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WKU Alumni Relations, "UA77/1 WKU Spirit" (2014). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 8642.
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WKU

SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University



WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

During my sophomore year at WKU, the Downing University Center opened and immediately became the heart of student life on our campus. For the last 44 years, two generations of Hilltoppers have gathered to eat meals, bowl, play pool, conduct meetings, purchase books and Hilltopper gear, watch movies, and just "hang out" in this iconic campus building.

But with the passage of time the building grew tired and was in need of a total renovation. Now, \$50 million and two years later, the new Downing Student Union will reopen in August. This innovative, high-tech building brings energy and a sense of place to a new generation of Hilltoppers. Everything in it is student focused. It features a wide variety of campus restaurants, new meeting space for the Student Government Association and student organizations, and it is home to the academic advising and career services centers. The WKU Store is now at street level and is easily accessible to students, employees and campus visitors. What once was a movie theater is now a spectacular new auditorium. The bowling alleys are gone and so is the pit on the first floor, replaced with a three-story atrium and a statue of Big Red at the center, offering the ideal photo op with our beloved mascot!

A grand building deserves a grand celebration, and we will begin with a student dedication ceremony on August 26. Then on August 29 we will invite WKU alumni, Hilltopper Football fans and members of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce to a ribbon-cutting event just prior to the kick-off of our opening home football game against Bowling Green State. And on Friday, September 5, we will again celebrate in style with the 2014 President's Circle Gala for all benefactors whose contributions to WKU total \$1,000 or more during the previous year.

If you can't join us for one of these opening ceremonies, I invite you to come back for a ballgame or other campus event this fall or just drop in at any time to see the spectacular transformation. Many of you, like me, spent much of your time as a student in that building. I know you share my wish that all future students will enjoy it equally well. It truly is a union for all Hilltoppers, and I hope to see you there soon!

Go Toppers!

Gary A. Ransdell

WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

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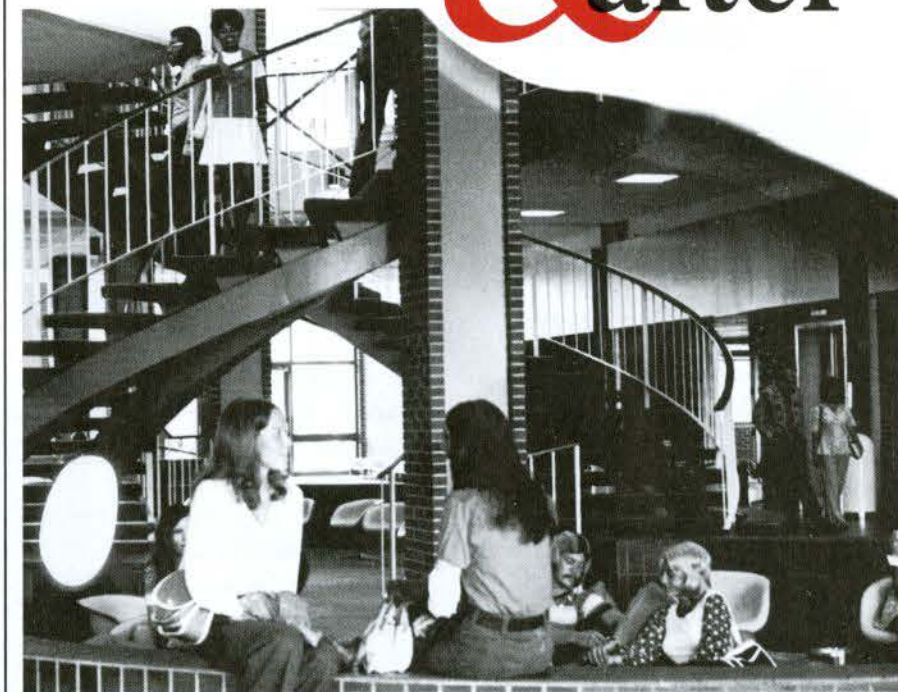
EDITORIAL

Letters and story ideas for WKU SPIRIT are welcomed and encouraged. Submission does not guarantee publication, and those letters that are published may be edited for style and length. Please include the writer's signature, the year of graduation if an alumnus, a daytime phone number and a return address. Letters may be sent by fax to 270-745-5017, e-mail to alumni@wku.edu or mail to WKU Alumni Association, WKU SPIRIT Editor, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302F, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

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before & after



Downing Student Union

A two-year, \$50 million renovation of the 44-year-old Downing University Center will be complete next month. Designed to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, the new Downing Student Center includes features such as local and/or sustainable materials, energy efficient systems and daylight harvesting. The innovative, high-tech building also features a complete facelift for the atrium area, complete with this beautiful staircase.

CAMPUS NEWS

TOP NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

All 4 WKU nominees recognized by Goldwater Scholarship Program

All four WKU students nominated for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program have been honored by the premier award for undergraduates pursuing careers in science, mathematics or engineering.

John Andrew Cliburn of Cloverport, Ky.; Nitin Krishna of Corbin, Ky.; and Megan Laffoon of Louisville, Ky., were selected as Goldwater recipients. Gretchen Walch of Alexandria, Ky., received an honorable mention.

"Since American colleges and universities can nominate four students for the Goldwater Scholarship, we are most proud that all four of our nominated students are being recognized," WKU President Gary Ransdell said. "This is big news in higher education. More importantly, this award presents a great opportunity for these students as they each prepare for Ph.D. studies and careers in math and biology. Their success validates the academic strength WKU provides, especially in the sciences."

Cliburn, the son of John David and Catherine Cliburn, is studying Mathematics as a WKU sophomore and a Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science student. His career goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics, conduct research in dynamical systems and differential equations, and teach at the university level. He has studied abroad at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, and at the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve in Costa Rica.

Krishna, the son of Rekha and Anatha Krishna, is studying Mathematics and Computer Science. A WKU sophomore and Gatton Academy student, his goal is to earn a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics, conduct research in mathematical biology, and teach at the university level. Krishna spent last summer on a Gatton Research Internship Grant focusing on his research.

Laffoon, the daughter of Jeannie and Glen Laffoon, is a Biology major who plans to graduate in 2016. She is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship Program, and she is traveling this summer to Taiwan for an intensive Chinese language program. Her goals include earning a Ph.D. in Conservation Ecology and conducting research in environmental restoration.

Walch, the daughter of Jill and Patrick Walch, is studying Biology as a WKU sophomore and Gatton Academy student. She plans to earn a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics, conduct research in genetic disease modeling, and teach at the university level. She has studied English literature at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, conducted conservation and ecology research at the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve in Costa Rica, interned in Washington, D.C., with the Peace Corps Headquarters and conducted summer research at the University of Southern Maine.



John Andrew Cliburn of Cloverport, Ky.



Megan Laffoon of Louisville, Ky.



Nitin Krishna of Corbin, Ky.



Gretchen Walch of Alexandria, Ky.

FACULTY/STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Michael McClellan named diplomat-in-residence at WKU

A veteran diplomat with the U.S. Department of State is helping WKU further internationalize its campus. Michael McClellan joined WKU on Feb. 1 as Diplomat-in-Residence. The position is a partnership between the Potter College of Arts & Letters and the Office of International Programs.



McClellan joined the State Department and the U.S. Information Agency in 1984 and was a Senior Foreign Service Officer whose last posting was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. He has held posts in Iraq, Ethiopia, Ireland, Kosovo, Germany, Russia and Egypt. He is also an accomplished photographer and owns a small organic farm near Bowling Green, Ky.

McClellan's responsibilities include participating in the intellectual life of the University through guest lectures in classes, panel discussions and presentations; offering workshops on the opportunities available to students in public service internships and careers in Washington, D.C.; assisting the Office of Scholar Development in recruiting and mentoring students for major international awards; increasing awareness of international job/career opportunities, internships and study abroad programs; and conducting public diplomacy and outreach to area high schools to make those students aware of the international and educational opportunities available at WKU.

WKU meteorology major awarded internship with NASA program

Victoria Hampton of Metcalfe County, Ky., a junior Meteorology major in WKU's Department of Geography and Geology, has been awarded a paid summer internship with the 2014 NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP 2014).

Hampton was one of 32 undergraduate students selected from universities across the country to participate in SARP. Housing, a travel allowance and stipends are provided for each student.

The purpose of SARP is to provide students with hands-on research experience in all aspects of a major scientific campaign, from detailed planning on how to achieve mission objectives to formal presentation of results and conclusions to peers and others.



WKU Youth in Government chapter honored at national assembly

The WKU Youth in Government delegation was named Chapter of the Year at the 2nd National College Youth in Government Assembly in Black Mountain, N.C. WKU competed against 34 other universities for this award.

WKU students also came back with individual awards and accomplishments.

Glendale, Ky., freshman KJ Hall and Shepherdsville, Ky., freshman Meredith Cundiff won Best Judicial Team. Hall was also elected National Director for Alumni Relations.

Zach Jones, a Henderson County, Ky., freshman, had his "NIH Funding Act" signed into law and forwarded to his congressional representative.

Jody Dahmer, a freshman from Fisherville, Ky., was elected as National Director of Development.

The 15 WKU delegates represented 13 majors and all academic colleges. The conference helps students interested in government network on a national level, as well as learn more about national governmental proceedings.

WKU ties for 2nd in overall Hearst competition, wins Multimedia and photojournalism contests

With first-place finishes in the photojournalism and multimedia competitions, WKU's School of Journalism & Broadcasting tied for second place overall in the 54th annual Hearst Journalism Awards Program competition.

WKU has finished in the top five nationally for the past five years and in the top eight for 21 straight years including overall championships in 2005, 2001 and 2000. The overall results are based on points accumulated in the Hearst competition's combined writing-broadcasting-photojournalism-multimedia standings.

In 2013-2014, WKU won the Hearst Intercollegiate Multimedia Competition for the third consecutive year and the Hearst Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition for the 21st time in the past 25 years.

This year's overall top 10 finishers are: Pennsylvania State University; WKU and University of Missouri (tied for second); University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Indiana University; Arizona State University; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Northwestern University; University of Montana; and University of Oregon.

WKU earns Tree Campus USA recognition for 4th straight year

For the fourth straight year, WKU has been honored with Tree Campus USA® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Tree Campus USA® is a national program, created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota, to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. WKU achieved the 2013 title by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project.



WKU forensics team sweeps major championships

For the WKU forensics team, 2013-2014 was a championship season.

"When we started the year, we set team goals of winning the Kentucky state championship, the international championship, the American Forensic Association national championship, the National Forensic Association debate national championship and the National Forensic Association speech championship," Director Jace Lux said. "We met each goal. This year was quite difficult at times, but the students worked hard and persevered, and I couldn't be more proud to bring the championships back to campus."

WKU won both the National Forensic Association National Tournament championship and the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate National championship to finish the season in April. Earlier that month, the team won the AFA national championship.

In March, WKU was named world champion in team sweepstakes, winning 11 individual event world championships along the way at the 2014 IFA international tournament in Paris, France. WKU closed out the final round of Lincoln-Douglas debate, as the only school remaining in the competition at that level. Also, all WKU students advanced to at least one elimination round at the tournament.

WKU remains the only team in the history of collegiate forensics to win all three tournaments in the same year, a feat which it has now accomplished six times.

In February, WKU won the 2014 Kentucky Forensic Association state tournament, keeping alive a 24-year streak that began in 1991. WKU was triple-crowned the team individual events sweepstakes state champion, the team debate sweepstakes state champion and the overall team sweepstakes state champion.



2013 Talisman wins Gold Crown

The 2013 *Talisman*, *Form*, won the Gold Crown Award from Columbia University at the College Media Association spring conference in New York City.

This is the WKU yearbook's sixth Gold Crown and its fourth in the past four years in the competition organized by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). Previous Gold Crowns were awarded to the *Talisman* in 1982, 1995, 2010, 2011 and 2012. In the 2014 CSPA critique, the *Talisman* scored 974 out of 1,000 points, including a rare perfect score for visual presentation.

TOP NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Record 6 WKU students awarded Critical Language Scholarships

A record six students at WKU have been awarded U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships.

Elizabeth R. Gribbins of Louisville, Ky.; Kelli N. Hogue of Burlington, Ky.; Bailey E. Mack of Louisville, Ky.; Tyler Prochazka of Newton, Kan.; Sarah Schrader of Bowling Green, Ky.; and Kelly E. Tursic of Union, Ky., will use the scholarships to study languages this summer in various locations. Joanna Chang of Owensboro, Ky., was selected as an alternate.

Each worked closely with the Office of Scholar Development to prepare their applications for this competitive award. The scholarship includes round-trip airfare, living expenses and tuition for programs throughout the world in which students study a critical-need foreign language and experience the culture first-hand.

Gribbins, a French major, will study Arabic. The daughter of John Gribbins and Denee Walsh is a student in the WKU Honors College and spent four months in 2013 studying Arabic and Middle Eastern politics at Moulay Ismail University in Morocco.

Hogue, an International Affairs and Asian Religions and Cultures major, will study Chinese. The daughter of Beth Meuleman is a student in the WKU Honors College and the Chinese Flagship program and has been studying Chinese since she was a freshman in high school.

Mack, an International Affairs and Spanish major, will study Chinese. The daughter of Tom and Catherine Mack is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship program. She said she became interested in the Flagship program in her desire to learn a third language.



Left to Right: Row 1: Elizabeth R. Gribbins of Louisville, Ky.; Kelli N. Hogue of Burlington, Ky.
Row 2: Bailey E. Mack of Louisville, Ky.; Tyler Prochazka of Newton, Kan.;
Row 3: Sarah Schrader of Bowling Green, Ky.; and Kelly E. Tursic of Union, Ky.

Prochazka, an International Affairs and Asian Religions and Cultures major, will study Chinese. The son of Doug Prochazka is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship program. He is a member of the WKU Forensics team and editor of the Chinese Newspaper on campus, "which has helped me hone my own Chinese skills and expand my knowledge of China," he said.

Prochazka studied Chinese at Beijing Normal University as a part of the Princeton in Beijing program in summer 2013, participating in Chinese classes and tutoring for five hours every day.

Schrader, a Biology and Chemistry major, will study Korean. The daughter of Steven and Michelle Schrader is a student in the WKU Honors College and Chinese Flagship Program. She spent six months in 2012 in South Korea teaching English through the Teach and Learn in Korea program and has made four trips to China through the Flagship Program.

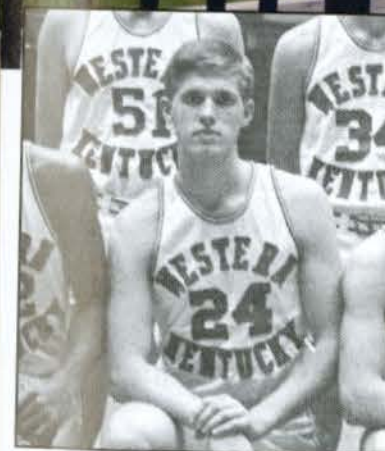
Tursic, an International Affairs and Asian Religions and Cultures major, will study Chinese. The daughter of Rich and Kathy Tursic is a student in the WKU Honors College and Chinese Flagship Program.

LEGACY of SPIRIT

SOCIETY OF 1906



Ralph and
Suzanne Dillihay



Visit the WKU Gift Planning website
at www.wku.edu/plannedgiving

GRATITUDE . . .

"When I came to WKU, I needed financial help. That help was provided, and I felt like there was a personal interest taken in me in helping to provide that. I've been blessed in my career, and I've been blessed financially. I know there's another 'me' coming along, and I just feel like I owe that and I'm glad to do that. The WKU Family is a part of my extended family, so anything I can do to contribute to that gives me a lovely feeling." - Ralph Dillihay

WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

To learn more about planned gifts or other ways to support your favorite WKU program, contact the Gift Planning office at 888-958-2586 (WKU-ALUM).

SPIRIT OF GIVING



Don and Irene Dizney (bottom right) met members of Miss Helen Turner's family on April 29, 2014.

Gift supports Nursing and honors life of Bowling Green nurse

Don Dizney has never forgotten who helped him.

"I believe that all of us reach those reflection points in life where a positive mentor can have a profound effect on your confidence and belief in yourself," said Dizney, who recently made a gift to WKU in honor of his mentor, Miss Helen Turner.

The value of mentorship was venerated on April 29, 2014, when WKU hosted an event to recognize both Don and Irene Dizney and commemorate the legacy of Miss Helen Turner.

The Dizneys, of Palm Beach, Fla., made an endowment gift to support Nursing at WKU, and in appreciation of this gift, WKU named the Dizney Clinical

Learning Center in Memory of Helen Turner to recognize both the Dizneys and Miss Helen Turner.

Don Dizney is the Founder and Chairman of the Board for United Medical Corporation. The company has been responsible for the development of a network of nursing homes in the Southeast, a network of acute care hospitals, a multiple location certified home health agency network, the largest privately held network of hospitals in the Caribbean located in Puerto Rico, pediatric specialty hospitals, behavioral specialty hospitals, reference laboratories and a variety of management services. Though Don did not graduate from WKU, he attended from

1962 through 1964.

While at WKU, Don worked at Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital (the predecessor to The Medical Center), where he was helped by such mentors as Helen Turner. In fact, she gave him his very first job as an orderly, and took him under her wing. Dizney has given credit to the training and guidance he received from his mentors, especially Miss Turner, as what helped him to be prepared for work in the field of healthcare, and which ultimately set him on his career path.

"All of us have life-long influences from our families and individuals who were instrumental at key points in our life," Dizney said. "Helen Turner was an



incredibly positive influence on my life at a key point in my professional development."

The Dizneys made a leadership gift to establish the Dizney Clinical Learning Center in Memory of Helen Turner, which resides in The Medical Center-WKU Health Sciences Complex. This gift created an endowment to provide permanent support for value-added experiences for WKU Nursing students.

"I have been blessed in my healthcare career and take great satisfaction in sponsoring projects that give other young people an opportunity to see their potential come alive," said Dizney.

"Everyone at WKU—faculty, staff, students and alumni—is grateful for this

gift from Don and Irene Dizney. This endowment will serve Nursing students for generations to come," said WKU President Gary Ransdell.

Through this lasting gift, the Dizney family and WKU have honored Helen Turner, a beloved member of the healthcare field in South Central Kentucky. She was the former Director of Nursing at the Bowling Green-Warren County Community Hospital, predecessor to The Medical Center at Bowling Green. Miss Turner dedicated her life to serving others in the fields of nursing and public service. Her leadership in numerous organizations advanced nursing education in the Commonwealth and region.

Miss Helen Turner was born in 1909 and died in 1995. She never married, and served as Director of Nursing for Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital and on the Board of the Directors of the Kentucky League of Nurses. She was a member of the group that helped establish the South-Central Citizens League of Nursing, and she helped bring hospice services to Bowling Green. She was awarded a Jefferson Award in 1990. Miss Turner and Dizney kept in touch throughout his career, and she even referred to him her "son" at her retirement celebration.

