Miller nearing 48 years teaching on the Hill

By SPENCER JENKINS

After almost 50 years at WKU, Mary Ellen Miller jokes that her grave will be at the top of the Hill in Cherry Hall. “I plan on dying in the classroom,” said Miller, an English professor: “I can’t think of anything else I’d want to do in retirement.”

Miller started part-time employment at WKU in the fall of 1963 and is now completing her 48th year on the Hill. She is the longest-serving full-time employee at WKU.

“This is a 9:30 class, and I get up at 7 for it,” she said.

But Miller said she figures most of her students think of her as a “stereotype.” “If I set myself on fire in front of Wetherby to prove the administration, my students would not be surprised,” she said. “I am a child of the ‘60s — we protests.”

In contrast, Miller said some of her students and colleagues seem very old-fashioned. “Maybe that’s why I like my writing students so much — they are kinda quirky,” Miller said. “Some of my colleagues are straight and serious, but not all. Some of my best friends are the youngest people in this department.”

Head Coach Willie Taggart said WKU is ready for the “big time.” And for Taggart, it all starts with the 2011 signing class through No. 1 in the Sun Belt Conference by Rivals.com for the second consecutive year, including 11 players that were rated three-star prospects.

“We’re trying to be the best,” Taggart said. “That’s all we talk about. We’re big-time programs. We’re going to do big-time things. We’re going to recruit big-time players.”

WKU signed 26 players from eight states and eight position groups. Six offensive linemen, six defensive linemen, three running backs, three wide outs, two quarterbacks, two wide receivers, two defensive backs and two linebackers will join the Toppers.

Even though the Toppers are third in the Sun Belt’s East Division, Taggart expects WKU to be in the mix in 2011.

“So far, so good,” Miller said. “I plan on dying in the classroom.”

Miller teaches four classes this semester, four days a week, in Cherry Hall. Some of her classes have more than 100 students. “I think all my students need me and I think all have been very important to me — I feel very close to them. I feel very related to them professionally.” Cincinnati senior Josh Robinson said Miller’s Advanced Poetry Writing class is cherry hall Tuesday morning. Miller has been teaching at WKU for almost 40 years, making him the longest-serving full-time employee at WKU. “My students are my inspiration,” Miller said.
By HANNAH BUSHON

WKU’s chapter of Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE, has partnered with Sam’s Club in the Environmental Sustainability Challenge, which pairs SIFE members with local businesses to help reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainability.

“We assess energy costs and make suggestions to help save money,” said melted, a senior from Bowling Green.

SIFE is an international organization that aims to “motivate university students to make a difference in their communities,” according to WKSU-SIFE’s website. WKU is active in 40 countries, working with more than 42,000 students worldwide. WKU’s group received a $1,000 grant from Sam’s Club and members are putting it toward marketing campaigns, advertising and purchasing products for their clients to try, King said.

“Big businesses pay for counseling like this,” King said. “We offer it for free, and we hope to build a rapport for future projects,” he said.

Three seniors, each with specific jobs, head the campaign for SIFE.

Glengrove senior Brady Kangrey is chief financial officer for WKU SIFE and creates plans for businesses who participate with the group. Frankfort senior Jeff Sharp is project leader for the group, and King coordinates marketing and public relations.

WKU SIFE began work on its current project in late November and has been working partners since. While the group is still forming these plans for local participating businesses, Sharp stressed how optimistic the team was and how fast the project was picking up speed.

SIFE suggests products that are environmentally friendly, and more efficient, and introduces the consumers to recycling centers. SIFE presents to the community a new message every week, according to Joie.” However, the group is still forming these plans for local participating businesses, King said.

WKU SIFE will submit its business plans to clients by March 4. The group is already working with Chaney’s Dairy Barn, a Marathon station in Smith’s Grove and a Ramada Inn, Chaney’s Dairy Barn, a Marathon station in Smith’s Grove and a Ramada Inn.

“We give them knowledge we hope they will use even after we’ve finished helping them,” King said.

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The new Sigma Nu house opened for the fraternity’s first Rush this week.

By ELIZABETH BEILMAN
news@chherald.com

mission in a unanimous decision.

mayor was determined by the city commission.

15 “for the remainder of the year, at

do so during his term.

has always had a “working relationship”

role.

several benefits for the members.

He also said the new location will have

the men can gather and feel at home.

the new house will be a place where

potential new members come to look at

guys around to talk to,” he said.

McGarvie said it has especially

helped during Rush rotation nights, when

potential new members come to look at

the house.

The old house was built in the late

19th century, and it was in disrepair,” he

said. “Now we have the newest house on
campus.”

Owens, who has been at WKU since

2005, said he has been waiting for the

new house ever since he got here.

“I never thought I’d see it,” he said. He

knew they could come whenever they

wanted, but this house is able to incorpo-
rate more men, so there’s able to be more
guys around to talk to,” he said.

