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WKU[®]
SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

TRAVELING TO MIDDLE-EARTH:
WKU goes to New Zealand

WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

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In January, a group of WKU students traveled to New Zealand as part of a study abroad opportunity. Read about their adventures, and enjoy breathtaking photos and day-by-day commentary from University Photographer Clinton Lewis.

37 LOVE ON THE HILL

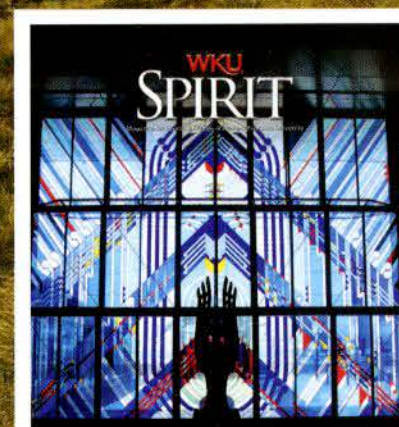
Did you know WKU has been named the #1 campus for falling in love? Read the stories of three Hilltopper couples and learn how to submit your own WKU love story for consideration as part of a future feature.

40 PROVOST DAVID LEE

Dr. David Lee, longtime WKU faculty member and administrator, was appointed as the University's Provost in August 2015. We sat down with Dr. Lee to learn more about his WKU story and his plans for the future.

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ON THE COVER University Photographer Clinton Lewis captured this beautiful stained glass image, which is part of The Marae exhibition at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the January meeting of the WKU Board of Regents, I announced that Julie and I would retire at the end of 2017. My last day in office will be June 30, 2017, and I will officially retire Dec. 31, 2017, after a six-month sabbatical. By then I will have served as President of WKU for 20 years, and in this era of relatively short-term presidencies, I believe 20 years is enough.

Julie and I believe we have fulfilled the commitment we made in 1997 to lead a transformation of our great University. WKU is a dramatically different institution today than it was 20 years ago—financially, physically, intellectually and attitudinally.

While the pace of change in higher education may be commanding more youthful leadership, I pledge to quicken my pace over the next 15 months. We have much left to achieve. Specifically, I will devote my full attention to the Kentucky General Assembly this spring in defense of higher education in general and WKU specifically. I intend to spend whatever political capital I may have built up over the years in pursuit of what higher education needs in both dollars and knowledge of our values. There are also difficult decisions to make regarding the financial realities we face, and there are achievements worth pursuing but which are more likely to be achieved if I am not constrained by job security or perceptions of personal benefit.

WKU also needs to initiate a new capital campaign. It needs a President who can start and finish it. WKU's next campaign needs a President who can assure benefactors that he or she will be there to ensure a return on their investment. I have led WKU through two historically successful capital campaigns totaling more than \$300 million, and the next one needs to be larger than the first two.

Finally, WKU requires strong leadership to guide the University through its next five-year plan of action, including an evolving performance-based funding model that will dictate our state funding and, therefore, our strategic priorities going forward.

Rest assured that I will be redoubling my efforts for the next 15 months, and I will give my all to ensure that our Board of Regents is well-positioned to select the best possible new leader for WKU in 2017. Serving my alma mater has been a dream come true. This University has been my passion and has had my full focus and maximum energy for 19 years, and that will continue to be the case for the next 15 months. I look forward to the many opportunities to thank you for your personal commitment and dedication to WKU.



Go Tops!

WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

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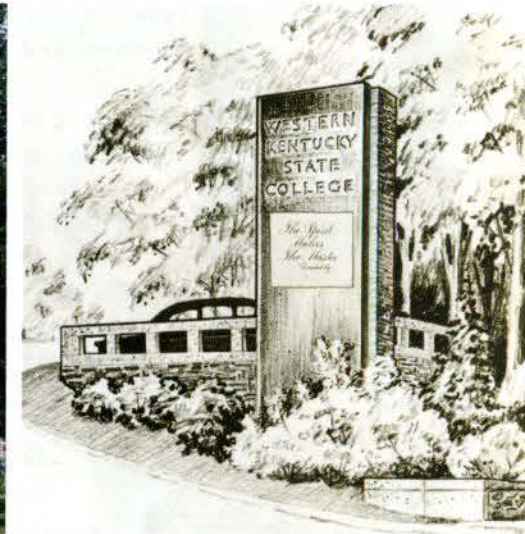
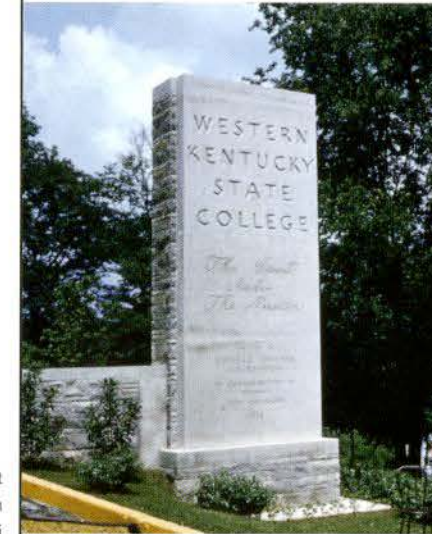
EDITORIAL