"I am certain that I am not the only individual that has positive memories of

how Helen Turner took a personal interest in a young student who was looking for opportunities," said Dizney.

The Dizney Clinical Learning Center in Memory of Helen Turner is located on the second floor of The Medical Center-WKU Health Sciences Complex and is a key hands-on laboratory learning space for all Nursing students. The four-room suite features two identical nursing clinical labs, complete with hospital-style beds, equipment and human models for training nursing students. Bedside computerized medical records allow students to chart their nursing activities just as they would in a hospital setting. In addition, two attached skills classrooms provide space for students to review videos or computer-assisted learning modules of specific skills prior to hands-on practice in the learning laboratory.



"During my 50-year journey with healthcare development, I have been blessed to have the opportunity to meet countless individuals and have tried to learn and assimilate the lessons I have

learned from those encounters," said Dizney. "I wanted to do something to honor her contributions over the years and the Clinical Learning Center is very appropriate."

Ashrafzadeh named Greulich Endowed Chair in Energy Systems at WKU

Dr. Farhad Ashrafzadeh has been named the Greulich Endowed Chair in Energy Systems at WKU. Dr. Ashrafzadeh joined the Electrical Engineering Program in the Department of Engineering at WKU in 2012. His academic career follows 15 years of experience at the Whirlpool Research and Development Center in Benton Harbor, Mich., where he served as an electrical motor drive and power electronics specialist. He has extensive experience in the design, development and commercialization of highly reliable and cost-effective power electronics and motor drives for energy-efficient appliances.

Dr. Ashrafzadeh was the keynote speaker for the 2005 IEEE International Electrical Machines and Drives Conference in San Antonio, Texas. He has also served as an associate editor for the *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics*, an invited speaker for various

universities and IEEE sections, and a chair and session organizer for a number of IEEE conferences.

He has been an adjunct professor at both Western Michigan University and Indiana University at South Bend, and a member of the WMU External Advisory Board. He performed two years of postdoctoral research at the University of Calgary, where he received his Ph.D. He is also a Certified Six-Sigma Black-Belt Engineer.

Dr. Ashrafzadeh holds 65 patents. His research interests include renewable energy conversion and advanced electrical drives for various applications, including the smart grid, hybrid vehicles and appliances.

The focus of the Greulich Energy Systems Lab will be the challenges and opportunities in modern appliances. Appliances provide interesting



applications for research in advanced control and drive techniques, as well as novel but familiar examples for innovative educational materials illustrating basic science and engineering topics.

The Greulich Endowed Chair in Energy Systems was created in 2008 by Don ('72) and Jennifer ('71) Greulich, who met when they were both WKU students. Don Greulich is president of Kerr Greulich Engineers Inc. in Louisville, which provides building systems engineering and design throughout the United States.

KORT partners with WKU to train future athletic trainers

Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab Team (KORT) is partnering with WKU to provide graduate assistantships for deserving students who are pursuing a master's degree that will allow them to become athletic trainers or administrators.

According to Dr. Randy Deere, Professor of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport at WKU, the commitment of \$105,560 over two years provides funding for two graduate students each semester, allowing them to pursue an online master's degree in either Athletic Administration or Athletic Training.

"The students have to qualify for graduate school and need to be licensed by Kentucky and certified nationally as athletic trainers," Deere explained. "Their work responsibilities are with KORT and its secondary school outreach athletic training program to the area high schools in the Louisville area. Therefore, WKU's Recreation and Sport Administration online graduate programs allow the students to work in whatever location KORT places them while they pursue their graduate studies through WKU."

Doug Mears, Director of Sports Medicine for KORT, said the organization understands the strength of WKU's

program. "It has a solid reputation as an excellent athletic training program," he said. "The online course allows me to utilize trainers at schools outside the Bowling Green area. The program is consistent, convenient and a great value."

Deere said the program is a win-win for all parties. "Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab receives the benefits of the corporate gift while providing each student with the opportunity to obtain professional work experience," Deere said. "Also, the student is earning a master's degree, which will provide advanced learning and make the student more competitive once the degree is earned."

Erica Ciresi of Louisville, Ky., is one of the students currently enrolled in the program through the partnership with KORT. Ciresi, who received her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Murray State University, plans to graduate from WKU with her master's in Recreation and Sports Administration and an emphasis in Athletic Training in May 2015.

"As a part of this graduate program, I am working with Louisville Collegiate School as their Athletic Trainer," Ciresi said. "I cover high school games and practices year-round and am available

after school for any student seeking sports-related medical information."

Deere has coordinated this partnership between WKU and KORT since 2000. "KORT has been a leader in the field of 'Athletic Training Outreach Services' for secondary schools throughout Kentucky," he said. "The fact that KORT invests in young people through professional work experiences and graduate education opportunities speaks volumes regarding their commitment to future athletic training professionals. I want to thank Jason Chambers, President of KORT, and Doug Mears for entrusting WKU and the Department of Kinesiology Recreation and Sport with this generous gift. We look forward to continuing this relationship with KORT, as they are one of the outstanding health care providers in Kentucky."

"This program has been phenomenal during my course of participation," Ciresi said. "All of the classes, assignments and professors have been amazing to participate in and with. It is such an awesome experience to be involved with and I am very grateful for KORT, WKU and Louisville Collegiate for this opportunity."

You Are Invited!

Women of WKU, you are invited to become a member of the WKU Sisterhood, an organization of women advancing University priorities through philanthropic engagement and a collective voice.

The WKU Sisterhood began in 2009 to provide an opportunity for like-minded women to collaboratively support faculty, staff and student projects. The organization consists of women—faculty, staff, alumni and friends—who pledge a

\$1,000 gift each fiscal year. Each individual gift is combined to make one large grant, and each donor receives a vote toward the selection of the grant recipient.

At the October 2013 WKU Sisterhood Business Luncheon, a total of \$40,000 was distributed between two projects: Textbooks for Troops and the Get Set Go Wellness Program. These projects received recognition across the university, community and nation.



We invite you to join the efforts of the WKU Sisterhood and work with us to positively impact WKU and the surrounding community.

You can join online at wku.edu/sisterhood. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Miller at 270-745-5990 or amy.miller@wku.edu.

2014 CUPOLA SOCIETY HONOREES:

**Not pictured/present at event – Charles and Carolyn Hardcastle – 40 years*



Robert and Sandra Appling, of Bowling Green, Ky.
50 years



Martha Lloyd, of Radcliff, Ky.
40 years



Irvin and Mary Sample, of Bowling Green, Ky.
40 years



Jim and Rita Scott, of Bowling Green, Ky.
40 years

On April 5, 2014, members of The Society of 1906 and The Cupola Society gathered for a special recognition brunch. The Society of 1906 recognizes individuals who have chosen to leave a legacy gift to the University by including WKU in their wills, as beneficiary of a life income gift such as a trust or gift annuity, or as beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. Special recognition is given to members who reach the Legacy Circle with a commitment of \$100,000 or more. The Cupola Society recognizes long-term donors, no matter the size of the gift, who support WKU through sustained annual giving. Special recognition is given to donors who achieve milestones of 15, 20, 25, 40 and 50 years of consecutive giving.

2014 SOCIETY OF 1906 LEGACY CIRCLE HONOREES:



Valerie C. Brown, of Bowling Green, Ky.



Martha Burn, of Elizabethtown, Ky.



Ralph and Suzanne Dillihay, of Bowling Green, Ky.

2014 SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

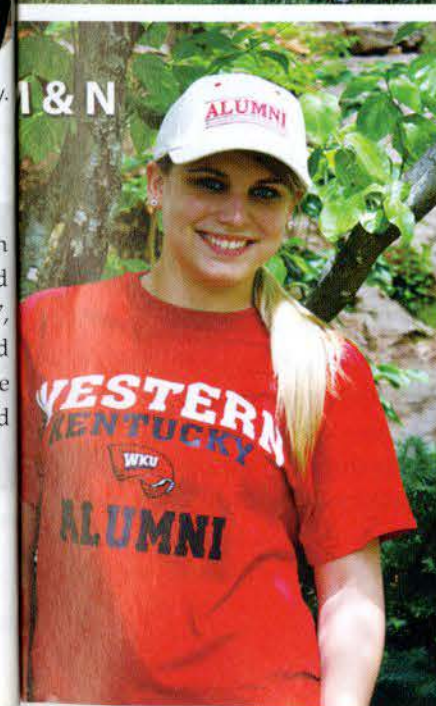


Becky Harrell, representing the Evadine Parker Phi Upsilon Omicron Alumni Scholarship Fund, and student recipients Morgan Beachboard, Caitlynn Oberhausen and DeShaye Batts.



Norm and Jimmie Lou Johnson, representing the Greenwood Optimist Club Scholarship, and student recipient Jessica Gifford.

The 2014 Scholarship Celebration honoring scholarship donors and student recipients was held on April 17, 2014. At this special event, donors and recipients were able to meet, learn more about one another, and enjoy a meal and special presentation.



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ATHLETICS

COACH'S SPOTLIGHT

Lady Topper Softball Head Coach Amy Tudor

Former Lady Topper Amy Tudor, a member of WKU's inaugural softball squad, is now serving as the Head Coach of the team.

Before she returned to the Hill last fall, Tudor garnered nine years of head coaching experience, including stops at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Belmont University and Ohio Wesleyan University, and most recently guiding IPFW to its first-ever NCAA Championship appearance at the Louisville Regional after winning the Summit League Tournament.

"I am confident she is the perfect person to accelerate our program's growth and lead us to new heights," said WKU Athletic Director Todd Stewart. "Eleven years after she graduated from WKU as a six-time member of the Dean's List, it is great to have Amy back on The Hill as our Head Softball Coach."

"The chance to return to Western Kentucky University is a very humbling and exciting opportunity," Tudor said. "I am very grateful to Todd Stewart for entrusting me to continue the success of the WKU softball program."

Tudor is a 2002 graduate of WKU with a degree in History and Social Studies and minor in Geography, where she was a three-year team captain, helping the program get off the ground. A collegiate catcher, she holds the school record by throwing out 23 runners attempting to steal in 2002 and is fourth all-time in runners thrown out stealing with 28.

In addition to her prowess on the field, she was equally as strong off of the field, where she was named an All-American Scholar, recipient of the Commissioner's List Award, a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and Kappa Delta Pi, and was a six-time member of the Dean's List at WKU.



Tudor spent one season at Motlow State Community College before her arrival at WKU. A member of the softball and basketball team, she hit .370 with 37 RBI, 12 doubles, two home runs and had five stolen bases while not committing an error behind the plate.

Originally from Petersburg, Tenn., Tudor attended Cornersville High School where she graduated as salutatorian. Tudor finished her high school playing career as the all-time leading scorer and assist leader in basketball and was an All-State and All-Mid State selection in softball. In 1998, the high school retired her No. 9 jersey.

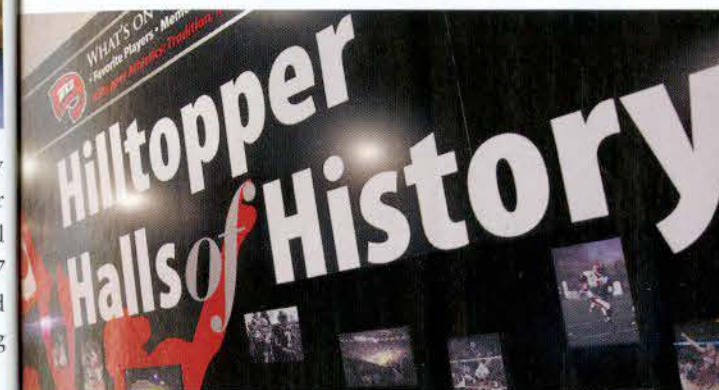
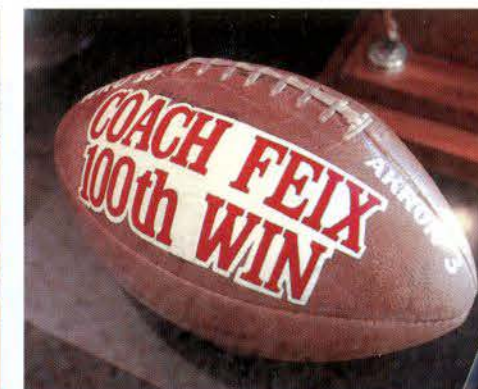
Conference USA in 2013-2014, WKU won the Bubas Cup with only 17 sports scoring points towards the total.

In total, 10 WKU teams finished in the top-three of their respective league standings in 2013-2014.

WKU's student-athletes graduate at a 70 percent clip, which is 20 percent higher than the rest of the University student body. WKU has had more student-athletes honored by the Sun Belt Conference for academic achievement than any other conference school for nine consecutive years.

we have claimed 133 total conference championships and really wanted to cap off our tenure by winning the all-sports title in our final year. Achieving this with a 70 percent graduation rate and over 1,000 hours of community service this year exemplifies the strength of our entire athletics program on the field of play, in the classroom and in the community."

WKU won Sun Belt Conference championships in soccer, volleyball, women's basketball, women's indoor track and field, and women's outdoor track and field in 2013-2014, with baseball still to be completed. With men's and women's swimming competing in



The Hilltopper Halls of History

The next time you're in E.A. Diddle Arena, be sure to check out the Hilltopper Halls of History located around the Stansbury Concourse on the second level.

This museum celebrates the first century of intercollegiate athletics on the Hill. Displays are located in the second-level Food Court (the "old lobby") of the Arena, and from there, Topper fans can explore more than 140 cases along the Stansbury Concourse with display panels full of photos and highlights of the tradition-rich history of Hilltopper athletics from 1910 through 2010. The Halls of History also includes kiosks where fans can use the touch-screens to locate photos of their favorite Topper teams and athletes.

"I visited Diddle Arena about nine or 10 years ago, and I noticed that the team photos displayed along the concourse seemed a little tired and dated," explained Gary Bowman ('74), the lead donor for the project and a member of the 1970-1971 Hilltopper Basketball freshmen team. "I got the idea to improve and showcase our student-

athletes, and my concept has turned into the wonderful project we currently have."

"In 1970, I was a country boy from Monroe County and I can't tell you how much pride I had when I would put that Western Kentucky University jersey on," Bowman continued. "I just thought it was important to do something to showcase our athletes, all of our athletes."

Bowman's interest in the project and generous financial support were key factors in the W-Club's ambitious fund-raising campaign, the first of its kind for the organization of former Hilltopper letterwinners in its 85-year history. The project was entirely funded from private dollars raised by the W-Club.

"As a former athlete, to walk through these halls and look at the decades and see the sweat, the tears, all the victories and some of the defeats, it's just hair-raising to me," said Mike Montgomery ('95, former Football student-athlete) and President of the Alumni W-Club.

Bryan Baysinger ('93, former Men's Golf student-athlete, former President of the W-Club):

"The greatest pride I take is when I'm at a basketball game walking around the concourse and see a parent with a child. They're reading the wall and the parent is pointing something out they did or saw while they were here. It's teaching a lesson."

Paul Just ('69, '72, Sports Information staff 1966-Present):

This project would never have gotten off the ground without the generosity of Gary Bowman and the scores of others — former Topper athletes and fans alike — who provided the financial support to make it happen!"

Brent Price ('81, the graphic artist for the project):

"Museum design is really a lot about storytelling. We were able to take these stories and actually bring them to life."

INTERNATIONAL REACH

TO CARE MORE AND BE MORE: German teacher mentors WKU student teachers

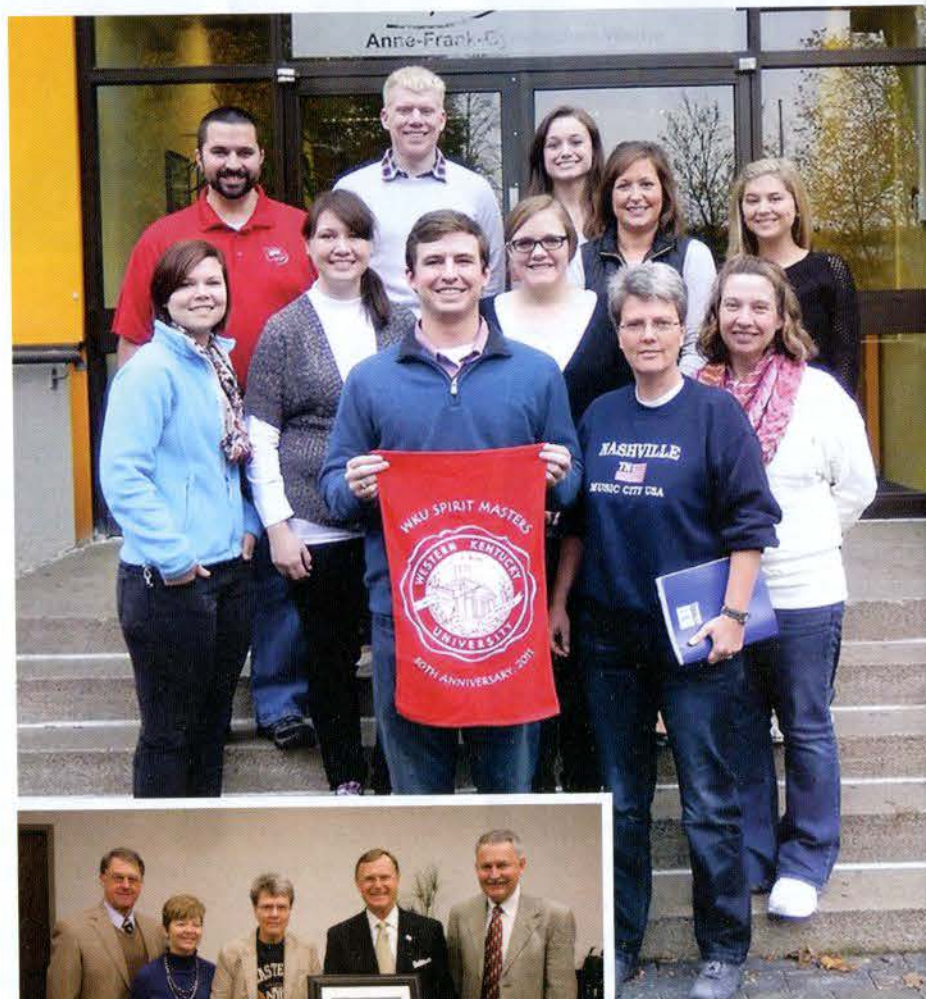
By Whitney Hall

For Heike Ambrust, the passion for teaching and caring for students began at a young age. Having grown up in the small town of Brauweiller, Germany, about 10 miles west of Cologne, Ambrust started tutoring students as a way to earn extra money for a trip to the United States.

Recruited by her former elementary school teacher, Ambrust first tutored a little girl with special needs. The girl's parents could barely read and write, and they lived in a very poor area. This one-on-one relationship quickly grew to a small class of 10 students, and Ambrust spent her summer teaching the little children the alphabet and basic reading and writing skills in her outdoor "meadow school."