Denning insisted he’s ready to fill that

duty.

“I think the history of the city of

Bowling Green has always been one to

have a close relationship with WKU,”

Joe Denning said on Wednesday after he was appointed mayor of Bowling Green.

Denning, who was serving as may-

or pro temp, was announced as mayor through November 2011 at a press con-

ference at the Sloan Convention Cen-
ter.

Denning said he will be serving in place of

Elaine Walker, former mayor, who was

appointed as secretary of state by Gov.

Steve Beshear last Friday.

President Gary Ransdell previously

told the Herald that the next mayor

could fulfill WKU’s relations with the

city.

This is not Joe Denning’s city.”

Dixie Cream Doughnuts
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Dixie Cream Doughnuts
Free mini cupcake sample with WKU I.D.

Place special Valentine’s day orders today!

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Best doughnuts in town!
Black history is yearlong tribute

There’s always something enslav- ing to read each February. Perhaps it’s because the month sends me constant reminders of the great ac- complishments of my ancestors. Or maybe it’s because I’m reminded of the great struggle, as well.

Whatever the reason, I’m happy Black History Month was estab- lished by Carter G. Woodson and it has endured for 85 years as a celebration for us all.

Black History Month was estab- lished by Carter G. Woodson and is vague at best. They tell me they thought it was saying that you can’t think we have never really effectively dealt with the con- cept of designated smoking areas. They are poorly labeled.

I have politely asked smokers to move to other areas minor cost tickets to violators of the current rule after some responses from those I have asked to move. However, it is not my job to stand there all day running off smokers, nor do I think law enforcement has suffi cient staff to do it ei- ther.

Second, there is virtually no enforcement of the current rule after some responses from those I have asked to move. However, it is not my job to stand there all day running off smokers, nor do I think law enforcement has suffi cient staff to do it ei- ther.

Smoking ban should be gradual

As much as I love smoking and my daily walk through the haze and cigarette butt trash at the entrance to Cherry Hall, I do not think a total campus smoking ban should be the next step.

A gradual approach makes more sense to me. First, I do not think law enforcement has suffi cient staff to do it ei- ther.

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Students walk through campus in sub-freezing temperatures on Thursday morning. Campus was almost silent as people hurried from one building to the next to escape the cold.

“Recruitment is like brushing your teeth or combing your hair,” Taggart said. “As soon as you stop doing it, you start to look bad. I can honestly say that our coaches comb and brush the kids every day and put together a really nice recruiting class.” The event then moved to a briefing on each of the 26 recruitees made by Assistant Coach Eric Mathies, who also serves as recruiting coordinator. Mathies detailed the strengths and weaknesses of the prospects and scenarios from the recruiting trail as well.

The story of Rivers three-star lineback- er Dustin Washington’s recruitment even included WKU President Gary Ransdell. “When Washington came in, he fell in love with Dr. Ransdell, and that kind of sealed it for him,” Mathies said, announce- ed Rawls in the crowd. “So I appreciate it. I love it. He thought it was the coolest thing ever that the president of the university would take the time out to sit down and visit with him.”

The event was hosted by WKU’s Touch- down Club, which is comprised of WKU football’s biggest monetary supporters. It is one of the many events WKU put on for Taggart’s 2011 class.

“WKU football headed in a pos- itive direction,” said Rawls. 

While WKU is not involved in the hotel construction, Ransdell said he’s ready for a developer to come forward.

“I’m kind of anxious to get that done, because that’s a key part of this whole block configuration,” he said.

Outside of Block 12, WKU is planning to work on another area of the TIF district, Rawlsdell said. “We’ve got two sides of the TIF—one related to constituency amen- ity and the other related to health care,” he said.

Rawlsdell said WKU plans to lease a medical center campus in the TIF district that will house the nursing baccalaureate and doctorate degree programs, along with the diocese of physical therapy degree program if the legislation is approved this year.

Rawlsdell said the building, which would sit on the entire block, would be the largest economic complex in the region, would be leased entirely through nursing tu-ition revenues.

PeopleAdmin was developed to reduce the cost, time and risk that comes with the hiring process, according to its website. The system was implemented in 2006.

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Owensboro junior Kate Douglas remembers being shy and freezing up in front of crowds when she was younger. With a love of music, Douglas, 20, came out of her shell and started singing opera.

In high school, Douglas sang in chorus and acted in the musical "Guys and Dolls." She said people were a little shocked when they found out she sings opera.

"Some people are like 'Really? You’re so small!' or 'Do people really do that anymore?" Douglas said.

She admits that she wasn’t even interested in opera until she came to WKU.

"They introduced me to opera, and I found out it’s really cool," she said. "I enjoy it a lot even though it can be difficult at times."

Before singing, Douglas must warm up to keep her voice from tiring. She does breathing exercises, which train her abdominal muscles, to help with breath support.

Under the direction of associate music professor Wayne Pope, she has learned what it takes to be a good opera singer.