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 309D, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

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before & after



From College to University: WKU Pylon

This year, WKU will celebrate its 50th university birthday, as Western Kentucky State College was granted university status and became Western Kentucky University on June 19, 1966. In celebration, "University" replaced "State College" on the entrance pylon at the top of the Hill. To read more about it, check out Lynn Niedermeier's Moment in History on page 48. Interested in learning more about what life was like on campus 50 years ago? Check out special features from our online-only Winter 2016 edition of *WKU SPIRIT* at <http://epagepub.com/publication/?i=288732>.



CAMPUS NEWS

WKU honored for programs helping veterans, students in the military



WKU has received national honors for its programs that help students who are veterans or in the military.

For the sixth straight year, WKU has earned national recognition in *Military Times'* Best for Vets rankings. WKU was designated a Military Friendly School for the seventh consecutive year. WKU also has been recognized by Best Colleges among the top 10 schools in the 2016 Best Colleges

for Veterans and the 2016 Best Online Colleges for Veterans and by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans of Regional Universities in the South.

WKU serves more than 2,000 active duty military, veterans and their family members – the largest population of military students at four-year public universities in Kentucky.

Snyder named Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters

WKU Provost David Lee has named Dr. Larry Snyder as Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters. Dr. Snyder previously served as Interim Dean of the College, and his appointment concluded a five-month national search that attracted more than 50 applicants.

“Dr. Snyder has built an outstanding reputation with faculty, staff and students in the College,” Provost Lee said. “He has considerable experience and a clear understanding of WKU’s mission of teaching, scholarship and service. He has done outstanding work as the Associate Dean and Interim Dean, and I look forward to working with him in his new role.”

Dr. Snyder earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined WKU in the Department of Philosophy and Religion in 1990. An outstanding teacher, he is a past recipient of the University Award in Teaching, and has made the classroom a priority throughout his career. Dr. Snyder joined the Potter College Dean’s Office staff in 2003 and became Interim Dean in August 2015.

“I am genuinely humbled and honored by this appointment,” Dr. Snyder said. “Potter College has been home for most of my academic career. It was — and remains — a great place to work and study, one filled with talented students and a gifted faculty. I am excited by the opportunity to provide some measure of service and leadership to the college that has nurtured my professional life.”



Dr. Larry Snyder

FACULTY & STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Kuster to lead Student Affairs at WKU for next 2 years

Brian Kuster, Executive Director of the Student Life Foundation at WKU, has been appointed WKU’s Vice President for Student Affairs for the next two years.

Kuster began his new role Jan. 1, following the retirement of Howard Bailey. Kuster will defer his anticipated retirement and serve as Vice President until Dec. 31, 2017.

“I have been impressed with what Brian has achieved in the transformation of our residence life program,” WKU President Gary A. Ransdell said. “He has led the first phase of the physical transformation of our residence halls, the professionalization of our residence life staff, and he has brought relevancy and depth to our student life programming. Brian has outstanding financial and management skills. I have found him to be thoughtful, approachable and even-tempered.”

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Ransdell also took time to honor Bailey for his 45 years of service to WKU.

“His is a remarkable professional story of commitment, dedication and loyalty during some of the most tumultuous periods of student life in American higher education,” Dr. Ransdell said. “No one on our campus knows better than Howard Bailey the needs of our students and the challenges they face, and how those needs and challenges have evolved over the years—especially in recent years.”



Brian Kuster

Confucius Institute at WKU honored at Global Conference

The Confucius Institute at WKU was honored with its second prestigious “Confucius Institute of the Year Award” in December at the 10th Global Confucius Institute Conference in Shanghai, China.