Ambrust said this experience marked a pivotal moment in her life, teaching her more than any teachers' seminar ever could, and inspiring her to care more and be more. Since that time, she has lived her life on a mission to not only teach students, but to teach individual teachers how to strive for excellence and how to care for each child.

Now a teacher at Anne Frank Gymnasium in Werne, Germany, Ambrust's quest has extended far beyond her own area to reach future teachers at WKU. Through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), she met German Professor Dr. Laura McGee, Head of WKU's Department of Modern



Languages. McGee and Ambrust collaborated to create the International Student Teaching Placement Program at WKU. In April 2013, the first WKU students traveled to Werne to complete part of their student teaching in Germany.

In the short time since, Ambrust has hosted 27 WKU students in Germany, where they live with host families with all room and board included. To match her students with the best possible host families and mentors, she has them complete detailed personal histories, and she carefully considers all factors as she makes her assignments.

"I'm very convinced that this helps the field of education in an important way," Ambrust said. "If we manage to educate more and more global citizens and make the world a little smaller, then we have a chance to make the world more peaceful also. Getting the two cultures and countries together more closely is an important step to teach the real world the languages of love and understanding. I strongly believe that we all need this, and a program like the one WKU is offering is a valuable cornerstone."

Dr. Sam Evans, Dean of WKU's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said WKU is fortunate to have an individual

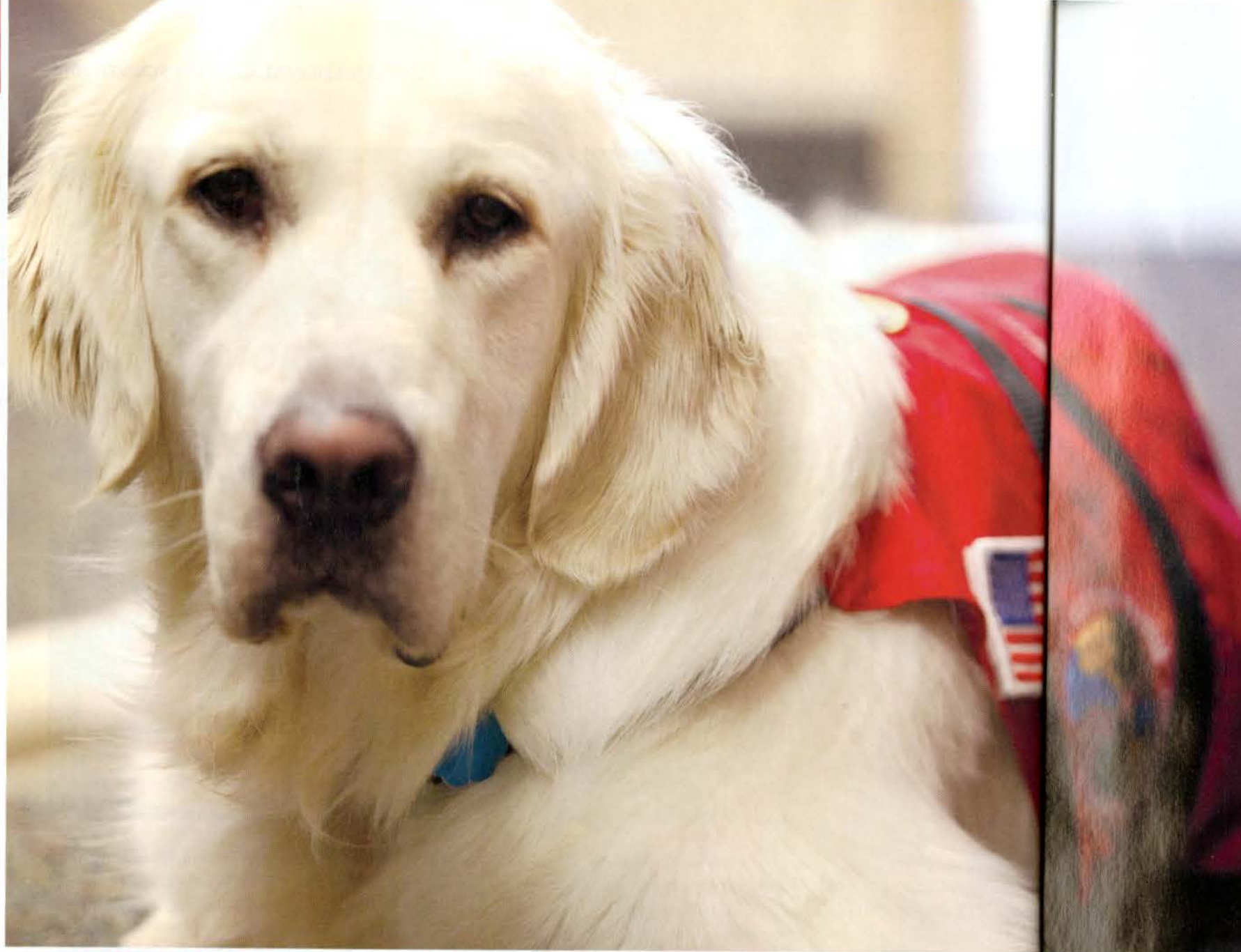


like Ambrust to serve as a mentor to students during their overseas teaching experiences. "These relationships truly help our students develop a deep understanding and appreciation of the culture of their host country," he said.

The WKU student teachers also have a strong love and appreciation for Ambrust. Timothy Phelps ('13), who did part of his student teaching through the German partnership, called Ambrust an amazing person. "Her personal investment in our success was evident from the first time we met her," he said. "She was always willing to help us out and get us exactly what we needed. Our lives are fuller because of her hard work."

After his graduation, Phelps immediately secured a teaching position in Bullitt County, Ky., even though it was the midway point in the school year. "I am confident my experience abroad helped me get the spot," he said. "I know when I say this I'm speaking for the entire group. Heike will always have a special place in our hearts for being so involved in our success."

From a meadow school in small-town Germany and across the sea to WKU, Ambrust has carried out her commitment to care more and be more, reaching the world, one student at a time.



Military Student Services: Serving Those Who Serve

By Deanna M. Jenkins ('09)

College can be very confusing. Even finding the right person to talk to can be a challenge. These issues are compounded when a student can't get to campus or is planning to return to school after some time away. Imagine trying to navigate applying for college, signing up for classes and ordering textbooks all while serving your country. At WKU, Military Student Services is there to aid these men and women in any way possible.

Who They Are

Created in March 2011, Military Student Services is a relatively new program. Before that, services for Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and veterans were scattered across campus and handled by different individuals. Now many of these efforts are consolidated, offering students a centralized place to easily find assistance and assurance.

"Every student has unique needs, and every day we work to make a difference in students' lives in many ways," said Tonya Archey ('02), Director of Military Student Services. "We want to help make their transition into college easy. We are able to do this by services we offer in our office, and through our partnerships on campus and in the community."

On-campus partnerships include those with the Veterans Affairs Office in Financial Aid (which certifies paperwork for more than 800 students each semester), the Veterans Upward Bound program (the only one in Kentucky), the Department of Military Science and Leadership, which offers the Army ROTC program, a WKU tradition since 1917, and the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC).

The employees of Military Student Services are dedicated to helping military students because they care, and because they themselves are veterans.

"We have a direct connection to the students we are helping," Archey explained. "WKU took the time to put veterans in these positions, and that shows that WKU cares. We speak the lingo and we've walked in their boots."

Archey, who is retired from the U.S. Navy, has worked on campus for 13 years. She initially came to WKU to take advantage of her G.I. Bill benefits. "I came for a degree but stayed for a job," she said. She has been the Director of Military Student Services since the office was established, and the program has grown by leaps and bounds during that short time.

"We have been off to the races," she said with a laugh. "We have started several programs and have created and strengthened

partnerships across campus and the community that enhance our services."

Kent Johnson, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, is the Military Student Services Assistant. A former student worker for the office, his primary role is to monitor the GoArmyEd portal, but he also works closely with the other programs Military Student Services offers.

Military Student Services is a point of contact for both students and parents. "I might talk to a parent whose son or daughter is at Boot Camp, and they are trying to find out about their benefits and what happens when they come to college," Johnson said. "We can help point them in the right direction when they don't know where to go."

Bob Wilson ('12), who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, is currently an intern in Military Student Services, a position funded through Points of Light, a nonprofit volunteer service organization that encourages veterans to volunteer.

"I moved to Morgantown, Ky., as a kid and I always planned to go to WKU, but when the time came, I couldn't afford it," Wilson said. "I joined the military and served for the next 26 years."

In addition to their status as veterans, Archey, Johnson and Wilson are also current students. They understand the experiences veterans and military students face while trying to enroll in college, and they also understand what it is like to be a student while juggling a job, a family and school. Their role as lifelong learners also supports the office's success.

"We can share our stories and relate to their experiences," Wilson explained. "I am a nontraditional student. I came back to school because I wanted to be here. I was 43 when I finished my bachelor's degree, and I'll be 49 when I finish my master's degree."

"These are ordinary people who have done extraordinary things," Archey continued. "Every student has a fascinating story. We have all been on an adventure. We are atypical, but we can relate to one another."

CanDoo

In October 2013, Military Student Services gained a new employee, CanDoo, a 2-year-old English cream golden retriever. WKU is the only university with a facility dog on staff.

"He works for treats," said Archey. "He is 94 pounds of love."

CanDoo plays a unique role for the campus community. He is comforting to anyone in need—students, faculty, staff and any member of the community—and he brings joy to those who need it. CanDoo came to WKU through Terry Scariot and John and Linda Kelly, who wanted to help in a unique way that would jointly affect the Kelly Autism Program (KAP) and Military Student Services. Their idea to bring a facility dog to WKU would also positively affect another organization in which they are involved, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs.

"My business partner John Kelly and I serve on the WKU Clinical Education Complex Board which includes the Kelly Autism Program named after John and his wife, Linda," said Scariot. "We conceptualized together a facility dog to serve both WKU veteran students, as well as the Kelly Autism Program students, and were able to successfully implement that concept through Smoky Mountain Service Dogs."

And so, CanDoo got a job at WKU. According to Archey, CanDoo greatly enjoys coming to work everyday.

"CanDoo helps ease test anxiety, the loss of a loved one or even just a bad day," Archey explained. "Parents like knowing that the University offers this important resource."

CanDoo is available to interact with anyone in need, whether they be students, faculty or staff.

He makes classroom visits and is also available for private sessions. CanDoo is able to help people in ways other humans can't.

"Studies have shown that 40 seconds after you interact with a pet, your blood pressure goes down, your cardiovascular health is improved as oxytocin elicits a calming effect, depression is lessened, and other mental and physical health benefits are realized," Archey said.

Primary care for CanDoo is shared with KAP. He is an important asset for the clients and staff of KAP. When he is not working, CanDoo lives with Marty Boman, Director of KAP.

"I drop CanDoo off in the morning, and generally a trained student walks him over to KAP," Boman said. "He is my new buddy."

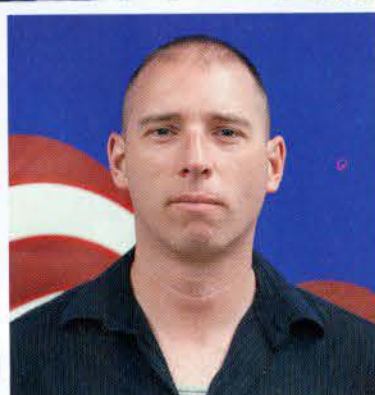
Boman hopes the support between CanDoo and participants will continue and that the support system for all students at WKU will be enhanced.

"CanDoo is appreciated across campus, as many students have had to leave their pets at home," Boman said. "He fills that void for many."

Not everyone knows that CanDoo is a special needs dog himself. He doesn't have the stamina to play all day or be out in the community all the time. In fact, having had two major ACL surgeries, he isn't considered healthy enough to be a full-fledged service dog. When the donors chose him, his special needs status encouraged rather than discouraged them.

"He is perfect for us and KAP," Archey shared. "He is a great ambassador – we just have to be careful with him."





Jim Russell

Hometown: Ventura, Calif.

Major: Social Studies and Secondary Education

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

"Military Student Services gave me direction with how to go about the bureaucratic process to ensure that funds from the G.I. Bill made it where they needed to go."

Best for Vets

Military Student Services is garnering attention for the important services it provides for WKU students. The University has been ranked #7 in the nation as a "Best for Vets" four-year college by *Military Times Edge Magazine*, and has been designated as a "Military Friendly School" every year since 2009 by G.I. Jobs Magazine.

"We are also breaking records every month and every semester with the number of veterans, active duty and military dependents who apply to WKU," Archey said. "We are seeing growth across the board."

In the month of January 2014, a total of 69 individuals who identified as a veteran or active duty soldier applied to WKU. In that same month, 237 military dependents applied to the University.

"WKU has unique programs for our veterans and military students, and we are extremely proud of that," Archey said. "Many people don't realize that we have these resources."

WKU offers an undergraduate and graduate tuition discounts for active duty service members from all branches, and is a Yellow Ribbon and MyCAA participating university. The Yellow Ribbon and MyCAA programs offer tuition incentives to veterans and spouses of military members. Veterans, active duty military and their family members attend WKU at the in-state tuition rate. WKU is also a core member of the Servicemembers Opportunity College Network, which means transferability of college courses is more easily accomplished. Nearly 400 Army soldiers take WKU courses through the GoArmyEd virtual gateway.

Textbooks for Troops

During the early days of her tenure with Military Student Services, Archey made an effort to visit the National Guard armories in the state, which clarified her vision of how the program could make a real impact in the lives of student soldiers and veterans.

"I'll never forget my trip to one of the armories," she said. "When I walked in, the Commanding Officer said, 'I'm so glad you're here. About half of my soldiers are unemployed and they need to hear what you have to say.' I stood there in that gymnasium and saw about 300 individuals."

It is not uncommon, Archey said, to hear from servicemembers and veterans that they want to come to school, but don't know how to make it happen. They might have multiple dependents and not be in the financial situation to afford tuition out-of-pocket.

"If it comes down to 'can I afford this class' or 'feed my family,' the answer will always be family," Archey said. "A lot of soldiers are not in a position to apply for financial aid or if they do apply, they ultimately don't receive any assistance."

After her visits to the armories, Archey started asking, "How can we help these soldiers? How can we fill that gap? To me, textbooks were a no-brainer. Helping with those extra out-of-pocket expenses enables them to worry about one less thing, and not have to incur a huge amount of student loan debt."

Thus, the vision for Textbooks for Troops was born. The first semester, Archey asked the faculty and student body to donate any textbooks they no longer needed. The program officially started with 25 books, which helped 14 students.

"It was a small impact, but very important," Archey said. "Word of what we were doing got around, and Terry Scariot came forward to help. He made a gift that has helped us continue to provide this outstanding service."

Scariot is Vice Chairman of USA Cares, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to providing post-

9/11 families with financial support and advocacy in times of crises. USA Cares is dedicated to honoring servicemembers and veterans by assisting injured soldiers in receiving necessary treatment, supporting soldiers in finding a job and providing housing assistance and basic needs to military families.

Each semester, Textbooks for Troops continues to grow and help more students. Today, the library houses more than 1,000 books, and more than half of those are utilized in any given semester. In the spring 2014 semester, more than 160 students received assistance through the program.

"I am honored to support our veterans to thank them for their service through my donation," Scariot said.

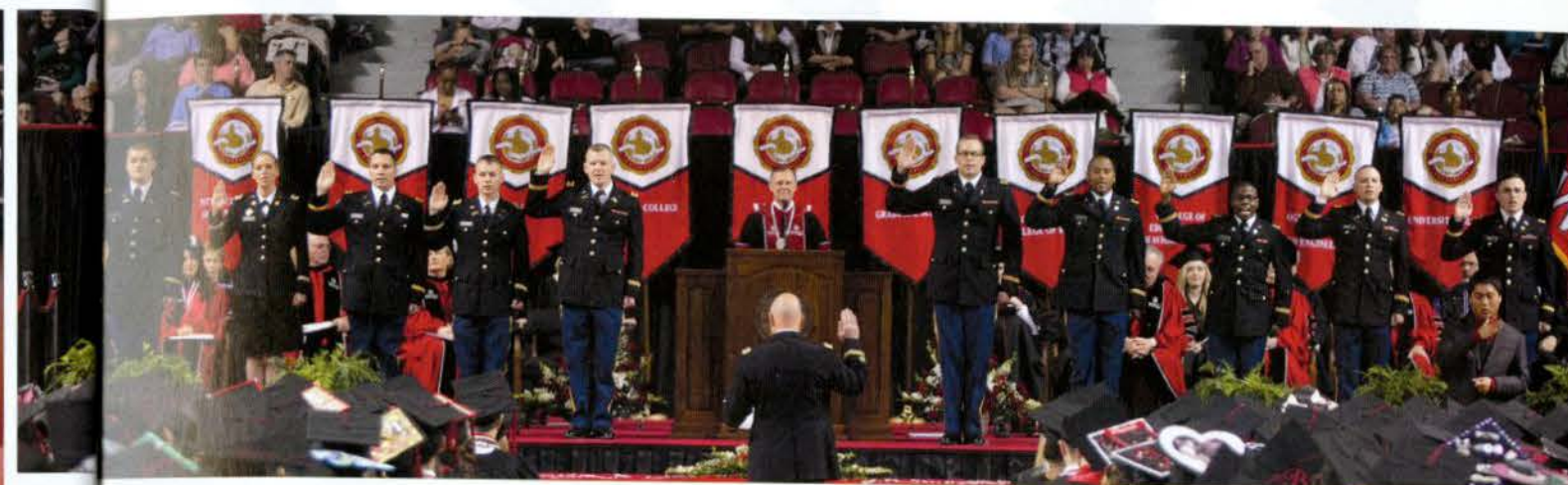
Non-military students have also recognized the importance of this program. Natalie Raymer, a student at the WKU-Glasgow campus, held a textbook drive to collect books for Textbooks for Troops. She collected about 130 books—all because she wanted to help. She plans to hold a similar drive each semester during finals week.

"We really appreciate the support from the campus community," said Archey. "We wouldn't be able to do as much without everyone's support."

Military Student Services has received grants from two campus entities. The Parents Advisory Council awarded the program two \$2,000 grants, and in 2013, the WKU Sisterhood recognized the importance of this program by awarding a \$20,000 grant as part of its annual grant funding cycle.

"These grants allowed us to open the program to military spouses and children taking courses at WKU," Archey said. "It is important to help the whole military household."

In the spring 2014 semester, the program assisted more than 22 military dependents with more than 100 textbooks.



Other Services

Military Student Services also helps military students by providing a student lounge as a quiet place for study and relaxation. In addition, the staff of Military Student Services works closely with the Counseling & Testing Center to help students who are interested in CLEP examinations, and to any student needing counseling assistance. Also, a Veterans Resource Center on the fourth floor of Tate Page Hall features four computers, which are used daily by students in the program.

