole Sinkel
 Audrey Szemore
 Emily Slaton
 Ali Slaven
 Clay Smalley
 Margaret Smith
 Mary-Kathy Smith
 Megan Smith
 Simone Smith
 Summer Smothers
 Victoria Snoddy
 Laura Snow
 Hannah Snyder
 Tara Sorrells
 Corinn Sprigler
 Sarah Stackhouse
 Brian Steiner
 Steven Stewart
 Rachel Stilwell
 McKenzie Stinson
 Keely Stout
 Kelsey Stradton
 William Strait
 Jacob Sturgeon
 Zachary Sullivan
 Lena Talbott
 Kirsten Tarter
 Beth Taylor
 Payton Taylor
 Svetlana Ter-Grigoryan
 Tamara Thomas
 Emily Thompson
 James Thompson
 Kathryn Thompson
 John Thorn
 Jennifer Timmers
 Drew Tingle
 Lauren Tolliver
 Jessica Toney
 Chloe Turner
 Mayme Van Meerven
 Morgan Vandermeiren
 Georgeanne Vetter
 Zachary Vincent
 Colín Waid
 Whitney Walker
 Andrew Wall
 Tiffani Walton
 Marissa Webb
 Nina Wells
 Sarah West
 Amy Wetsch
 Hannah Whalen
 Cory Wheeler
 Makka Wheler
 Mercedes Whiles
 Abigail White
 Chantele White
 Holly White
 Joshua White
 Lindsay White
 Morgan White
 Lindsay Whittington
 Lataya Williams
 Megan Williams
 Jack Williamson
 Brad Wilson
 Corbin Wilson
 Megan Wimpsett
 James Wimsett
 Jennifer Wisby
 Amy Woltermann
 Emily Woodruff
 Shelby Woolridge
 Jenna Woosley
 Madelyn Wright
 Olivia Wright
 Natalie Wynn
 Chuchu Xie
 Natalie Xie
 Forrest Yankey
 Christopher Yates
 Nick Yeast

Svetlana Ter-Grigoryan
 Tamara Thomas
 Emily Thompson
 James Thompson
 Kathryn Thompson
 John Thorn
 Jennifer Timmers
 Drew Tingle
 Lauren Tolliver
 Jessica Toney
 Chloe Turner
 Mayme Van Meerven
 Morgan Vandermeiren
 Georgeanne Vetter
 Zachary Vincent
 Colín Waid
 Whitney Walker
 Andrew Wall
 Tiffani Walton
 Marissa Webb
 Nina Wells
 Sarah West
 Amy Wetsch
 Hannah Whalen
 Cory Wheeler
 Makka Wheler
 Mercedes Whiles
 Abigail White
 Chantele White
 Holly White
 Joshua White
 Lindsay White
 Morgan White
 Lindsay Whittington
 Lataya Williams
 Megan Williams
 Jack Williamson
 Brad Wilson
 Corbin Wilson
 Megan Wimpsett
 James Wimsett
 Jennifer Wisby
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Haley Edwards became Haley Reynolds three weeks before completing her undergraduate degree at WKU. She and her husband, Brandon Reynolds, had a quiet day of class followed by heading to the Bowling Green courthouse to request their marriage license and were wed in an empty courtroom. Haley claims a ceremony would have stressed her out, more so than the 20-page essay she wrote for her final literature class. However, it didn't stress her out more than getting to Summershade on time for her appointment with her Mennonite midwives in a birthing cabin.

Reynolds is expected to give birth to her first child on May 15, the day after finals week ends at WKU. She and Brandon decided to have a home birth after a few disappointing appointments at the Medical Center in Bowling Green.

“I just feel like she didn’t care,” Reynolds said of her gynecologist.

Reynolds heard through word of mouth about the birthing cabin in Summershade and has been taking lamaze classes every Thursday to prepare for a natural birth. As Reynolds finishes her classes for her Arabic major, she’ll also be finishing her classes to become a mom.

Haley waits for Brandon to return from the ATM to pay for their marriage license outside of the Bowling Green courthouse on Tuesday, April 19. She said the baby dropping has made it easier for her to breathe, but harder for her to walk.

Haley and Brandon visit the Mennonite farm cabin on Thursday, April 28 where they plan to have their child, Oliver. The farm is an hour away in Summershade and will be where Haley, Brandon and their baby stay for the first few days after Oliver is born.
Brandon and Haley are wed in the Bowling Green courthouse on Tuesday, April 19. They didn't want to have a wedding due to stressful expectations and to save money and time. They were married alone in the Bowling Green courthouse and exchanged vows on their own later that night.