Douglas said that Pope "went crazy" with a lot of technical voice exercises during her freshman year.

"There’s a lot more to it than I would have ever expected, but it’s really rewarding when you see the joy that you bring to people," she said.

"It’s a huge combination of art," he said. "I just love the grand gesture of it."

Price played the lead, Jabez Stone, in "The Devil and Daniel Webster," which he credits as his hardest but most gratifying role.

"It takes time to learn everything like complex rhythms," Price said. "But when you work hard on something and are able to perform it, it’s rewarding."

Even though opera isn’t a mainstream art, Douglas enjoys that people still respond to it.

"Most people just assume that opera is a little bit of a lost art, but it really actually has a huge impact on society," Douglas said. "When they actually hear it, they’re normally pretty impressed."

After college, Douglas plans to take time off before pursuing a master’s degree in vocal performance. She wants to continue singing opera and one day open a private voice studio.

"No matter where life takes me, I think I’ll definitely try to keep singing and acting as long as I can," she said.

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The music department offers a WKU Opera Theatre, which allows students, no matter their major, to learn and perform opera.

In the fall, the group meets twice weekly to practice and learn the basics.

In the spring, the Opera Theatre, along with the department of theatre and dance, performs a full opera or musical. For more information, contact associate music professor Wayne Pope at wayne.pope@wku.edu.

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The signing page also earned a No. 1 ranking.

Allen Stout, Michael Reeves managing
an agent, said the class is not only impressive but is the biggest Big Confer-
ence class as well, but in the national scale as a whole.

"It's pretty good," Stout said. "We had an Division I for a few years, to be able to sign a class like this. That's why they said. "They said, 'That's the top class in the Sun Belt, but they're not in a few seasons, so I think for them to fin-
hishing when they are naturally in a victory.'

The First pitch for both games
"It was a special, special
night, and as they start to get better as football

meant there was a defi nite
process this year was bringing the athletes to

but things are starting to come
together. There's a lot more hustle, getting
to the ball and contesting shots," he said.

"Anyone we bring in, we hope will

be easier to build momentum at home,
but things are starting to come

ready for the Middle Tennessee Invitational.
"Right now, we're taking the season one
day at a time," he said. Jenkins


Assistant Coach Erik Pettigrew said it too, that means a lot to a teenager. That

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FOOTBALL NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Taggart introduces Florida recruits to the family

By EMILY PATTON
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In order to sign the top class in the Sun Belt Conference for the second year in a row, Head Coach Willie Taggart had to look outside the state of Kentucky.

Signings from eight different states joined the Toppers football program on Wednesday's National Signing Day, but it was Taggart's home state of Florida that brought 12 recruits.

"It's good to go back and be able to get guys where you have some connection," Taggart said. "Being able to compete against some of the schools we compete against and get some of these guys in the state of Florida to come up to Kentucky and play football for us is huge for our program."

Three signees came out of Southeast High School in Bradenton, Fla., including Rivals.com three-star wide receiver Boe Brand, three-star linebacker Terran Williams and two-star quarterback Dyon Speight.

Southeast High lies in Manatee County, which is also where Taggart attended Manatee High School.

The Toppers hosted three Sun Belt schools — Louisiana-Monroe, Arkansas and Georgia State — for a Spring game since Diddle Arena was renovated in 2002. It also ranks as the highest attendance at a Lady Topper basketball game since Diddle Arena was filled with students from Warren County and Bowling Green Independent schools for the Lady Toppers' game against South Alabama on Feb. 2. WKU went 56-41 in front of an announced crowd of 7,094.

According to WKU Media Relations, 7,094 people were in attendance at WKU's Topper Club as National Signing Day drew to a close. WKU football's Touchdown Club as National Signing Day reception was held in the Topper Club on Wednesday evening.

President Gary Ransdell mingled with Head Coach Willie Taggart and Carol and Denny Wedek of Bowling Green overlooking the National Signing Day party held in the Topper Club on Wednesday evening.

"It was a night of winning and dining for WKU's football Touchdown Club as National Signing Day drew to a close," said Taggart quieting the crowd by shouting, "Juice! We need some juice in here!"

With 26 official commitments received Wednesday, there were plenty of reasons to celebrate.

Recruits.com and Scout.com both ranked WKU's recruiting class No. 1 in the Sun Belt Conference, marking the second straight year the Toppers have received that distinction from Rivals.

The crew at WKU's Topper Club, located at the top of the new side of Houchens-Smith Stadium, was so energetic that the first minutes of the event were filled with Head Coach Willie Taggart quizzing the crowd by shouting, "How do we need some juice in here?"

The evening started with an opening speech by Taggart on the upward direction of the program, in which he praised his assistant coaching staff.

"I think the university should do it again and just let it carry over throughout the year," said Taggart. "I enjoyed it, especially being a senior and this being the last one go-around at it."

Taggart introduces Florida recruits to the family.