A Vet-2-Vet Peer Mentorship Program is modeled after the transition program the military has to help soldiers transition between duty stations. "We are continuing the tradition of sponsorship to ease the transition into campus life," said Archey.

Two organizations on campus also ease the transition from the military to college. The Student Veterans Alliance (SVA) is a veteran-run student organization that was established to provide military veterans, active duty, reserve, National Guard and their dependents with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education.

WKU is intriguing to soldiers and veterans because of the many degree options, as well as the available options for distance and online study. In the military, continuing education is a pathway to promotion. WKU has degree programs that can be completed entirely online, which is appealing to soldiers who may be stationed across the country or even overseas.

"My favorite part of my job is that people leave our office feeling better and more confident," Johnson said. "We are helping them succeed. Especially when someone is faced with an issue like not being able to afford tuition, we can help them. That makes them feel good."

Wilson agrees, as his favorite part of the job is meeting people and especially being able to help them. "I've been in their shoes and I can relate," he said.

For Archey, helping someone succeed is a great feeling. "We might only do something small to help them, but we do it because it is the right thing to do," she said. "This job is incredibly gratifying. Helping students get through college—military or not—brings me a lot of satisfaction."

Military Student Services is currently refining their methods of identifying veterans, students with military experience or those who are military dependents. Archey wants to see every military student who enters WKU successfully graduate and secure a position in his or her career choice.

Not every military student at WKU will need or seek out the aid of Military Student Services, but for those who do, it is an important lifeline and a place to find friendship.

"One of my catch phrases is 'the more you learn, the more you earn,'" Archey said. "We want to help make it easier for soldiers to get an education. This is a way we can say thank you for their service."



Joseph R. Hunter

Hometown: Madisonville, Ky.
Major: Electrical Engineering
Branch of Service: U.S. Marine Corps Veteran



"Military Student Services has become a home for me. It is a place where I feel welcome and comfortable and I am able to share my college issues with people who understand our unique life experiences. It is a place where I can also reach out and help others who are experiencing the same issues that I have overcome."

AROUND CAMPUS

The Augenstein Alumni Center: A Year Later

What a difference a year makes! In the spring of 2013, the WKU Alumni Association opened the magnificent Augenstein Alumni Center (AAC) with great fanfare and promise.



Here are a few highlights of the past year:

The Augenstein Alumni Center is now the official **WKU Welcome Center**, as well as the starting point for all prospective-student tours. Before they board the tour bus, students view a video and hear all about WKU in the Watkins Auditorium. Jennifer Ragan, Welcome Center Associate/Campus Operator and 24-year veteran WKU employee, greets guests when they arrive and directs them to the appropriate locations. Going far above and beyond the role of a typical greeter, Ragan can often be found highlighting routes on campus maps, pulling brochures and making special calls to departments or programs to give students a personal touch and an excellent first impression of the University.

"Having the WKU Welcome Center in our lobby is proving to be a great decision," DuBose said. "As a result of student tours, special events and folks just stopping in to visit, we have hundreds of people walk through our doors each week. Our Welcome Center staff, led by Jennifer Ragan, is outstanding and can answer nearly every question that comes their way. Plus, we have installed brochure racks that provide information on nearly all aspects of the University. And through a partnership with the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, we also provide area tourism material. There is not a better location to welcome anyone and everyone to campus."

"We are happy to report that this fine facility is truly measuring up to the hype and is exceeding our expectations," said Rick DuBose ('73), Alumni Association Executive Director.



WKU's most beloved icon is now a permanent part of the Augenstein Alumni Center as the WKU Alumni Association unveiled a **life-size bronze statue of the Big Red Mascot** in April. Designed and crafted by world-renowned sculptor Russ Faxon ('74), the statue is located in the Alumni Plaza adjacent to the Augenstein Alumni Center. The new addition was made possible by a gift from WKU's Young Alumni Council (YAC), made up of graduates from the last decade.

"We are very excited to have WKU alum Russ Faxon's statue of Big Red in place in the center of Alumni Plaza to welcome all those coming down the Hill to the Augenstein Alumni Center," DuBose said. "It is very appropriate to have our iconic mascot, Big Red, at the entrance to Alumni Square, welcoming all as only Big Red can do. Our thanks to the Young Alumni Council for raising the funding to make the statue a reality. The Plaza and Big Red make for a terrific photo opportunity, with the Augenstein Alumni Center as the perfect background."

Brandon K. Davis ('04), President of the Young Alumni Council, said the group was excited to put their support behind a project that would resonate with recent graduates. "Adults in their 20s and 30s are hitting some life milestones—getting married, having children and advancing in their careers," he said, "and Big Red is there. You see Big Red plush toys in cribs, Big Red shows up at wedding receptions, and Big Red bobbleheads can be found on plenty of desks around the country. The idea that we may leave the Hill, but the Hill never leaves us, is why YAC wanted to be the one to bring the Big Red statue to campus. Big Red represents our best memories from college and the memories yet to come."

In addition, DuBose noted that the Alliance Corporation, the general contractor for the Augenstein Alumni Center, was recently honored by the Associated General Contractors of America with a **Build Kentucky Award** in the category of \$5 million - \$10 million LEED project. Many of the AAC's building materials, material sources, construction processes and end use reflect the WKU Alumni Association's commitment to sustainability. With a goal



of LEED Certification, the energy-efficient building blends state-of-the-art technology with a historical look and feel to complement the campus architecture.

"As one of Kentucky's premier projects of 2013, the AAC was recognized for excellence in construction, project management, innovative design, conceptual development and positive impact on the community," DuBose said. "What makes this especially gratifying is that the Alliance Corporation and its CEO, Tommy Gumm, are also great supporters of this University and have been for many years, providing both scholarship and programmatic support."

On all home football game days in 2013, **Opening Act**, sponsored by US Bank, began an Augenstein Alumni Center tailgating tradition,





complete with food, beverages and games on the big screens. For the first time in decades, the new alumni home provides the opportunity to present **Fifth Quarter**, a post-game Homecoming dance. The annual **Graduation Fair** is now being held in the AAC ballrooms in the fall and spring, providing another excellent opportunity to connect with future alums before they graduate.

Numerous community groups, businesses and individuals are scheduling the Robertson and Feix Ballrooms, Guillaume Board Room, Greenwell Executive Dining Room, Mutchler Family Living Room and Owsley Library for meetings, receptions, dinners and weddings. Conferencing and Catering manages the space rental and services all meeting and catering needs.



Construction is in full swing for the **Hyatt Place Hotel**, at the rear of the Alumni Center, with completion set for Spring 2015. Once the adjacent projects are finalized, the Alumni Association will complete the **State Farm Courtyard**, made possible through the support of area agents.

Last but not least, the Student Alumni Association recently introduced its mascot, **Wally the White Squirrel**. Be on the lookout for Wally at games and all over campus. And yes, he and Big Red are buddies!

"It has truly been an exciting year," DuBose concluded. "As a staff, we are just beginning to feel the synergy and energy created by having the space and equipment needed to grow the Association to better serve you and our University. We hope our alums will come see us soon and often."

RENT THE AUGENSTEIN ALUMNI CENTER FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

The Augenstein Alumni Center is located at the corner of Center Street and Alumni Avenue on the WKU Campus in Bowling Green. It provides elegant and comfortable space for visiting alumni and the WKU community to hold meetings, social events and educational programs. Many functions are accommodated in a variety of venues accessible to virtually any size audience. Contact WKU Conferencing and Catering for more information at 270-745-1908 or www.wku.edu/alumnicenter.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



WKU-Owensboro researcher testing basil as cancer treatment

By Tommy Newton ('84)

Plants that may help fight breast cancer are sprouting and taking root in a WKU biology faculty member's laboratory at the Owensboro Center for Business and Research.

Dr. Chandra Emani, Assistant Professor of Plant Molecular Biology at WKU-Owensboro, is conducting research on the pharmaceutical and therapeutic benefits of the basil plant (*ocimum sp.*), the herb widely known for its medicinal and culinary uses.

"If you look at the east, they've been using the plant not exactly as a medication but a supplement for a lot of treatments," he said. "Basil is a plant which has a lot of compounds called metabolites, meaning the leaves of a basic basil plant, like any other plant, make a lot of stuff."

In his lab at the Owensboro, Ky., facility, Dr. Emani and his students are genetically engineering the basil to produce more eugenol, a compound in basil that "has a very great pharmaceutical value because it's shown to control breast cancer."

"When you grind these basil leaves, there is a compound called eugenol that comes out," said Dr. Emani, who received a \$12,000 Research and Creative Activities Program (RCAP) grant from WKU's Office of Research. "Eugenol, when they put it on a plate where there are tumor cells, it stopped growth of the tumor cells. That was a proof of concept experiment which was done a long time back."

Through his research, Dr. Emani is continuing to build the proof of concept

that basil could produce a useful plant-based pharmaceutical to treat breast cancer.

"If I make it make higher and higher amounts of eugenol, that plant, the basil plant, will be a storehouse of that anti-cancerous compound," he said.

The next phase in the research project would be to test the compound as an effective cancer treatment. "If I can show it stops breast cancer growth, I have now an environmentally friendly plant-based treatment for breast cancer," Dr. Emani said.

With those results, Dr. Emani would then be able to seek funding from other research agencies for clinical trials "to see if this is an effective way to get a pharmaceutical compound from a plant."



Kentucky Proud:

Alum takes road less traveled in promoting Commonwealth

This article first appeared in the College Heights Herald

By Anna Roederer

By night Cory Ramsey works as a welder, but by day he puts on his forest green fedora and is an explorer of Kentucky's unknown places. Life has led Ramsey on a different path than the one he imagined for himself while in college.

"In college I didn't travel at all," he said. "I would not leave town. I used to think that Barren River was too far."

What began as a hiking adventure due to a layoff in 2009 has now led Ramsey, a 2004 WKU graduate, on road trips to places in Kentucky such as Frosty Freeze, Do Stop, and Licksillet.

"My goal is to drive every mile of road in Kentucky," Ramsey said. "It will take the rest of my life."

His passion has turned into a second job, as Ramsey writes for state tourism as well and appears monthly on Bowling Green's WBKO television station. He is sponsored by Kentucky businesses like Morris Jewelry in downtown Bowling Green.

Ramsey believes that Kentucky is much more than the tourism industry-promoted cities of Louisville and Lexington, and he recently founded Map Dot, Kentucky, to highlight Kentucky's towns off the beaten track. He wants to be a voice for the people who normally do not receive attention.



To see more pictures and follow Ramsey's journey, visit www.facebook.com/mapdotkentucky.

"I'm kind of like an ambassador, a champion of the cause for the folks," he said.

Ramsey considers this cause relatable for many WKU students who are from all over the state.

"They have somebody in the sticks," Ramsey said.

Sometimes Ramsey's map dots might be a town with only a closed general store like Bugtussle, but it is the winding journey through one-lane roads and the stops along the way that matter.

"If you only drive the highways and parkways, you miss Kentucky," Ramsey said.

While off the highway, Ramsey got a taste of life from Barry and Becky Kaufmann, owners of Main Street Grocery and Hardware in Fountain Run.

Sitting in his Kentucky-crafted rocker, Barry listened as Becky expressed her excitement for the new drink in town.

"We're excited to have [Ale 8]," Becky said. "It's something different."

The one-room general store filled with shelves of food and walls covered in Bible verse signs is life for the Kaufmanns. Ramsey said he enjoys unearthing these small mom-and-pop style operations.

"People live in their own little worlds and this is theirs," Ramsey said.

By meeting with residents like the Kaufmanns, Ramsey wants to connect with the people's outlet and dispel small town stereotypes.

"They're regular good people," Ramsey said. "They get up, drink their coffee and don't think anything of it."

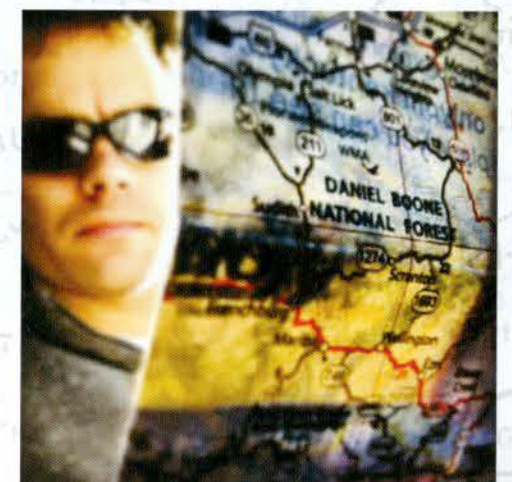
Ramsey also wants to dismiss the idea that life only happens in the big cities.

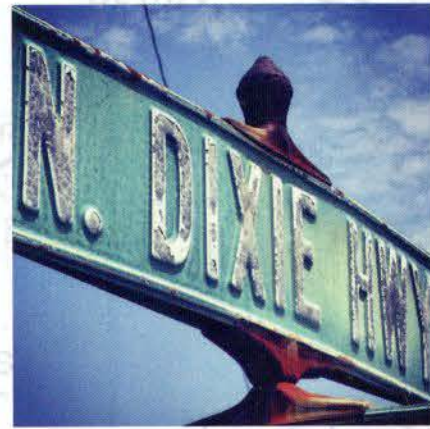
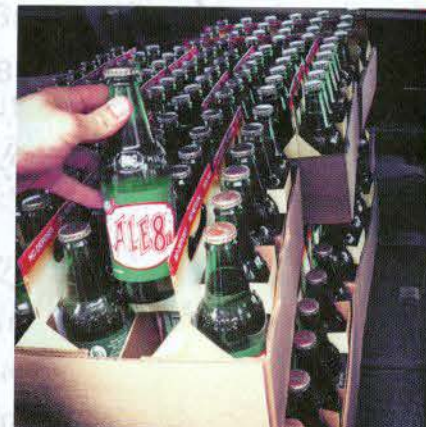
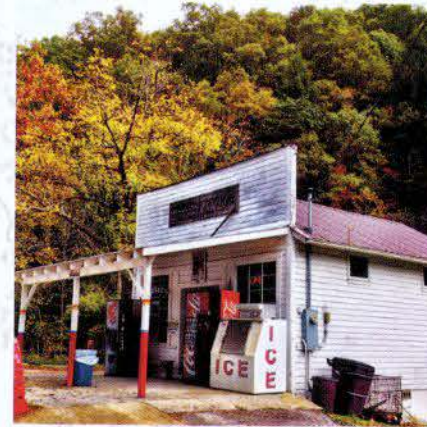
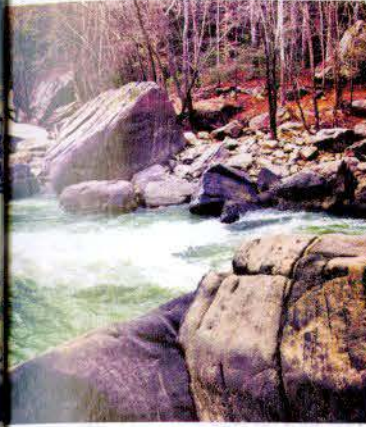
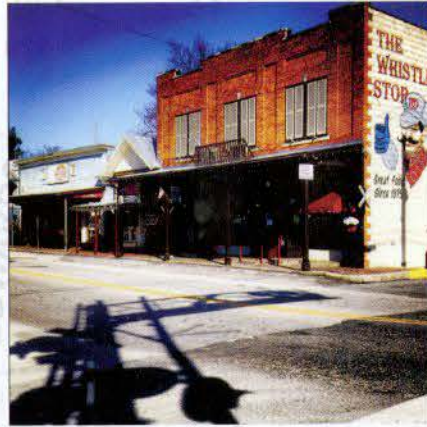
"Culture and reality are in small towns, not just on some show or reality TV," he said.

For Kathy Ford, working at Dovie's in Tompkinsville has been her reality for the past 13 years. Ford makes time to chat with all of her customers before serving them one of Dovie's deliciously famous greasy burgers. She proudly tells of her daughter's success in Geometry class to a customer, while later she casually mentions that people from as far away as Germany and Poland have come to Dovie's.

"One time we FedExed a burger to a lady who had cancer," Ford said. Ramsey received several "likes" within seconds of updating his website to highlight Dovie's, illustrating people's sense of pride in having their place recognized.

Through his travels, Ramsey has developed a sense of ownership of the state. Eventually he would like Map Dot, Kentucky to stand by itself and be a full-fledged tourism operation.





My Dot: Hickman

Blog Entry from coryramseyoutdoors.com

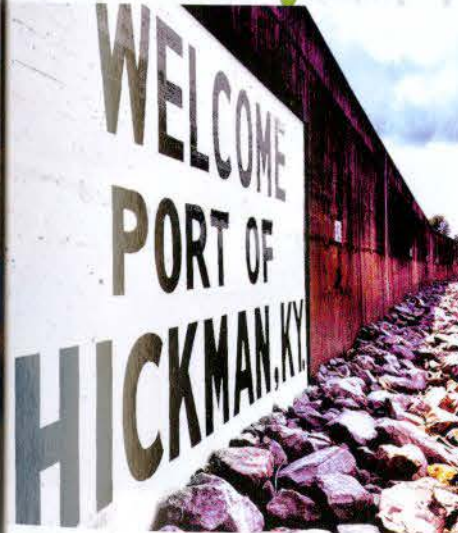
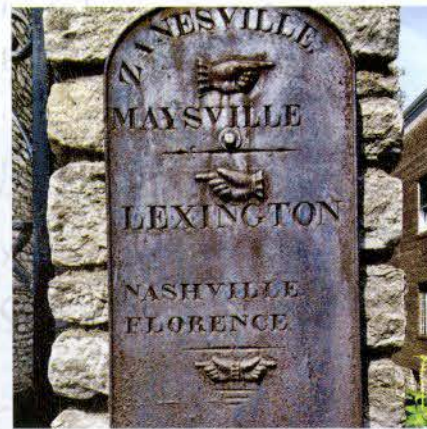
"I'm from, a Map Dot..." -Tim McGraw

Cory here. I grew up in a Map Dot town, Hickman, Ky. No, you don't know where that's at. No, it's not near Paducah. It's an hour FURTHER.

Over the past 30 years, I've known first hand what it's like to be forgotten about sometimes. Forgotten unless a major flood or tragedy happens. Forgotten about from the rest of the progressing towns further east. At the end of a two-lane road going to nowhere, that's where I learned life.

As folks from a small town, we should all stand up and be known. Our towns are beautiful. Our towns are worth visiting and living in. Our towns are part of what makes Kentucky, well, Kentucky.

And I'm going to make sure every town like Hickman gets noticed.



"When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are.
Anything your heart desires will come to you."
- from the movie *Pinocchio*

WISHING ON A STAR

By Carol Cummings ('92)

Since the early 1980s, more than 1,000 WKU students have gained real-world work experience with Disney through the Disney College Program, an internship program offered at Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort. The Disney College Program (CP) recruits students from all majors to work for a semester or longer.