More than 2,300 delegates representing 134 countries, including directors of Confucius Institutes around the world, principals, professors and leaders at all levels, attended the conference.

The Confucius Institute at WKU (CI at WKU) also won the prestigious award in 2013 and became one of 10 Model CI’s in 2014. Only 10 of 496 Confucius Institutes in the world received the distinction of Model CI, which demonstrates the unremitting efforts and outstanding contributions of all the staff within the CI at WKU.

The CI at WKU was established in April 2010, thus 2015 is its five-year anniversary. Since its inception, the Institute has been committed to promoting the Chinese language and culture in the state of Kentucky. More than 13,580 students throughout Kentucky are studying Chinese in more than 20 school districts and in more than 40 schools. The Institute has established 15 Confucius Classrooms, and more than 187,348 people have participated in related cultural activities over the five years. In addition, more than 3,000 students have taken Chinese language exams (YCT/HSK/HSKK), becoming one of the largest comprehensive Confucius Institutes in North America.



Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council of China and Chairman of the Confucius Institute Headquarters Council, and Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, Director of the CI at WKU

STUDENT/PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2 Gatton Academy students named Emperor Science Award winners

Two Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky students have been named winners of the inaugural Emperor Science Award.

The Emperor Science Award program is an initiative designed to encourage high school students to explore careers in science, specifically cancer research and care, through a mentoring opportunity. The program is made possible by founding donors Genetech, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Novartis and through partners Stand Up To Cancer and PBS Learning Media.

Makenzie Daniels from Smiths Grove, Ky., and Haley Dicken from Jamestown, Ky., both first-year students at The

Gatton Academy, will work alongside cancer scientists on a rewarding, multi-week cancer research project. Additionally, Daniels and Dicken will receive a Google Chrome Notebook to enhance their studies, a \$1,500 stipend for their expenses and the opportunity to continue the mentoring program throughout high school.

Stand Up To Cancer and PBS Learning Media received around 1,200 applications from 10th and 11th grade students throughout the U.S. who are interested in pursuing a career in science research. In total, 100 students from 40 states have been named this year's winners. The Gatton Academy students are Kentucky's only award winners.



Makenzie Daniels



Haley Dicken

WKU student awarded U.S. Foreign Service Internship



Alexandria Knipp

Alexandria Knipp, a WKU student from Olive Hill, Ky., has been awarded a prestigious U.S. Foreign Service Internship from the U.S. Department of State.

Knipp, a sophomore with majors in International Affairs and Arabic, will spend one summer in Washington, D.C., and a second summer at a U.S. Embassy overseas. In addition to the paid internships, Knipp will receive several extra instructional modules to prepare her for working in the State Department and eventually as a Foreign Service Officer.

"I am very passionate about pursuing a career with the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer, so this program is exactly what I'm looking for," Knipp said. "I believe it will introduce me to a world of possibilities I wouldn't have access to otherwise."

WKU continues to climb in Open Doors study abroad rankings

For the third consecutive year, WKU climbed in the Institute for International Education's (IIE) U.S. study abroad rankings, released in the November 2015 Open Doors Report.

WKU is ranked 19th in the nation among master's institutions for the total number of study abroad students and is the only public institution in Kentucky to appear in the study abroad rankings. WKU ranked 23rd in 2014, 32nd in 2013 and 39th in 2012.

"WKU's national ranking in study abroad is a testament to its commitment to prioritizing education abroad through developing strategic



partnerships and investing in faculty and student scholarships," said Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Chief International Officer for Global Learning.

The most recent IIE study abroad

rankings are based on statistics for the 2013-2014 academic year, when a record total of 558 WKU students (not including international and non-degree students) participated in study abroad programs.

U.S. News ranks WKU online programs among best in nation



In its annual ranking of the best online degree programs, *U.S. News & World Report* has named WKU among the top schools nationwide in five areas.

WKU ranked third in the nation in the Best Online Bachelor Degree Programs category, second to Penn State and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University which tied for first place.

The ranking also placed WKU's M.A. in Criminology among the top 12 online graduate degree programs in the Best Online Criminal Justice Programs category.

"Being ranked among the best online programs in the nation is a testament to the quality of faculty, students, technology and student support WKU offers," said Dr. Julie

Uranis, Director of Distance Learning at WKU. "Penn State and Embry-Riddle are leaders in education, so it's an honor to be ranked alongside these excellent schools."