Brandon and Haley set up their expected child's crib next to their bed on Monday, April 18. They were given most of their baby supplies from their families.

Haley smiles at Brandon as they listen to the baby's heartbeat during an ultrasound in Summershade on Thursday, April 28. Haley said she trusts the Mennonite midwives more than the doctors she had at the Medical Center in Bowling Green.

Haley and Brandon exchange vows in Reservoir Hill Park the night after they signed their marriage certificate on Monday, April 18. Spending a late night talking in the park was the first memory the two had together.
Congratulations to our May 2016 Graduating Class!

Engineering Technology Mgt Major
Alavi, Farshid
Dawood, Abdulhameed
Kahindi, Bright B.
Suchanek, Richard D.
Yani, Yenti Febriyani M.

Advanced Manufacturing Major
Al Ibrahim, Ibrahim A.
Alanazi, Fahad A.
Almohamedali, Mohammed N.
Almuhanna, Hussain Sameer
Almutairi, Mohammed H.
Alnakhli, Abbas H.
Alshehri, Abdullah H.
Bakri, Fahad M.
Frank, John T.
Miller, Kaylie P.
Townsend, Dyllon J.

Architectural Science Major
Alsolaim, Hatem A.
Bidwell, Micah A.
Capps, Nicole M.
Davis, John T.
Edmonds, Isaac K.
Frits, Andrew J.
Grebe, Jonathon B.

Computer Info Tech Major
Adam, Hibba O.
Arnold, Patrick C.
Brake, Robert P.
Carroll, Timothy A.
Clemons, Justin K.
Edwards, Trenton O.
Green, Jessica N.
Honeycutt, Jordan J.
Johnson, Stephanie S.
Miller, Coutney P.
Payne, Steven L.
Phillippi, Austin T.
Rinehart, Theodore S.
Rogers, Stephen K.
Russell, Randy R.
Smith, Christina M.
Smith, Jennifer L.
Thornton, Andrew R.
Villarreal, Sandy
Vinton, Barbara L.
Wood, Timothy S.
Woods, Jeremy L.

Construction Management Major
Barnes, Kevin V.
Boone, Ernest B.
Brown, Neil H.
Brunn, Michael C.
DeWolff, Keith D.
Dye, Jason A.
Hannon, Kevin P.
Knight, James H.
Kramer, Alexander M.
Lausterer, Alex D.
Nethery, Sean T.
Simpkins, Jared H.
Wellman, Gregory S.

Technology Management Major
Alammar, Mohammed I.
Alshalan, Fahad
Brown, Robert W.

Computer Info Tech Major
Adam, Hibba O.
Arnold, Patrick C.
Brake, Robert P.
Carroll, Timothy A.
Clemons, Justin K.
Edwards, Trenton O.
Green, Jessica N.
Honeycutt, Jordan J.
Johnson, Stephanie S.
Miller, Coutney P.
Payne, Steven L.
Phillippi, Austin T.
Rinehart, Theodore S.
Rogers, Stephen K.
Russell, Randy R.
Smith, Christina M.
Smith, Jennifer L.
Thornton, Andrew R.
Villarreal, Sandy
Vinton, Barbara L.
Wood, Timothy S.
Woods, Jeremy L.

Industrial Education Major
Clark, Wesley D.
Frye, Billie A.
McClard, Jennifer J.
Spears, Paul J.

Construction Management Minor
Gonzalez, Alexander J.
Hawes, Bryant H.

Industrial Sciences Major
Al Ibrahim, Ibrahim A.
Almuhanna, Hussain Sameer
Craig, Danielle L.
Kramer, Alexander M.
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GRADUATING MARKETING MAJORS

Strategic Marketing
Arcos Jaramillo, Francisco E.
Bradenburg, Tanner J.
Bryant, William C.
Cavanah, Sean M.
Cherry, Jenna K.
Crockett, Rachel M.
Falvey, Grace B.
Grace-Mudd, Sydney M.
Haga, Seth J.
Heyward, Jeff J.
Jackson, Damon C.
Lincoln, Clinton T.
Mata, Alexandra D.
Rose, Jessi P.
Vetter, Georgeanne M.

Social Media Marketing
Boyd, Amanda M.
Briley, Casey L.
Culbertson, Madelyn A.
Gregory, Ashlee N.
Honadle, Michelle N.
Martinez, Berenice
Mingle, Evan M.
Smith, Margaret M.
Wood, Mitchell S.