Program participants come from all parts of the United States, and can work in many areas, including positions in hospitality (front desk, bell services, concierge, housekeeping), food and beverage (quick service and full service), operations (photography, custodial, transportation, attractions), retail (merchandise), recreation (lifeguard, golf courses, activity centers) and entertainment (costuming, character performer, character attendant).

WKU students apply for many different reasons. **Natalie Gilliam**, a Lexington, Ky., junior, applied during her freshman year. "I loved Disney, and I was looking for an internship opportunity for the early part of my college experience," she said. "I attended the information session and was sold."

Brandon Hendrix ('12), who served in the Disney College Program in 2008 and an Alumni Summer Program in 2010, applied on a whim when his then-girlfriend decided to apply. "Without her interest I would have never landed in Orlando," he explained. "The ironic part is I was accepted into the program, and she was not. The next semester I left, and she stayed at WKU."

Michael Huff, a Buffalo, Ky., junior majoring in Sales and Marketing, just successfully completed his Disney College Program in May. "Simply put, I was looking for another adventure," he said. "Having lived on campus for two years and attended Harlaxton in Europe, I wanted to once again get out of my comfort zone."

Clay, Ky., junior **KaSandra Mitchell** was looking for life direction when she applied for the program during her freshman year. "When I arrived at WKU, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do with my life," she said. "I had received an email inviting me to come to a presentation about the program, and I figured I would give it a shot. I was immediately obsessed with the idea of moving to either Florida or California where I didn't know a soul, and having the experience of a lifetime."

Having visited Disney many times as a child, **Jessica Martin Carver ('08, '14)** knew from the time she was in high school that she wanted to be a part of the Program.

During her sophomore year at WKU, she applied and indicated several choices, including character performer, attractions and merchandising. "I attended an audition over spring break," she explained. "During my audition, they taught us movements, a dance and an animation exercise. I was excited to be chosen as a character performer, which was my first choice."

While working at Disney from June 2005 to January 2006, Carver was "friends" with a number of princesses, including Belle, Cinderella and Aurora. "I worked in the restaurants and at park greetings," she explained. "I also performed in the Castle Show and in the parades."

Eventually receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and her Master of Arts in Communication, Carver said the program taught her a great deal about having a strong work ethic, interacting with people from different cultures and treating others with respect. "I enjoyed seeing everything behind the scenes and learning

how they make all the magic," she said.

Huff, who recently completed his Disney College Program, also worked in the entertainment division, where he was "friends" with many characters, including Woody, Goofy, Baloo, Captain Hook, Tigger and Stormtrooper. "The Disney way is an impressive system," he said. "I am sure it will follow me throughout my career. Though some of the magic has been revealed to me, watching this goliath of a company function has become a wonder in itself."

Springfield, Ohio, native **Leah Voss ('14)** experienced Program in the Spring of 2008, serving as an Attractions cast member and working at Test Track in Epcot. "I was able to interact a lot with guests, the people who make Walt Disney World what it is," she said. "My favorite part about work was receiving an assignment to perform a Magical Moment, where I would get to pick a family out of the line, bring them backstage and put them right onto the ride. I understood that people invest a lot to make the trip to the parks, and I wanted to help make it a relaxed and exciting trip for the thousands of families I met."

photo courtesy of The Walt Disney Company



"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

-from *How to Be Like Walt: Capturing the Magic Every Day of Your Life*



"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.
You find the fun and snap! The job's a game." - from the movie *Mary Poppins*

At first glance, Hendrix's positions may have seemed less magical, as he worked as a custodian in the Magic Kingdom Park during both of his Program experiences. However, his Program had such an impact on him that he served as a College Program Campus Rep at WKU for five semesters. "The program offers dozens of roles to perform, and yeah, twice I chose to be a custodian," he explained. "The job does not sound like a magical time, but for five semesters I did my best to share my experience with them."

Hendrix says being a custodian at Disney can be wonderful. "To break it down, you are assigned a section of the park to sweep (he worked in Frontierland and Adventureland), keep the trash bins low and mainly chat with and assist the guests in any way," he explained. "It really was 75 percent guest interaction and the other 25 percent time management to keep your section of the park clean."

Therefore, walking through Adventureland in the wonderful weather of Orlando, while sweeping popcorn and chatting with families on vacation was actually a pretty nice way to spend a semester. "I must admit sometimes in custodial you are assigned a restroom shift. But in my opinion, anyone not willing to get their hands dirty every now and then will have a tough time ever moving forward in any line of work."

Gilliam agreed. "I worked at Sunset Market Ranch at Disney's Hollywood Studios, which was a group of quick service restaurants that included Starring Rolls Bakery, Min & Bill's Dockside Diner, Fairfax Fare and the Toluca Legs Turkey Co.," she shared. "I worked the register, took orders, bussed tables and pin traded with guests."

The fast-paced work environment taught her a

great deal about customer service, which is a Disney expectation. "Even the quick service cast members learn about the importance of show," she explained. "We had to be well-groomed, and our costumes had to be perfect."

Working in food service, Gilliam said she initially came into the experience with an "I'm better than this" mentality, but the experience was both humbling and gratifying. "I learned a lot about hard work, and I learned to appreciate what I have," she said.

Hendrix agreed. "Disney is a classic workplace as far as appearance guidelines go," he said, "hair off the ears and collar, zero tattoos visible, restrictions on jewelry and piercings, clean shaven, natural hair color. How rare is that in our modern workplace?"

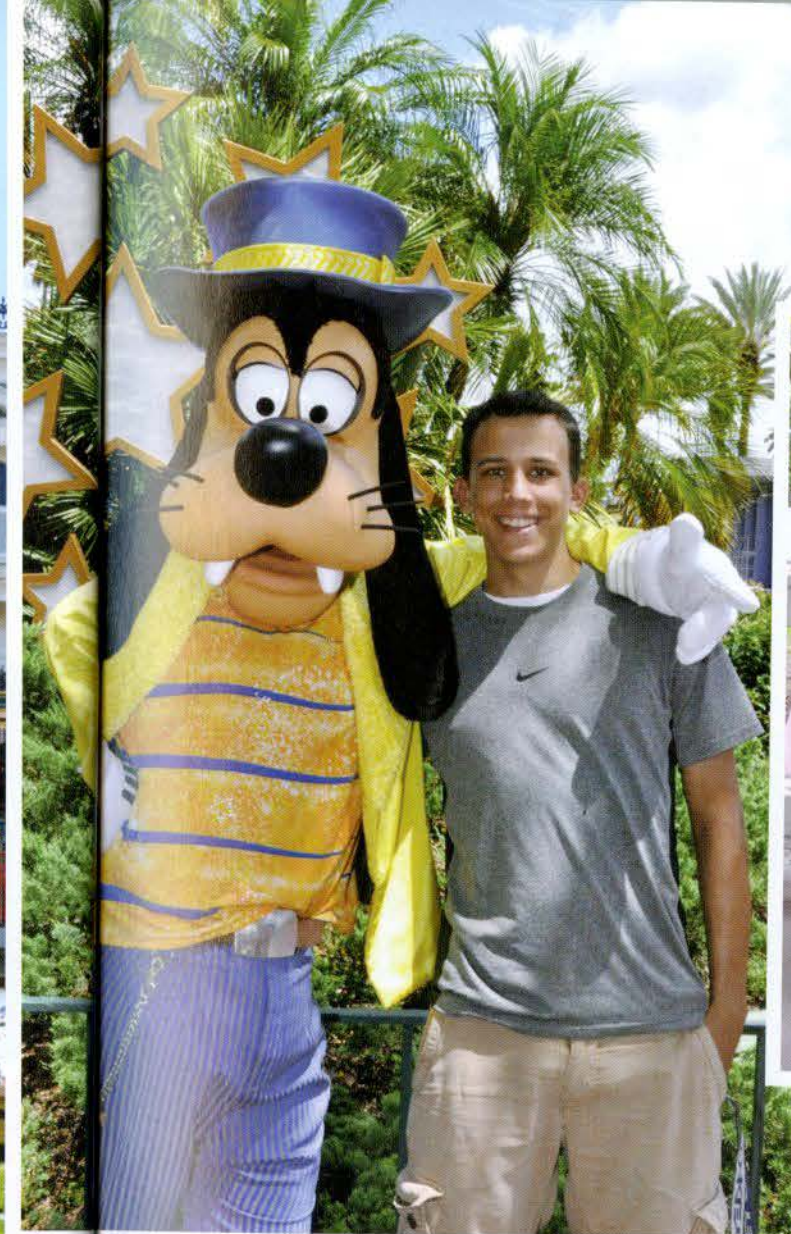
Disney also focuses on the four keys of customer service: safety, courtesy, show and efficiency. "Before they let you interact with their guests, you learn all of the basics," Hendrix shared, with lessons that include "anticipating needs, no need is ever too much and the guest is all that matters."

As Disney College Program Campus Reps, both Mitchell and Voss promote the program on campus and encourage students to apply. "It feels great that I've helped teach people that working for Disney is an attainable goal," Voss shared. "Some students have never heard of the program, and their reactions when they realize these opportunities exist are great."

Mitchell agreed. "I enjoy spreading the word about the program, helping students in their application process and answering any questions they might have. Your time with the CP always stands out on a resume, and I haven't had a single interview that the employer hasn't wanted to hear about my experience with the company."



"You think the only people who are people, are the people who look and think like you.
But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger, you'll learn things you never knew you never knew."
- from the movie *Pocahontas*



"If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all!" - from the movie *Bambi*

Gilliam, who is majoring in Corporate and Organizational Communication with a minor in Meeting, Convention and Exposition Planning, said she learned to never say "no" for any reason, offering guests replacements on any unsatisfactory items, making "magical moments" and even offering up free t-shirts to make the recipient of a wet spill more comfortable. "Disney truly teaches you about excellence in customer service."

Mitchell, a Public Relations major, believes Disney is one of the most successful businesses in the world for several reasons. "They not only create magic for all of their guests, but for their employees as well," she said. "They have perfected guest service and set a bar in hospitality that is almost impossible to surpass. Every single thing you experience at Disney has been strategically thought

about and executed to enhance your experience. Disney trains people to act professionally and personably at every level. Even as a lifeguard, I learned so many valuable skills during my training and workplace that will benefit me in the future, such as proper communication with international guests, representing a company at all times, and how to portray yourself in future jobs and interviews."

Hendrix, who majored in Communication and minored in Tourism, is still working in the service industry today. "What I learned at Disney has long since become part of my daily actions," he said. "Maybe that's why I enjoy my jobs and choose the jobs I do. I believe most employers know this, and when they see a resume with Disney on it they can almost assume that person is going to give flawless customer service."



photo courtesy of Laura Leigh Reed

Center for Career and Professional Development

At WKU, the Disney College Program process is coordinated through the Center for Career and Professional Development, which has a mission to "assist students and alumni in identifying and reaching their career and employment goals, to help employers access an educated and highly trained workforce, and to support faculty and staff in providing opportunities to increase student learning and skill development."

Associate Director Rebecca Tinker serves as the liaison for the Program and also helps make all of the Center's services available to WKU students, alumni,

faculty, staff, WKU families, extended campuses and the surrounding communities.

"All of our services are available to current students and alumni," Tinker said. "We help with professional development, career changes and questions. We have trained staff available to help with any level and in any field. We also help with post-retirement options, as folks figure out the next phase of their lives."

Wondering, "What's next?" Contact the Center for Career and Professional Development at (270) 745-3095, or visit them online at wku.edu/career.



Though the CP experience may have come early in their college careers, all participants marked it as a pivotal moment in their professional journeys.

"I feel like I started my career at 19 years old because the training and experience of working for this company matured me in ways I didn't even realize at the time," Voss shared. "For the past four years I've been studying Photojournalism at WKU, so I've been interacting with people, usually strangers at first, non-stop. Working at Disney helped teach me how to interact with people and mostly, to never stop smiling."

Carver, who still visits Disney every year and participates in many of their races, both half-marathons and 10-milers, said the experience set her on a professional path that led her first to Los Angeles, then to New York and now back to WKU, where she works in the Development Office.

Hendrix, whose journey has taken him to Portland, Ore., said the program taught him that the world was his oyster.

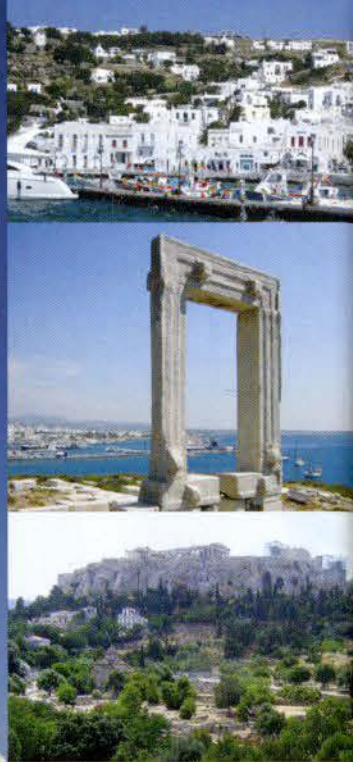
"Disney showed me at a young age the world is much bigger than Kentucky and gave me an appetite to travel the globe."

"My love for Disney only grows every single day," Mitchell said. "The College Program opened up so many doors for me, and my experience there was nothing short of incredible. The company continues to surprise me in different ways. I keep in touch with several people from my Program, and visit them several times a year. It's been three years since my Program, and the friends I made there are still willing to host me if I come to their city and my international friends are even willing to help me find job opportunities abroad. The possibilities with this Program are endless."

With a goal of earning a Disney Professional Internship after graduation, Mitchell said, "Disney proved to me that you can find a job within a company that you love and are happy with. You just have to step outside of your comfort zone sometimes and put your best foot forward."

"To infinity and beyond!" -from the movie Toy Story

WKU Topper Travelers



25 Years of Excellence

**May
2015**

Athens and the Greek Isles An Aegean Odyssey

Hosted by: Dr. Joseph and Paula Trafton

Join fellow alumni as we visit: The Parthenon; the Acropolis; classical Athens; St. Paul's Corinth; the island of Paros, with its majestic Church of a Hundred Doors; Delos, the mythical island birthplace of the Greek god Apollo and his twin sister, Artemis; Mykonos, with its winding "pirate-proof" streets; Naxos, the island where Theseus abandoned Ariadne, the daughter of the mythical king Minos of Crete, after she helped him solve

the Labyrinth and kill the Minotaur; and breathtaking Santorini, ranked #1 on the "Best Islands in the World" list, with its spectacular views and its excavated ruins of a 3500-year-old city buried by lava.

Whitewashed houses with blue doors, scenic harbors, beautiful beaches, seaside taverns, and gorgeous sunsets await!

Space is limited. For more information, please contact Tracy Morrison at 270.745.3606 • tracy.morrison@wku.edu

WKU Goes to Washington!

September 25 - 27, 2014



Experience Washington, D.C., with fellow Hilltoppers! Join us for a two-day trip around the nation's capital in a luxury motor coach with knowledgeable and experienced tour guides. Saturday we travel to the United States Naval Academy in historic Annapolis, Md., for a private tour of the Academy before tailgating in the stadium and cheering the Toppers on to victory.

**GO TOPPERS ...
BEAT NAVY**
WKU Hilltoppers vs. Navy Midshipmen
September 27, 2014



Limited Edition 25th Anniversary 6-Pin set (only 150 available)

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of WKU Public Television (WKU PBS), we have created a boxed set of six lapel pins that showcase the history of Western Kentucky University Television.

In 1989, WKYU-TV signed on as the only public television station licensed to a public university in Kentucky. Twenty-five years later we are still operating in that manner.

These boxed, numbered sets were produced from artwork designed to complement WKU and our affiliation with PBS. Also, we have included the HSSN logo to highlight our relationship to WKU athletics.

This is a unique way to stay connected to WKU PBS and to your alma mater while supporting our ongoing commitment to provide educational and informational content to our region.



Stay
connected.

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WKU PBS
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Please make checks payable to: **WKU PBS**
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**Receive the entire boxed set with
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Bowling Green, KY 42101-1034

You may also contact us at 270.745.5039

I also want to be a sustaining member by giving monthly:

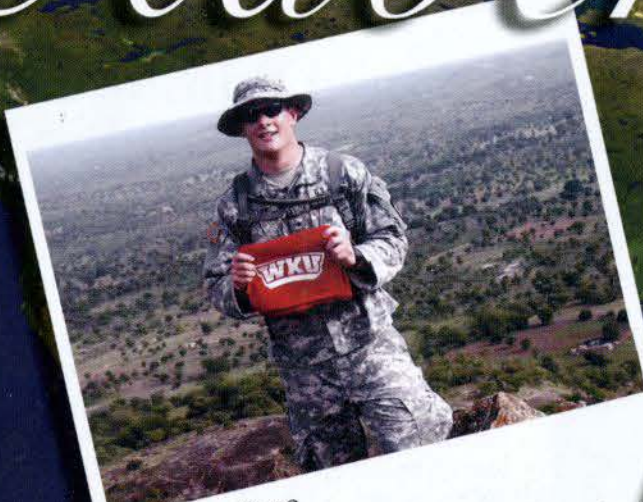
☐ \$20/month ☐ \$10/month
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Adventures of the

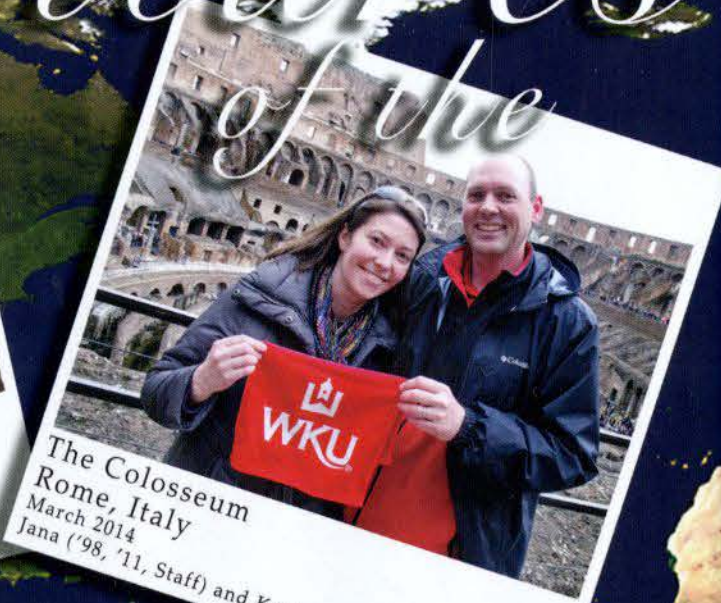
RED TOWEL



See all the Adventures of the Red Towel
online at www.alumni.wku.edu/redtoweltravels