Other WKU programs were ranked among the top 100 online graduate programs in the nation, including Best Online Education Degree (online M.A.E. programs for teachers), Best Online MBA Degree and Best Online Nursing Degree for the M.S.N. program.

Online programs are degrees that offer 80 percent or more of required coursework online. The ranking includes online bachelor's degrees combining data from all undergraduate level disciplines.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

SPIRIT OF GIVING



Family and Consumer Sciences receives gift from alumnus

WKU's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences recently received the program's largest-ever current gift from a successful alumnus and respected restaurateur.

Marc Archambault, WKU's Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, announced that Joe Micatrotto Jr. ('09) and his family have made a \$150,000 gift to establish the Micatrotto Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management. Joining Joe Micatrotto Jr. in this commitment were his wife, Sunshine; parents, Connie and Joseph Micatrotto Sr.; and brother and sister-in-law, Justin and Renata Micatrotto.

"We are extremely gratified that one of our many successful alumni has chosen to show his appreciation to the University in such a significant and meaningful way," Archambault said.

Joe Micatrotto Jr. is one of four founding members of Micatrotto

Restaurant Group (later MRG Marketing and Management), along with his parents and his brother. MRG became the first Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers franchise in Nevada, with franchises in the Southwestern United States. Before he was President and CEO of MRG Marketing and Management, Joe Micatrotto Jr. was Managing Partner of Buca, Inc., which is the parent company of Buca di Beppo Italian restaurants.

According to WKU President Gary A. Ransdell, Joe Micatrotto Jr. attended WKU on a full athletic scholarship in the mid-1990s and was captain of the 1997 Hilltopper Football team. However, he left WKU with only one class remaining for the completion of his degree. Through WKU's Project Graduate, a statewide effort dedicated to helping people finish degrees they started earlier in life, Joe Micatrotto Jr. completed his Bachelor of

Science in Hospitality Management and Dietetics in 2009.

"WKU is extremely grateful to Joe Micatrotto Jr. and the Micatrotto family for this generous commitment," Dr. Ransdell said. "Part of the College of Health and Human Services, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is home to 20 full-time faculty and approximately 550 students each semester. With more than 200 students, Hospitality Management and Dietetics is the largest program in the Department. In recognition of this gift and the impact it will have on students, the University has named the dining room in the Academic Complex in their honor as the Micatrotto Family Dining Room."

According to Dr. Neale Chumbler, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, the Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management will have a meaningful impact on the program. "This



is a very significant contribution to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services," Dean Chumbler said. "Through the establishment of the Micatrotto Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management, we have the opportunity to provide incredible pedagogical and service learning opportunities to our students for many years to come. We are grateful for the support from the Micatrotto family and are thankful for the opportunity to provide our Hospitality Management students the opportunities created by this generous gift."

Joe Micatrotto Jr., speaking on behalf of his family, said they are pleased to partner with the University in this way. "WKU created the base for my personal and professional development as I entered the 'real world,'" he said. "Whether it was the lessons learned in the classroom or on the playing field, I was able to take on the challenges put in front of me and

handle them because I am a Hilltopper. I always knew that when the time came, and the ability to give back was present, it was my duty to help the University that helped me. Even though I am the only WKU graduate in my family, my parents, my brother, my wife and my children are all Hilltoppers. As a family we want to see the development of our school and our students for decades to come."

The recently remodeled Micatrotto Family Dining Room is utilized as a commercial foods and catering laboratory for Hospitality Management and Dietetics majors. It is used each fall as part of the highly popular Faculty and Staff Luncheons, with food prepared and served by the Catering and Beverage Management class. Students write the menus, select the recipes and direct the entire event operations for the Thursday luncheons that are served, restaurant-style, for faculty, staff and guests.



CHHS Institute for Rural Health Receives External Funding for Three Projects

The Institute for Rural Health (IRH) in the College of Health and Human Services recently received external funding to support programming and outreach for three different initiatives.

The IRH received a \$20,000 grant from the Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation. The funds will be used for the IRH's Mobile Dental Outreach in Rural Kentucky project and will allow the IRH to purchase health promotion materials and dental supplies for the preventive programs offered by the IRH's Mobile Dental Unit. The IRH's preventive dental programs consist of Kindergarten screenings for school entry, a dental sealant program for second and seventh grade children, and a fluoride varnish program for head start children within medically underserved areas in south central Kentucky.

According to Director Matt Hunt, the IRH estimates it will provide more than 2,700 dental procedures in the community in 2016. "We are excited for the opportunity to continue offering our dental services in underserved and health professional shortage areas in south central Kentucky," Hunt said.