Sales
Almon, Adam T.
Barnett, Kelby A.
Bastin, Zachary T.
Bowling, Mackenzie E.
Carpenter, Kaylin M.
Cochenour, Alexandria L.
Corona, Jordan A.
Logsdon, Brent T.
Mings, Meagan L.
Mintot, Jacquelin P.
Raque, Chelsea L.
Schwartz, Cheaney
Shears, Ryan M.
Sowell, Jackson C.
Spears, Kimberly J.
Stevenson, John E.
Wells, Lavonta J.
Williams, Grant C.
Wilson, Skyler C.
Jackson, Bryce K.

For more information, contact Dr. Rick Shannon, Chair.
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CONGRATULATIONS

2016 Library Student Assistant Graduates!

Amber Archey
Jessica Henao Barragan
Sara Carrico
Ye Duan
Katie Gamble
Bria Granville
Sidney Hirsch
Falon Keith

Zhanpeng Liu
Soumya Marri
Miranda Matthews
Abby O’Bryan
Alyssa Pointer
Chia Shen
Brian Steiner
Amy Wolterman

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FRIDAY, MAY 13
The Graduate School
5 p.m.
Diddle Arena

SATURDAY, MAY 14
Ogden College of Science and Engineering
9:30 a.m.
Diddle Arena

Potter College of Arts and Letters,
University College
2 p.m.
Diddel Arena

Gordon Ford College of Business,
College of Health and Human Services
6 p.m.
Diddle Arena

The Graduate School

Congratulations

The 2015-2016 John D. Minton Award Winner
Chase LaDue

The 2015-2016 Outstanding Graduate Student College Winners

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Amanda Lipp

College of Health and Human Services
Jamye Hardy

Gordon Ford College of Business
Dr. Craig Beard

Ogden College of Science and Engineering
Matthew Buchholz

Potter College of Arts & Letters
Svetlana TerGrigoryan

University College
Josh Corlew

Congratulations to all graduate students
completing degrees and certificates!
As we approach graduation, our minds are filled with nostalgia and memories. There are the obvious things to be bittersweet about: saying goodbye to your friends, moving on to adulthood, leaving behind such a familiar place. But our university is full of quirks, things we might take for granted now but will look back on in five years and remember with fondness. This list encapsulates a few of WKU’s most unique attributes. Happy graduation, Hilltoppers!

1. The weird statues on campus:
Why does the bunny at the top of the Hill have such large ears? More importantly, why is there a bunny at the top of the Hill? What exactly is that thing in Centennial Mall? AND WHERE DID THE CRANES GO?!

2. Slogging through a river on the way to class:
Nothing says “happy Monday!” like trudging through rushing water as you try to make it on time to your 9:10 a.m. economics class. Unless you end up working in a national park, chances are you won’t have to brave those kind of rain side effects ever again.

3. Interrupting countless photo ops:
Our campus is beautiful in the spring, but we’ve literally run into people trying to make that perfect Instagram of the blooming cherry trees. It’s impossible to walk past the Big Red statue in Downing Student Union without accidentally ruining a mother’s proud photo of her 16-year-old.

4. Sidewalks that turn into de facto streets:
We love the work the WKU facilities and grounds employees do, but we thought sidewalks were where you go to avoid getting hit by a car or whatever those all-terrain vehicles are actually called. Some days we wish we had a golf cart of our own.

5. Guthrie’s “songs”:
You can probably recognize the first few notes of The Beatles’ “Yesterday” or “Edelweiss” from ”The Sound of Music,” but that’s before the other 12 bells kick in. The more complex melodies serve as a reminder that the Hunchback of Notre Dame’s job wasn’t so easy after all.

6. Eau de Purina:
You wake up early, ready to start the day. You leave your dorm bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. You breathe. The scent of dog food wafts into your nostrils. You open Twitter; everyone wants to know why campus smells like the back of PetSmart. You sigh.

7. Swag Brandon Doughty:
WKU’s record-setting quarterback is gone and trying to make a name for himself in the NFL. His legacy remains, though, especially in the rap song that bears his name and the lyrics that get screamed every time you mention number 12.

8. Conflicting health choices:
You might never have a free gym membership again, but you also might not live within walking distance of nine fast food restaurants, either. Nothing’s more difficult than the struggle between wanting to work out and wanting Chick-fil-A for the fourth time in a week.