Burkina Faso
West Africa
June 2013
WKU ROTC Cadet Zach Pillow (current student)



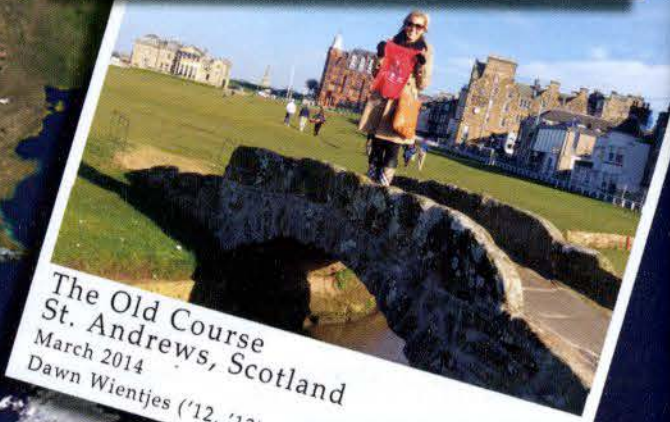
The Colosseum
Rome, Italy
March 2014
Jana ('98, '11, Staff) and Kurt Fattic ('98, Staff)



Montego Bay, Jamaica
February 2014
Jason ('06) and Keri Jo Rominger



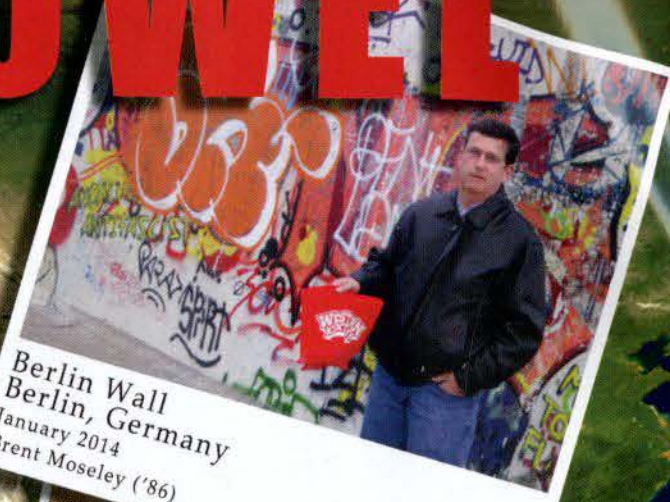
Koko Head Crater
Oahu, Hawaii
August 2013
Clint Lester ('07) and Staci (Miller) Lester ('07)



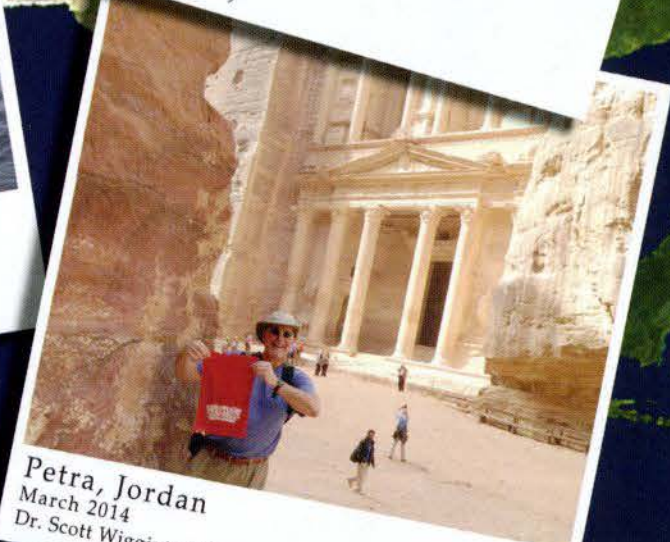
The Old Course
St. Andrews, Scotland
March 2014
Dawn Wientjes ('12, '13)



Lake Nicaragua
San Jorge Rivas, Nicaragua
March 2014
Erin Engler ('08)



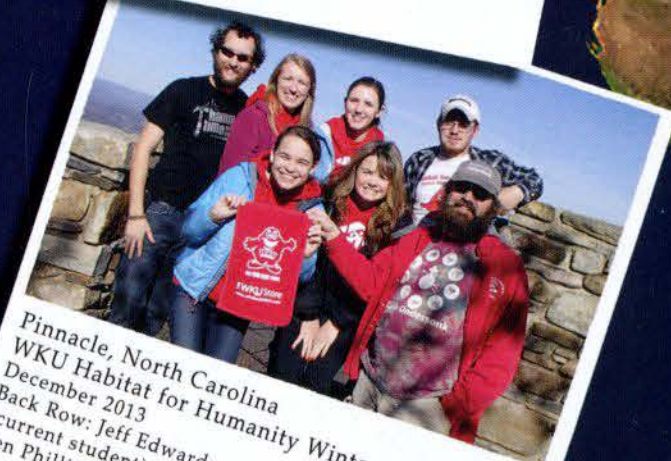
Berlin Wall
Berlin, Germany
January 2014
Brent Moseley ('86)



Petra, Jordan
March 2014
Dr. Scott Wigginton ('81)



Bandung, Indonesia
July 2013
Atmam Anwar ('90), Asep Sundara ('90), Mardiana Oesman ('90), Monisa Wright ('77, Staff), and Jack Wright ('76)



Pinnacle, North Carolina
WKU Habitat for Humanity Winter Break Trip
December 2013
Back Row: Jeff Edwards (current student), Kate Block (current student), Courtlyn Sells (current student), and Ben Phillips (current student)
Front Row: Kateri Anne Rhodes ('13), Kendra Whitaker (current student), and Dr. Bryan Reaka ('11, '13, Faculty)

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Please list names of each person in picture and their graduation year. Please include date and location of picture. Send pictures to: WKU Alumni Association, Red Towel Travels, 292 Alumni Ave. Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or email to alumni@wku.edu. Pictures will not be returned.

THE PROFESSOR WHO CHANGED MY LIFE



Dr. Randy Capps Q&A with former student, Dan Pelino

Dan Pelino ('79, '80) is General Manager, Global Public Sector for IBM Corporation, where he leads IBM's business with government, educational institutions, public and private healthcare providers and payers, biotech and pharmaceutical companies, medical device and instrument components, as well as consumer organizations worldwide. During his time at WKU, Pelino was greatly influenced by Dr. Randy Capps in the Department of Communication. Dr. Randy Capps has served 18 years as department head at WKU and three years as Assistant to the President. Most recently he is completing a year as Interim Head of the Department of Psychology. During his tenure at WKU he has also spent time in the corporate world, including one sabbatical at the General Motors Corporation on an educational grant researching leadership among executives. He spent another year on leave from WKU, advising the Whirlpool Corporation on change management programs.

Dr. Capps has received four grants from the Quebec government to research management practices among Canadian companies. His last book, *Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Quebec: How the Province Became a World Class Player*, was a result of that research. Since 1994, he has split his time between teaching MBA students and managing a consulting practice, Leadership Strategies Group. The consulting practice is focused on leadership and management development with corporations and non-profits around the United States. At WKU, he has won awards for both teaching and research. He currently serves as a Scholar-in-Residence with the Gordon Ford College of Business. He also serves as a Visiting Professor at the University of Lyon, France, where he regularly teaches in their International MBA program. He holds degrees from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Western Kentucky University and the University of Virginia.



Dan Pelino (1979)



Dr. Randy Capps (1979)

We sat down with Dan to learn more about how Dr. Capps changed his life.

Q. Tell me about your first experience as a student under Dr. Capps.

A. It was 35 years ago that I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Capps. Dr. Capps was the Department Head responsible for the Organizational Communications Program on campus. My undergraduate class schedule included several classes taught by professors who were in the department led by Dr. Capps. I graduated in 1979 with a major in Business Administration from the College of Business and a major in Public Relations from the Journalism School. It was Dr. Capps who convinced me that I needed to pursue an umbrella advanced discipline—combining all that I had learned at Western Kentucky University in my undergraduate work and to pursue a graduate degree in Organizational Communications and Behavior. He saw something in me that would change my life forever. And, as they say, the rest is history!

Q. About how many classes did you take with him? Was he your adviser?

A. Dr. Capps guided me in my undergraduate work and most specifically in my graduate studies. He created a specific program based on my interests and was active in directing my continuing education. More than an adviser or a professor, his personal expertise, wisdom and involvement in designing and guiding my graduate studies program charted a course for my future. This has paid dividends for my entire professional career. Dr. Capps represents what is so impactful about a Western Kentucky University educational experience: deep in content, rich in experience and unique to the student.

Q. In what ways did Dr. Capps influence you as a professional?

A. Dr. Capps' influence has been present throughout my career and many professional decisions. From advice on how to build teams to handling difficult situations, from driving transformational change at a corporate level to personally challenging me to do more, his willingness to listen, offer advice and encouragement has given me the confidence and courage to stretch myself well beyond my own ambitions. He also encouraged me to apply for a job at IBM... in 1980! Thirty-four years later, I am very thankful for his encouragement!

Q. Tell me a bit about how you have kept in touch with him over the years.

A. Dr. Capps and I speak regularly. Often I call for advice. He invites me to speak to classes where we share ideas, new thoughts and aspirations. I have tremendous respect for his point of view. Very few leaders have had the experiences that have guided Dr. Capps. From serving in the President's Office, to building a successful business—Leadership Strategies, from teaching globally to stepping in to run a department on campus, he is worldly yet balanced, making him a tremendous resource and individual that I seek often.



A 1976 autograph party gave Dr. Randy Capps, head of the Speech and Communication Department, a chance to sign copies of his latest book.



Dan Pelino pictured with the Public Relations Student Society (left) and with members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity (right).



Q. Tell me a bit about your experience at WKU — special memories? Organizations you were involved in?

A. Attending Western Kentucky University was a life-changing experience for me. Not only did I receive a world-class education and college experience, but I also made many lifelong friends. My WKU experience started as a wide-eyed, curious and probably somewhat nervous high school student coming from Rochester, N.Y., for a campus visit. My Dad and a best friend from high school arrived on campus for a visit, both of us searching for an educational home and a meaningful college experience. During the visit, Dr. Dero Downing, the President of the University at that time, greeted us and offered me the “right hand of fellowship,” literally, saying to me “Son, we really want you to come to Western Kentucky University.” For those of you who had the privilege to know Dr. Downing, you know there was no turning down his most gracious invitation.

I was a member of the University Golf Team for a few years under the legendary Coach Frank Griffin. I joined a terrific fraternity—Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A special memory is the creation of Big Red by my fraternity brother and roommate Ralph Carey! I was elected to three national positions with the Public Relations Student Society of America, including being elected National Chairman in 1978. While in graduate school, I served as WKU’s first Chairman of the University Center Board, and I worked on campus with freshman registration and orientation. I was also the tutor-in-residence for the fraternity. I truly enjoyed my time on campus and am delighted to continue to return to campus in support of Dr. Capps and Dr. Ransdell, WKU’s current President.

“The motto, The Spirit Makes the Master has grounded Western Kentucky University in a rich tradition, and Dr. Ransdell’s vision that Western Kentucky University is a leading American university with international reach is guiding the University into the future.” - Dan Pelino



Thumbs-Up!

Thumbs-Up! is a new department of WKU SPIRIT that is devoted to recognizing the artistic endeavors of our talented alumni. We want to honor your creative spirit and share your achievements. Do you have something to share with your fellow alumni? Have you recently published a book, sang your heart out in a musical, or held an exhibition of your artwork? Please submit your announcement by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

Q&A with Joe Survant By the Daily News



Bowling Green resident Joe Survant, a native of Owensboro, Ky., is a prize-winning author who taught creative writing, among other subjects, at WKU until 2007. Kentucky’s Poet Laureate from 2002 to 2004, Survant also taught at the University of Kentucky and on a Fulbright Fellowship at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia.

Talk about your latest book, *That Land We Dreamed*:
“The best way to describe it is to say it’s historical

narrative poetry about various discoveries of Kentucky starting with the Ice Age to the Nomadic Period and beyond... Lowell Harrison (a WKU History professor, now deceased), he and I used to have coffee, and I would always bring up the question about who were the first Europeans to see Kentucky... He said it might have been French Jesuits who wandered down from the Great Lakes. I never forgot that, so I have a section on Jesuits discovering Kentucky... The last poem is about coal and the devastation from mountain top removal. Kentucky is a paradox with such beauty and devastation. I guess the unstated theme is sort of paradise lost.

What is the most important thing for an aspiring writer to know or do?

“I think read, read, read. That would be one of the complaints I had in creative writing classes. Students didn’t read much and weren’t particularly interested in reading. That’s how I got inspired as a kid. I read... It helps build up the urge to imitate. It doesn’t really matter what you read. It’s all grist for the mill.”

What do you like to read for fun?

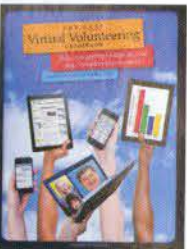
“Right now, I’m reading a science fiction book. It’s set in the Ice Age. I like fiction. Sometimes I go back and read old fiction. I read just about anything. I like Hilary Mantel and her Thomas Cromwell books. They are magnificent books, carefully researched, with re-imagined history.”

Alida Bayne Akers ('77, '81) and Rebecca Bayne Akers-Kuczek ('13),

both of Glasgow, Ky., exhibited their paintings at the Smiths Grove Branch of the Warren County Public Library in Bowling Green, Ky., in the months of March and April. While these mother and daughter artists have divergent styles, the duo holds in common an appreciation for detail and design in their love of art. Akers teaches privately and for Barren Country Community Education. While at WKU, Akers-Kuczek was a recipient of the national Gilman Scholar and Freeman-Asia Awards that enabled her to spend a semester in Japan. She studied Japanese art history and Sumi techniques, along with the Japanese language and culture.

Jayne Cravens ('88)

of Forest Grove, Ore., has co-authored *The Last Virtual Volunteering Guidebook: Fully Integrating Online Service into Volunteer Involvement* to help nonprofits, schools, government initiatives and other mission-based agencies involve and support volunteers via the internet.

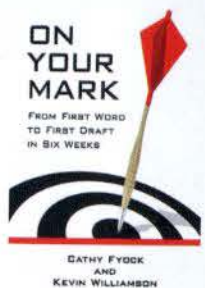


Dr. Ann K. Ferrell ('99)

of Bowling Green, Ky., has written *Burley: Kentucky Tobacco in a New Century* about how farmers have navigated changes in the tobacco industry, and how those changes have affected their identity and culture. Dr. Ferrell is an Assistant Professor of Folk Studies at WKU.

Cathy Fyock ('76)

of Louisville, Ky., co-authored *On Your Mark: From First Word to First Draft in Six Weeks* to help professionals who want to write a book as a means to raise credibility, boost visibility, establish thought-leadership and leave a lasting legacy. *On Your Mark* offers tips for identifying obstacles, setting a game plan, creating momentum and finishing your draft.



CLASS NOTES

Class Notes is a department that allows WKU Alumni Association members to update fellow classmates on significant accomplishments and events in their lives. Annual memberships are \$35 for a single or \$50 for a joint membership. Lifetime memberships are \$700 for a single and \$1,000 for a joint membership. If you wish to publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.



1 Dr. James B. Kirkwood ('48)



2 David Alexander ('63, '66)



9 Natasha DeJarnett ('04)

Dr. James B. Kirkwood ('48) of Crystal River, Fla., celebrated his 90th birthday on January 22 with a surprise party thrown by his wife, Shirley. (photo 1)

David Alexander ('63, '66) of Blacksburg, Va., has received the 2014 Living Legend Award from the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration. (photo 2)

Marshall Kemp ('72, '79, '81) of Olmstead, Ky., recently retired as Superintendent of Logan County Schools. He served more than 40 years in public education.

Dave Fenwick ('73) of Bowling Green, Ky., is the new Hospitality Manager at Indian Hills Country Club.

John W. Ridley ('74) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been designated as a member of Wells Fargo Advisors' Premier Advisors Program for the 18th consecutive year. (photo 3)

Jane Englebright, Ph.D., RN, CEN, FAAN ('79) of Franklin, Tenn., was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing on Oct. 19, 2013, during the annual meeting of the Academy in Washington, D.C. She has also been named to The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners as the at-large nursing representative.

Jim Tinius ('79, '85) of Bowling Green, Ky., recently retired as Principal of Potter Gray Elementary School. He worked for more than 30 years in public education in Kentucky and Texas.

Cathy Ashby Kolb ('80) of Clarksville, Tenn., has received the Teacher of the Year Award for the fifth through eighth grade level. Kolb currently teaches Special Education for fourth and fifth grade at Moore Magnet Elementary School in Clarksville, Tenn., where she lives with her husband, Dan.

Marvin "Marv" Barker ('81) of Elizabethtown, Ky., has accepted a position as Chief Operating Officer for Rivera Consulting Group, Inc. after serving more than 20 years as an Army officer and 10 years with Science Applications International Corporation. He earned an MBA from Golden Gate University in 1990 and is a certified Project Management Professional. He and his wife, Robin, reside in Elizabethtown, Ky. (photo 4)

Mark Hebert ('81) of Louisville, Ky., has been inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. Hebert enjoyed a 29-year, award-winning career in radio and television, 22 of those years as a political and investigative reporter for WHAS-TV in Louisville. He is currently Director of Media Relations at the University of Louisville.

Dr. Mark Newman ('81) of Durham, N.C., has been named the new President of Duke University Medical Center Private Diagnostic Clinic (PDC), the Duke faculty practice. Dr. Newman is the Merel H. Harmel Professor of Anesthesiology and has served as Chairman of Duke's Department of Anesthesiology since 2001.

Rear Adm. Terry Moulton ('82) of Arlington, Va., has taken command of Portsmouth Naval Medical Center. He is also serving as Commander of Navy Medicine East, which includes 18 naval hospitals and clinics.

Doug Ford ('86, '87) of Knoxville, Tenn., was named Administrator of the Year for National HealthCare Corporation for 2013. Ford will also be inducted into the inaugural College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Hall of Fame as one of 13 inductees. Ford is married to **Deborah (Smiley) Ford ('84, '87)**.

Melanie Llontop ('82, '98) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been named Assistant Principal at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, Ky.

W. Scott Ramsey ('87) of Creal Springs, Ill., is the new Chief Executive Officer of Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation. Ramsey has nearly 28 years of experience in the electric power industry.

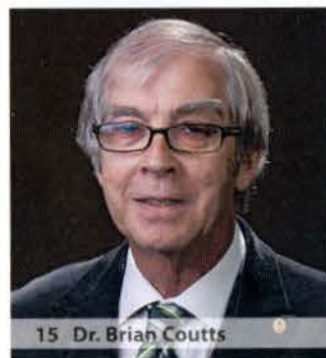
Marc Satterthwaite ('87, '95) of Louisville, Ky., has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Porter Bancorp, Inc. and PBI Bank, Inc.

Jeff True ('87) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been inducted into the U.S. Tennis Association's Kentucky Tennis Hall of Fame. True, the current Head Coach of WKU Tennis, is the fifth Hilltopper to receive this honor.

LaMont Jones Jr. ('88) of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been elected to serve as the Treasurer-Parliamentarian for the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation for the 2014-2015 term.

Forrest Halford ('90) of Bowling Green, Ky., has retired from his longtime position as Textbook Manager of The WKU Store.

Christopher H. Lucier ('90) of Colchester, Vt., was recently named Vice President for Enrollment Management at the University of Delaware. He previously served as Vice President of Enrollment Management at the University of Vermont. (photo 5)



15 Dr. Brian Coutts



13 Mark ('02) & Melanie Evans ('03)



3 John W. Ridley ('74)



10 Becca White ('08)



11 Landon Hampton ('10)



7 William Skaggs ('95, '13)



4 Marvin Baker ('81)



5 Christopher H. Lucier ('90)



6 Tina (Mrs.) Geary



12 Camille Hayden ('12)



14 Jennifer L. (Taylor) Ruhl ('01)



8 William King ('00, '06)



16 Dr. Victoria LaPoe



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FREIDA EGGLETON



Freida Eggleton ('74, '76) of Bowling Green, Ky., is retiring after serving as WKU's Registrar for 28 years. Eggleton was

named WKU Registrar in 1986, after serving as an Assistant to the Dean of Scholastic Development and Director of New Student Orientation. She got her start working at the University as Assistant Director of Central Hall (now Minton Hall), a women's residence hall.

Even though she is retiring from her current post, Eggleton is not leaving WKU quite yet. She will work part time as the University's NCAA Academic Compliance Coordinator, continuing to fulfill duties for which she has been responsible for many years.

JOHN OSBORNE



John Osborne ('72, '74) of Bowling Green, Ky., has retired after 41 years of service to WKU. Osborne was serving as the Vice President for

Campus Services and Facilities and as a member of the University's Administrative Council at the time of his retirement.

Osborne began his career at WKU in 1973 as Director of Douglas Keen Hall. His experiences in that position would push him to study post-secondary education and further shape his career.

During his tenure as Vice President, Osborne led campus efforts to design, build and maintain the campus infrastructure and physical plant, and he oversaw \$544.1 million in construction projects, with \$409.6 million in facility improvements for academics. Making campus more energy efficient and providing top-notch on-campus dining options were also priorities for Osborne.

Kevin W. Deter ('92) of Charlotte, N.C., has been named Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for WellStar Cobb Hospital in Austell, Ga.

Dr. Nancy Rice ('93) received the Ogden College of Science and Engineering's first-ever Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Award for excellence in teaching, research and service to her department and the University. Dr. Rice, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at WKU, focuses her research on investigating the genetic and cellular mechanisms responsible for the development of cardiovascular disease.

Charles Nichols ('94) of Houston, Texas, has been named Teacher of the Year at Atascocita High School in Humble, Texas.

Laurie Offutt ('94) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has been named Principal at Reeves-Rogers Elementary School in Murfreesboro.

Tina (Mock) Geary ('95) of Louisville, Ky., has accepted a position with PNC Bank as a Mobile Remote Deposit Cyber Investigations Analyst. She has been with PNC since 2006. (photo 6)

William Skaggs ('95, '13) of Bowling Green, Ky., has accepted a position with Bratcher Financial Services, Inc. as a Financial Services Professional. Prior to accepting this position, William worked with the WKU Alumni Association for 12 years. (photo 7)

Stephanie Broadbent Ingersoll ('96) of Cumberland Furnace, Tenn., is the new City Government and Crime Reporter for *The Leaf-Chronicle* in Clarksville, Tenn.

Brad Walker ('96) of Nashville, Tenn., has been promoted to Director of Finance at Warner Music Nashville.

Carrol Kessens ('97, '04) of Nashville, Tenn., is now a Manager at Crisler CPA, PLLC in Hendersonville, Tenn.

Andy Koostra ('97) of Lascassas, Tenn., recently accepted the position of Manager of IT Infrastructure at Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon.

Susan Waggoner ('97) of Bowling Green, Ky., who was serving as the interim CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky, has been chosen as its permanent Chief Executive Officer.

Candace Witherspoon ('97, '99) of Valdosta, Ga., graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2012 with a Ph.D. in Business Administration (Accounting). She recently accepted a position with Valdosta State University as an Assistant Professor of Accounting.

Chad W. Davis, MBA, CPA ('99) of Leesburg, Va., founder and President of Red Rock Government Services, received an award recognizing his business as one of the fastest-growing mid-sized companies in Washington's SmartCEO's 2014 Future 50 Award program.

Robbie T. Houchin ('99) of Louisville, Ky., has been named Shelby County Market Executive at Commonwealth Bank & Trust.

William King ('00, '06) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been awarded the Milken Educator Award, one of education's most prestigious awards. King currently serves as the Freshman Principal at Bowling Green High School. (photo 8)

Charlie Lanter ('00) of Lexington, Ky., has been named Lexington's first Director of the newly created Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention.

Dr. Jeremy Kees ('01) of Bryn Mawr, Pa., has been named one of the "40 Most Outstanding Business Profs Under 40 in the World" by the *Poets & Quants* social network website.

Daniel Pike ('03) of Glasgow, Ky., has been named Editor for the *Glasgow Daily Times*.

Brittanie Kirby Dawson ('04) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been named Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager of the Fairview Branch of PBI Bank in Bowling Green, Ky. She provides lending, accounts and other financial services to personal and small business clients.

Natasha DeJarnett ('04) of Georgetown, Ky., has received her Ph.D. from the University of Louisville in Public Health Sciences with a concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. She was the recipient of the Dean's Award and the Graduate Dean's Citation. (photo 9)

Deborah Greer ('04) of Portland, Tenn., has been named the Clyde Riggs Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014. She is the Librarian at Clyde Riggs Elementary School in Portland, Tenn.

Allison Hester ('05) of Portland, Tenn., was chosen as the J.W. Wiseman Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014. She teaches second grade at J.W. Wiseman Elementary School in Portland, Tenn.

Sara Peak ('06) of Louisville, Ky., has co-launched Dean & Grace, an auction-based children's clothing shopping club via text message for busy parents who have little time to shop. Visit deanandgrace.com for more information.

Charles A. Poteet ('06) of Albany, N.Y., completed his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Toledo in 2012. He is currently a NASA-sponsored Postdoctoral Research Associate at the New York Center for Astrobiology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Patrick Smith ('07) of Bloomington, Ill., has been named Content Manager for WordSouth, a content marketing company based in Rainsville, Ala.

Rose Dukes ('08) of Augusta, Ga., has been named Marketing and Digital Public Relations Manager at Sales Gravy.

Becca White ('08) of Louisville, Ky., has been named an Event Manager for the Special Events Department at Churchill Downs. (photo 10)

Ryan Warren ('09) of Owensboro, Ky., has been named Inside Sales Representative for Hercules Manufacturing in Henderson, Ky.



KERRI RICHARDSON

Kerri Richardson ('00) of Louisville, Ky., has been selected as the 2014 Communicator of the Year by the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC). She currently serves as the Director of Communications at Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear's Office.

Richardson was selected by a panel of judges for her ability to communicate Kentucky's decision to expand Medicaid and launch their own, state-based ACA Health Benefits Exchange – both highly complex and often contentious programs. The panel was impressed by Richardson's ability to communicate the Kentucky experience across a broad spectrum of audiences – from local to national, including major media. Gov. Beshear nominated Richardson for this prestigious award.

"This is a great honor for Kerri, the Governor, our Commonwealth and, by extension, for WKU," said WKU President Gary Ransdell. "I'm so proud of Kerri and pleased to see that her experience both in the classroom and as a member of the WKU Forensics team continues to serve her well."

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Amy Milliken ('93) of Bowling Green, Ky., who currently serves as the Warren County Attorney, has been officially sworn in before the U.S. Supreme Court and can now present cases before the High Court. She was one of only 11 attorneys sworn in during the ceremony in January 2014 and was the only attorney from Kentucky.

"This experience is really special to me," Milliken said. "I think it is one of the top honors one can achieve as a member of the Bar Association. Certainly to argue a case before the Supreme Court would fulfill a lifelong dream. Just being a member of that elite Bar means a lot."

Milliken was sure to represent WKU when she went to Washington, D.C. for the ceremony. Pictured with Milliken are her parents, Brenda Bunch Hale ('82, '87, '91) and Terry Hale ('68), and her daughters Abby, Chloe and Ruth E Milliken.

"I learned so many life lessons at WKU," said Milliken. "That's why I take the Red Towel with me – I'm taking a little bit of WKU with me."

Candyce Bingham of Louisville, Ky., who currently serves as Lady Topper Basketball Assistant Coach, has been inducted into the Louisville DuPont Manual High School Hall of Fame.

Dr. Wilsie Bishop of Johnson City, Tenn., was recently inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame. Dr. Bishop is a former faculty member in Nursing at WKU.

Dr. Brian Coutts, of Bowling Green, Ky., Professor and Head of the Department of Library Public Services at WKU, has been awarded the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACLR) Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award. This award honors an academic or law librarian who has made distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. (photo 15)

Clay W. Duncan ('10) of Paducah, Ky., has joined Housman & Associates, PLLC in Paducah as an Associate Attorney.

Landon Hampton ('10) of Morgantown, Ky., has launched *Wx or Not*, an interactive website devoted to the weather around Bowling Green. Found at WxorNotBG.com and across social media, the site offers an alternative to other weather forecasts. (photo 11)

Brandon Smith ('10) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been named Head Football Coach at South Warren High School in Bowling Green, Ky.

Patrick Cheptoek ('11) of Bowling Green, Ky., won the men's half marathon as part of the 10th annual Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon in Knoxville, Tenn.

Maria Johnson ('11) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has been named Principal at Scales Elementary School in Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Dr. Victoria LaPoe, of Bowling Green, Ky., Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, has co-authored *Oil and Water: Media Lessons from Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon Disaster*. (photo 16)

Wes Strader of Bowling Green, Ky., former longtime play-by-play voice for WKU football and men's basketball, has been inducted in the 2014 class of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. Strader was the voice of the Hilltoppers from 1964 to 2000.

Don Vitale of Bowling Green, Ky., President of Manchester Capital, LLC, and a longtime volunteer with WKU and the Gordon Ford College of Business, has received the Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneurship Award. The Medallion for Entrepreneurship is awarded to outstanding individuals who combine innovative business achievement with service to humanity. In 1999, Vitale was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from WKU.

Marion Kandie ('11) of Bowling Green, Ky., won the women's half marathon with a time of 1:19:09 as part of the 10th annual Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon in Knoxville, Tenn.

Ashley Powell ('11) of Brentwood, Tenn., graduated from Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., earning her Doctor in Physical Therapy (DPT) medical degree.

Camille Hayden ('12) of Utica, Ky., has been named the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Henderson County. (photo 12)

Elizabeth Beilman ('13) of Louisville, Ky., joined the *News and Tribune* as a staff writer, primarily covering Jeffersonville and Sellersburg, Ind.

Drew Mitchell ('13) of Louisville, Ky., has been promoted to Associate Account Manager at Guthrie/Mayes Public Relations.

Mark ('02) and Melanie (Kington) Evans ('03) of Bowling Green, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Matilda Erin "Tilly," on Jan. 23, 2014. Tilly, who weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long, was welcomed by her big sister, Eleanor. (photo 13)

Jennifer L. (Taylor) Ruhl ('01) and Kevin M. Ruhl of Hamilton, Ohio, announce the birth of their daughter, Natalie Ann, on Nov. 1, 2013. (photo 14)

Franklin Bank & Trust Co. named **Alex Downing ('88)** as President at its annual stockholder meeting April 8, 2014. Downing has been with the bank since January 2013.

Downing is looking forward to the future with the bank. "I have truly enjoyed the last 15 months with Franklin Bank and am looking forward to furthering relationships with customers, employees and the communities in which we serve," he said.

Prior to joining Franklin Bank & Trust Co., Downing served as Treasurer of the College Heights Foundation for three years and was then President and Treasurer for 14 years.



CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT

Rob Weber

Public Information Officer Kentucky General Assembly

Rob Weber got his start in communication working in the newsroom of the *College Heights Herald*. Now, he serves as Public Information Officer for the Kentucky General Assembly. He credits his time in the newsroom on campus for preparing him for his career. "Working as a reporter for the *College Heights Herald* was a key part of my WKU experience," he stated. "My fellow student-journalists were some of the most creative people and rigorous editors I've ever worked with. I still benefit from what I learned in the *Herald* newsroom."

Weber's journalism professors trained him to not only learn the facts of various issues, but to step back and look at the big picture to understand how issues and events impact lives and the world. "My professors taught me to communicate in a clear, easy-to-understand way; those are the skills that come in most handy in my line of work," he said.

Weber has long been interested in politics, communication and public service. His role as Public Information Officer is a mix of all those interests. "It's satisfying to help people stay connected with the issues under consideration in Frankfort and keep strong the two-way lines of communication needed between citizens and their lawmakers," he said.

Weber supervises a staff, which works closely with lawmakers and communicates about the work of the Legislature in many ways, with the common goal of strengthening information sharing between lawmakers and citizens. "We want people to know what is going on at the State Capitol and that there are convenient ways to stay in touch with the legislative process and provide feedback to lawmakers," he explained. His office is also the main point of contact for reporters wanting information about the General Assembly.

Originally from Louisville, Ky., Weber and his wife, Anya, and two children, James and Emma, now call Frankfort, Ky., home. Weber is Vice President of Programs for the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators and a 2013 graduate of Leadership Frankfort. He has served as an Area Governor for Toastmasters International and on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislature's staff section for communicators. He is also a youth soccer coach.



MOMENT IN HISTORY

Rex, King of Dogs

By Lynn Niedermeier

This year marks half a century since the legendary E.A. Diddle coached his last men's basketball game at WKU. While fans still remember his 42-year career with pride, Diddle himself could not reminisce about his early years on the Hill without paying tribute to the reign of another campus icon.

His name was Rex, an Irish Setter that Diddle won in a raffle. The ticket price was a penny multiplied by the ticket number, 17, giving him what proved to be a fine bird dog for only 17 cents. Like any good hunter, Rex soon earned a high place in Diddle's affections, but his roaming instincts helped him make friends far beyond his master's house on Normal Drive.

Rex regarded the entire Hill as his home. On his rounds across campus, he would trot casually over the grass, a privilege forbidden to humans. He accompanied students to classes, where he would settle in for the entire period. When he followed them out after a history quiz one day in Recitation Hall (the main classroom building that stood on the site of Cherry Hall), Rex cast a look at Dr. James Poteet as if to apologize for having no test paper to turn in. For the sake of a good meal, Rex extended his domain even farther. He regularly visited a local boarding house every Thursday, knowing that the menu always featured his favorite dish, veal.

Rex also assumed the important role of unofficial athletic mascot. E.A. Diddle was originally hired in 1922 to coach all

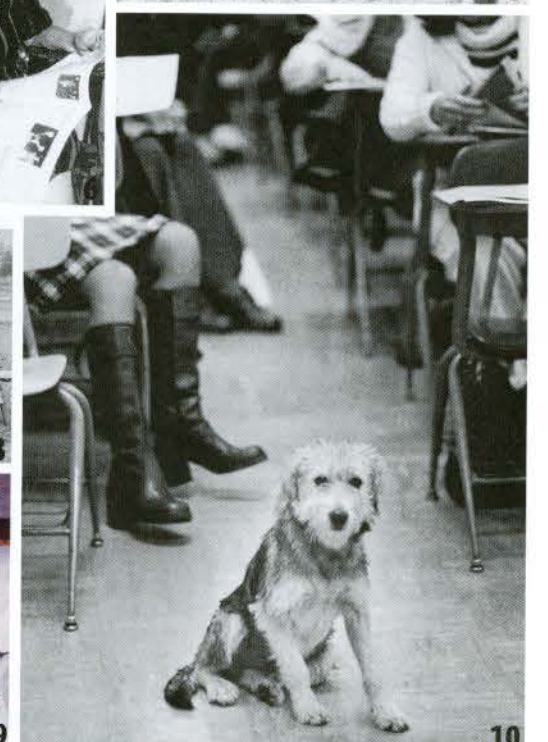
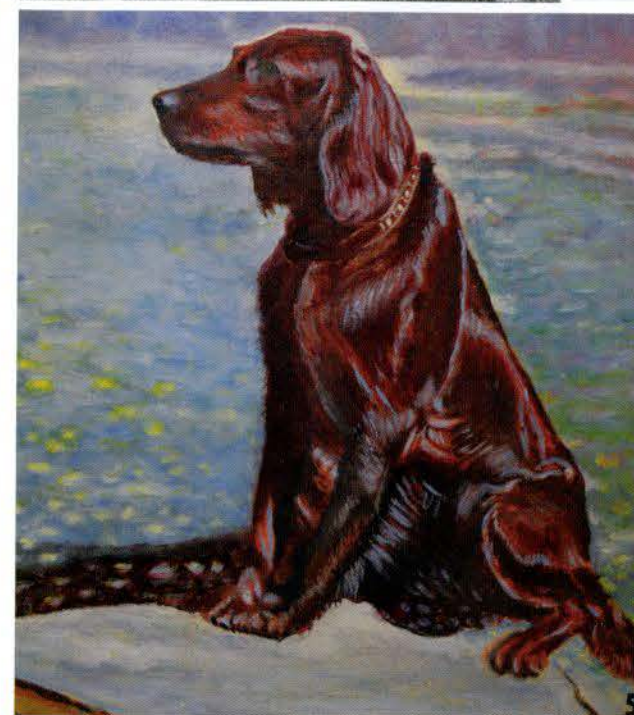
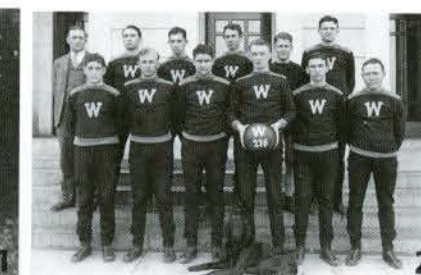
sports at WKU, and team photos soon began to feature his four-legged sidekick prominently positioned in the front row. Beyond chasing down foul balls for the baseball team and lending support from the sidelines during basketball games, Rex once performed a valuable service for the exhausted players of the 1924 football squad. Seeking respite from a grueling pre-season practice, team members arranged for Rex's disappearance by leading him away and tying him up to a distant tree. "O.K., boys," declared Coach Diddle, when he discovered that his beloved pooch was AWOL, "we'll take a break and look for Rex." The "recovery" of the dog an hour or so later fulfilled the wishes of both Diddle and his players.