9. Dodging delivery guys:
Not only do you have to elbow your way past throngs of slow-walking students on your way to class, but you also have to juggle the confused Jimmy John’s guy. He’s looking for a professor’s office in Cherry Hall but somehow ended up wandering around next to the Writing Center. Does he need help with a paper? No, he’s just trying to deliver a sandwich and pickle.

10. Always fielding the question: “What IS Big Red?”:
We love Big Red. It eats babies and dances like nobody’s watching. But unfortunately for us, the secret behind Big Red’s existence isn’t whispered in our ears as we shake Gary’s hand at commencement. It will forever be a mystery for us Hilltoppers.
Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on completing your WKU degree. I am proud of each and every one of you. I hope that I and our faculty and staff, have served you well as you have pursued and completed your WKU course of study.

I look forward to seeing you at Commencement on May 13 and 14. You will be among the 2,564 students who graduate this spring. There is not a more special moment for you, your family and friends than to walk across that red carpet and experience the symbolic culmination of your years of hard work. I hope you enjoy that special moment as much as I will enjoy greeting you in Diddle Arena.

You are now joining some 120,000 WKU alumni, and your next chapter as a Hilltopper is about to begin. This chapter will be influenced by a lifelong love affair with a very special university that will be there for you as much in the future as it has been these last few years. Stay loyal, protect and defend your university, and keep that special WKU spirit at the center of your universe.

I am confident that we have prepared you well for your personal and professional lives. Work hard, serve your family well, be engaged in your community, be a global citizen and lead people to do things they did not otherwise think was possible. That is what Hilltoppers do. Always know as you bring distinction to yourself and to those with whom you live, work and play, you will also bring distinction to WKU.

Thank you for continuing to strengthen your own name and our university’s strong reputation. We look forward to following your progress and counting you among our many successful alumni.

Congratulations! See you on Commencement weekend!

Go Toppers!

Gary Ransdell

Hilltoppers chose WKU as their college home for a reason. Whether it was because of the beautiful campus, the academic programs or the study abroad opportunities, WKU has something for everyone. Because of this, no two Hilltoppers are the same. We each have different passions, career paths and different university experiences. One thing we all have in common, however, is the shared goal of graduating.

For some students, graduation can’t get here soon enough; for others, it’s a bittersweet time. I fall into the latter group. Serving as your student body executive vice president for the past two years has made me more connected and more attached to this university than I ever expected. And while I’m sad to be leaving after five years on the Hill, I can’t wait to start the next phase of life, whatever that might be.

To students who are graduating this semester, congratulations! Earning a degree in today’s society is underestimated and undoubtedly an achievement to be celebrated. You’ve spent years working toward the diploma that will now decorate your future office or home. It’s an accomplishment that should not be taken lightly.

For you who are graduating but still have no idea what your next move is, don’t stress. You are not alone. Thousands of students across the world are in the exact same position. My advice? Enjoy your time in the unknown and take a break. The transition from college to professional life is the ideal time to do the things you never thought you would get the chance to do. Save up and take an international trip, use the down-time between job hunting to learn how to play a musical instrument or even read a book that’s not a class requirement.

For those who are not graduating, enjoy your time on the Hill. Whether you’re on the four-year track or the six-year track, graduation will be here before you know it. My advice is not to take the university for granted; instead, take advantage of what WKU has to offer. Go to a football game and stay for the entire event, or study abroad and join a club that is completely unrelated to your degree. Broaden your knowledge because you will never be around a more diverse group of people than while in college.

Congratulations to the class of 2016! It’s my sincerest hope that your time at WKU has been nothing less than incredible. Your time on the Hill has contributed to both the success and growth of the university, something we are all grateful for. Take with you the memories made, the experiences had and the knowledge gained and share the WKU spirit with the world.

Go Tops!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Claire Bellar, Social Studies
Gabriella Crofford, Social Studies
Jordan Ferguson, Social Studies
Zachary Johnson, Social Studies
Dylan Baker, Social Studies
Amber Ipock, History
Benjamin Beam, History
Callie Mobley, History
Carolyn Evans, History
Daniel Newman, History
Gerron Hurt, History
Isabella Greene, History
Jacob Davis, History
John Greer, History
Joseph Candela, History
Josh Sengenberger, History
Kaleb Caceres, History
Kaylie Durham, History
Lane Embry, History
Mary Stockler, History
Molly Slusher, History
Morgan Deaton, History
Cole McDowell, History
Samuel Collins, History
Sean Jacobson, History
Shannon Carter, History
Spenser Clark, History
Ian Rowe, History
Robert Bell, History
Clay Ferguson, History
Sidney Hirsch, History
Vaughn Skaggs, History
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