The day after a hunting trip in autumn 1933, however, Rex went missing without the connivance of humans. According to Diddle's biographer C. Harvey Gardiner, what really happened afterward has been obscured by multiple tellings of the tale; nevertheless, he termed it "the climactic episode" in Rex's canine career. Days passed, it was said, with no clues to the dog's whereabouts. Declaring to his basketball squad that "we ain't gonna sleep, practice or eat until we find old Rex," Coach Diddle sent his players on a city- and county-wide search and made appeals for assistance to newspapers, radio and law enforcement. Finally, as he was leaving home one morning, Diddle heard a whine coming from the trunk of

his car. He opened it, stared inside, then yelled at its occupant, "Rex, where in the hell have you been all this time?"

When Rex died late in 1936 at the age of 14 (that's nearly 100 in dog years!), the *College Heights Herald's* memorial was equal to those offered for the greatest personages of the Hill. "A staunch friend has passed on," eulogized the paper. "A beloved fixture of the college has gone." Beyond his faithfulness and devotion to Coach Diddle, Rex was "a symbol of good luck to every athletic team" and held "a unique place in the hearts and lives" of students and faculty. The obituary quoted both elegaic verse and Kentuckian George Graham Vest's famous tribute to the "one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world."

Since then, many other beloved canines have captured hearts on the Hill. As their affection, loyalty and even sense of duty endear them to their human friends, we can be sure that they will perpetually compete for the honorific that the *College Heights Herald* bestowed upon Rex: "King of Dogs."



1- In the late 1960s, students grew fond of three-legged puppy Oliver, nicknamed "Tripod." | 2- The 1928 basketball team featured standouts Ed Stansbury, Ted Hornback and Rex. | 3 & 4- Coach E.A. Diddle and his Irish Setter, Rex (1922-1936). | 5- Art instructor Ivan Wilson's Irish Setter, Rufus the Red (1934-1948), was known to all as "Poody." Watercolorist Wilson had Poody's portrait painted in oil by local artist Herman Lowe. | 6- "Trouble," the pet of music instructor Nelle Gooch Travelstead, looked ready to live up to his name in this photo from the 1942 *Talisman*. | 7- In 1973, freshman Tom Callahan took a lunch break with his German Shepherd puppy. (George Wedding photo) | 8- Rex, posing here with the 1927 baseball team, was the unofficial mascot for WKU athletics. | 9- Julie Ransdell watches over a napping President Gary Ransdell and the family Dalmation, Maggie. | 10- Curious dogs sometimes wander into WKU classrooms. This one decided to study Sociology for the day. (Ron Hoskins photo)

IN MEMORIAM

We pay tribute to all members of the WKU family who have passed away.

Mr. Jeffrey G. Absher, '82
Mr. William D. Adair, Jr.
Mr. Gene C. Adkins, '51 BU
Mrs. Hazel (Shelton) Allen, '63
Mrs. Joanne Sledge Creek Allen
Ms. Jean Almand, '72, '74, '79, Staff
Mrs. Anne Thomas Andrews
Mr. Cornelius Flippo Arnold, '54 BU
Mrs. Dixie Myers Atwell
Mr. James R. Bach
Mr. Paul Garnett Bagby
Mr. Charles W. Baker, '91
Dr. Charles H. Ball, '54
Mr. Wallace Barr, Jr.
Mrs. Pearl H. Beach
Mr. John "Bill" Bedell
Mr. Charles B. Bell, '49 BU
Mr. John Gary Benefield
Dr. Joseph C. Berland
Mr. Curtis Leroy Blair, '64
Mr. Lenuel L. Blankenship
Mrs. Polly (Wabren) Boaz, '52
Ms. Katie A. Boggess
Mr. Woodrow Boggs, III
Ms. Flora (O'Connor) Boles, '64
Mrs. Jeanetta T. Booher
Mr. Robert Stephen Boutell, '69
Mr. Ronnie Joe Bowen, '77
Ms. Dee A. Bradley
Mrs. Martha (Bass) Brandenburgh, '33
Mr. Lonnie Michael Bunch
Ms. Charlotte D. Burchett, Staff
Mr. Richard William Burnette, '09
Mr. James Stephen Bush, '83
Mr. Paul M. Bush, '84, '88, Faculty
Mrs. Audrey Akin Calhoun

Mrs. Patsy Murphey Carlisle
Rev. Stanrod Tucker Carmichael
Ms. Donna J. Carroll, '70
Mrs. Patsy (Black) Carroll, '71
Mr. William Jack Casteel
Mr. John H. Cecil
Mr. William P. Chaldekis
Mrs. Mary Lawrence Chapman
Ms. Karen Chestnut
Mrs. Ouida Wright Christerson
Lt. Cmdr. John Henry Claggett
Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins Clark
Dr. James H. Clark, '59
Dr. David M. Coffey, '71, Faculty
Mrs. Nakoma (Rice) Cole, '33
Ms. Betty Chelf Coles, '53, '70
Mr. George Michael Costellow, '87, '90
Mrs. Eleanor Lynn Fallis Cowles
Mrs. Ruth (Faulkner) Cox, '74
Mrs. Ruth (Cowherd) Crews, '53
Mr. Edward Vernon Davis
Mr. Joseph C. Dawkins, '41
Mr. Jerry W. Denton
Mr. Royce Wayne Dethridge, Staff
Mr. Kevin P. Dildy, '83
Mrs. Dorothy (Gabbard) Dobbs, '57
Mrs. Sylvia (Hood) Dowell
Mr. Phillip B. Eadens
Mrs. Clara Barbour Eaton, '52
Ms. Ruby Y. Edwards, '63
Mrs. Marie Michelle P. Elmore, '72
Mrs. Georgia (Belcher) Emond, '84, Staff
Dr. Joseph E. Etienne, '85, Faculty
Mr. Ben Fendley
Mrs. Heather A. Ferguson
Mr. Richard D. Fitzgerald

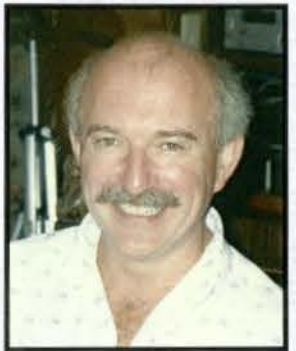
Mr. David Fleming
Ms. Donna (Branaman) Fogle
Dr. Robert S. Francis
Mrs. Marjorie (Stinnett) Fritz
Mrs. Emma (Fulcher) Fuchs, '44
Mrs. Jen (Browder) Gearhart
Mr. Willie Royce Gettings, '58, '65
Mr. Andrew Giffen, '11
Ms. Darlya D. Goad, '95
Ms. Lorena Graham
Mr. Howard Gray
Mr. Thomas E. Gray, '50
Ms. Janice (Green) Grimes, '82, '88
Mrs. Judith (Chism) Grimm, '89, Staff
Mr. Wayne P. Gustafson
Mrs. Doris Downs Haeberle
Mr. Robert "Bob" Haley
Mrs. Mary Ann Hampton, '52
Mr. Jack Hancock
Mr. Carl W. Harris
Mrs. Helen Chambers Harris
Mr. Houston E. Hatler, '74
Mr. Michael "Mike" Hazelett, '85
Mr. Charles T. Hedgespeth, '72
Mr. Miles Byron Hendrick
Mr. Roger Neil Hinkle, '82
Mr. James S. Holcomb, '58
Mrs. Sandra (Simunaci) Horn, '90, '95
Ms. Ann R. Horton
Mrs. Sandra (Graham) Hudspeth
Mr. Doug Hurst
Dr. Carlton Jackson, Faculty
Mr. Merle Nay Jackson, '49
Mr. John B. Jacobsen
Mr. Donald "Don" Jenkins, '61, '67
Mr. William Doris Johns, '47

Mr. Alex C. Johnson
Mr. Leland R. Johnson
Mrs. Sarah M. Johnson, '37
Mrs. Frances Coleman Juett, '43
Mr. Cecil Karrick
Mr. Daniel "Dan" Kelly
Mr. George E. Kendrick, '73, '86
Mrs. Kathy (Mattingly) Kidwell, '09
Mr. Gregory John Kleinke, '93
Mr. Donald B. Lam
Ms. Alice "Aggie" (Sale) Lewis
Mrs. Sarah (Williams) Lewis
Ms. Elise Talmage Lieb
Mr. Jerry Lindbloom
Ms. Bertie L. Lindsey, Staff
Ms. Melissa (Taylor) Linkes, '80
Mrs. Mary (Trail) Lowe, '51
Mr. Charles M. Mansfield
Mrs. Geneva (Lafferty) Martin, '46
Mr. Lowell W. Mayhall
Mr. George R. Mayo
Mrs. Muriel Mayo
Dr. Michael H. McBee, '69
Ms. Sidney (Rissmann) McDonald, '86
Mr. William Mason McDonald
Ms. Mary B. McGuire
Mr. Joseph Medalie
Mrs. Marjorie Medalie
Mr. James "Jim" Medley, '65
Mrs. Donna Wortham Menendez
Mr. Jack D. Miller
Mrs. Judith K. Moore
Ms. Thelma R. Murley, '63
Mr. John B. Murphy, '55
Ms. Patricia B. Neier, '63
Mrs. Dorothy Yokley Nixon, '36

Mr. Robert "Ed" Norman, '91
Mr. Larkin "L. J." Northern, '49
Mr. Charles Ed O'Keefe, Jr.
Mr. Robert James Oppitz, Faculty
Mr. Roger H. Otten, '54
Mr. Melville Owen
Mrs. Sarah Ann Pace
Ms. Priscilla L. Pearce
Mr. Raymond Peger, '71
Mrs. Jane (Lovell) Pfingston, '58, '58, '64
Mr. Fred R. Pfisterer
Mr. Nathan B. Pierce
Mr. Todd H. Pike
Mr. Bradford L. Piner
Mr. Billy C. Pippin
Dr. Lindsey W. Powell, Faculty
Ms. Claudia M. Pratt, '94
Mr. Thomas P. Prentice, '75
Mr. Stan J. Prox
Dr. R. G. Puckett, '55
Mrs. Louise (Emmick) Reithel
Ms. Glenda (McCreary) Rhea, '65, '69
Mrs. Anna Simmons Rice
Mr. Benjamin J. Rice, '03
Mr. Mark S. Richardson, '50, '62 BU
Mrs. Mary R. Richardson
Mrs. Evelyn Jones Roark, '49
Mr. Don Rushing
Mr. Stephen "Steve" Sallee
Mrs. Genevieve Glass Sandefur
Mr. Douglas D. Schneider
Mrs. Delma (Calvert) Schnellenberger, '53, '63
Mrs. Dorothy (Brown) Schultz
Mr. James G. Searcy
Mr. Carlos F. Serrato, '75
Mrs. Amy (Cook) Servary, '54
Mr. John Shelton
Rev. Duncan J. Smith
Mr. George M. Snead, '47 BU
Mr. Hugh C. Spalding, '35

Ms. Pat Sparks
Mr. David C. Sparrow, '67
Ms. Fannie C. Spears
Mr. George S. Spence
Mr. James Spyridon
Ms. Linda C. Sten
Mr. Billie L. Stice
Mr. Allen R. Stickley, Jr.
Mr. John R. Stoner
Ms. Sue (Ford) Sutton
Mrs. Annette Sykes
Mrs. Gladys Lyle Tabb
Mrs. Kathryn (West) Taylor, '72
Mrs. Laura Mae Fisher Tesseneer
Mr. Mark Lynn Thomas, '84
Mr. Wayne Thomas
Ms. Florence (Scott) Trackwell
Mr. Robert "Bobby" Travis
Ms. Gladys (Neagle) Trice, '70, '71
Ms. Mary E. Tyson
Mr. Frederic L. "Ted" Vale
Ms. Molly Gholson Vegotsky
Ms. Christy L. Violette, '13
Mrs. Janice (Rhea) Wagner, '43
Mr. Brent Lee Wagoner, '90, '05
Mrs. Sally Joanne (Mills) Wagoner
Dr. William G. Ward, '53
Ms. Dorothy (Taylor) Warmack, '83
Mr. Robert "Bob" R. Wellman
Mr. Bobby D. Wells
Mrs. Elizabeth Faye White
Mrs. Elizabeth (Lowe) Whitfield, '51 BU
Mr. Douglas Charles Wilkie, '88
Mrs. Karen (English) Wilkins, '86
Ms. Martha Jean Willard, '47
Mrs. Ruth P. Williams, '64
Mr. Wesley Williams
Mrs. Susan (Knaster) Wilson, '76
Mr. Paul Walter Wortham, '75, '86
Ms. Tona L. Wright

Dr. David Coffey ('71) of Bowling Green, Ky., passed away on March 20, 2014, after a brief illness. Dr. Coffey, a longtime Professor in the Agriculture Department, was known for his compassion, sharp wit and passion for teaching. His curriculum models have been replicated in classrooms across the Commonwealth and even nationwide. He was the first Director of the WKU Office of Undergraduate Advisement and also served as the Director of WKU Educational Enhancement Programs, TRIO and Student Disability Services. An avid traveler, he visited most countries of the world. He led hundreds of students and faculty on trips to Costa Rica, Argentina, Australia, and especially, Ecuador.



Dr. Carlton Jackson passed away at his home in Butler County, Ky., on Feb. 10, 2014, at the age of 81. The first in his family to graduate college, he went on to enjoy more than a half-century as a professor WKU. He was the first WKU professor to be selected as the Honorable Mace, was a WKU

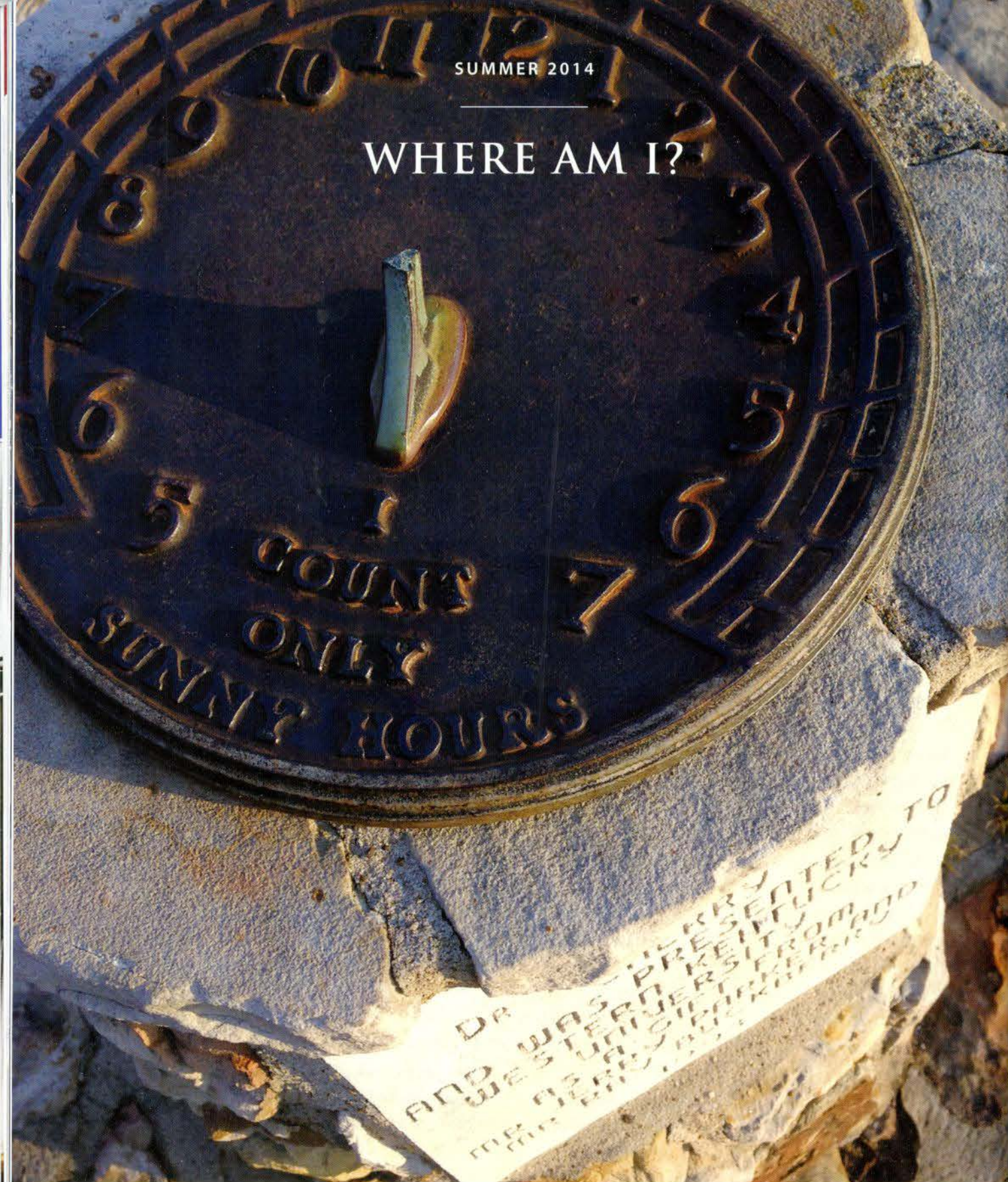
Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History, a U.S. Air Force veteran, a Kentucky Colonel, and an honorary U.S. Marine. He was also a prolific biographer, and he wrote more than 30 books, textbooks and novels. "Everyone has a story," he would say, "and I want to know what it is."

** Due to a data and reporting error, these individuals were incorrectly included in the In Memoriam section of the Spring 2014 issue of WKU SPIRIT. We regret this error.*

Mr. Edwin "Ed" Nixon Chisholm, '83
Ms. Gayla Darling, '71
Dr. Russell "Rusty" Gailor, '87, '90
Ms. Jenna Cole Jackson, '04, '05
Mrs. R. Simone Shacklette, '93

SUMMER 2014

WHERE AM I?



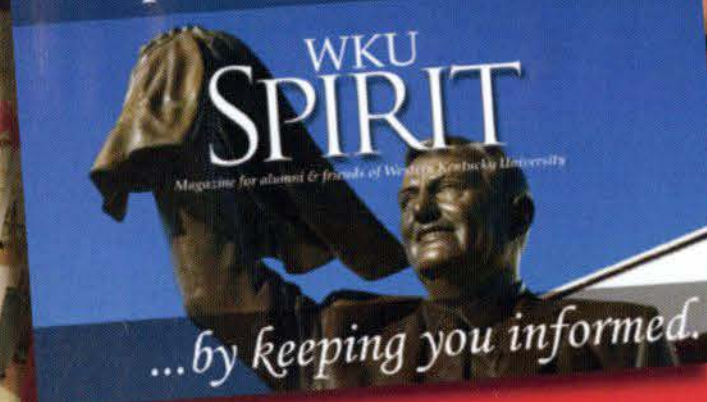
Where Am I? challenges you to identify the mysterious campus location shown above. Are you stumped? Visit the "Where Am I?" photo album at www.facebook.com/wkualumni for the answer and to see other fun photos.

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The Spirit Continues...
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