In addition, Dr. Susan Jones, Professor Emerita, was recently notified of continued funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for the



Nurses Using Research, Service and Education in Academia and Practice (NURSE-AP) project. This five-year (2011-2016) project is a collaborative effort with Dr. Deborah Reed at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Jones received \$17,540 for the fifth year of this project, which focuses on preparing health care providers to deliver evidence-based care and health promotion services to a high-risk population.

Finally, through the generosity of a \$50,000 gift from MyGenetx, the IRH and the Center for Financial Success of the Gordon Ford College of Business will initiate a service for the veterans of our community. In collaboration, the two programs will provide basic physical and fiscal care to local veterans. WKU students will be engaging with area veterans, providing a service to our community and learning the importance of serving those that have already given so much.

iamWKU Profile

iamWKU is the University's faculty and staff giving program. Through iamWKU, employees help further the mission that they work each day to fulfill. Though their professional positions offer the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the WKU Family through their work, gifts to University allow faculty and staff members to stretch their impact even further to areas they would otherwise be unable to reach.

Name: Stephanie Hammons

Position: Office Coordinator, Honors College and Manager, Visiting Scholar Residences, Office of International Programs

How long have you worked at WKU? 6 years

Why do you financially support WKU? "Having grown up in Bowling Green, I've watched WKU go from being a college 'backup plan' to being a competitive university that students make their first choice to attend. I want to do my part to help WKU continue to grow."



LEGACY
of SPIRIT
SOCIETY OF 1906

Retired Col.
Greg Lowe ('68)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Larry Loftis ('68), former Army Captain and retired Secret Service Agent; Charlie Thomas ('69), former Army Captain; and retired Col. Greg Lowe ('68)

BEST FRIENDS

"I made this gift to honor one of my best friends here at Western, Charlie Thomas, who was killed in action on the 8th day of April 1971. For a long time, I struggled with what I could do to keep his memory alive. Immediately I did the things that you do. I got a rubbing of his name off the wall in D.C. and gave it to his parents. I collected all of his awards and decorations and had those framed and presented those to his parents. That just didn't seem to be enough. It finally dawned on me that if I created a scholarship it would serve two purposes. It would keep his name alive and would benefit some deserving students here at Western. As long as I'm alive, that scholarship will continue to exist, and even when I'm gone, I've made provisions in my estate so that a portion of that will go to fund that scholarship."

— Retired Col. Greg Lowe ('68)

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

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).

INTERNATIONAL REACH



Ogden Scholar uses passion for language to create global experience

By Tommy Newton ('84)

Jessica Brumley ('15) considers herself a small-town person, but in the past four years she has used her passion for language and the written word to create a global educational experience at WKU.

"I have always loved English and literature but was never sure I could make a career out of it until I realized teaching was the best path for me," said Brumley, who was recognized in December as the Ogden Foundation Scholar at WKU's 178th Commencement.

Brumley was initially interested in the sciences when she first arrived at

WKU from Anderson County in 2011, but then she learned about the Chinese Flagship Program. "I knew that I wanted an international education and I thought the Chinese Flagship would provide that," she said.

Has it ever.

Brumley, a Literature and English for Secondary Education major, Honors College graduate and a four-year student in the Chinese Flagship Program, completed study abroad trips to China, Taiwan and Cuba. She returned to WKU right before graduation from Baoding,

China, where she spent the final month of the fall semester completing her student teaching.

As her Honors undergraduate thesis, "The Cultural Classroom Instructional Handbook," Brumley completed an English/Chinese retranslation of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. The thesis combined all of her academic interests—a literary critique of the novel for her literature major, the retranslation project for her Chinese Flagship studies and the creation of lesson plans for Chinese/English teachers for her education major.

The project was the culmination of her intensive language learning through the Chinese Flagship Program, the trips to Mandarin-speaking countries and a trip to Cuba, where she visited Hemingway's estate as well as Cojimar, the fishing village of his classic novel.

"My dedication to helping others acquire language and appreciate language is something that I have always possessed," Brumley wrote in her award application essay, "but through my experiences at Western Kentucky University, I was able to hone my skills as a global ambassador of the English language and a literary culture unique to the English-speaking world."

In addition to her international experiences, Brumley has presented her thesis research at the 2014 Kentucky Honors Roundtable and the 2015 Sigma

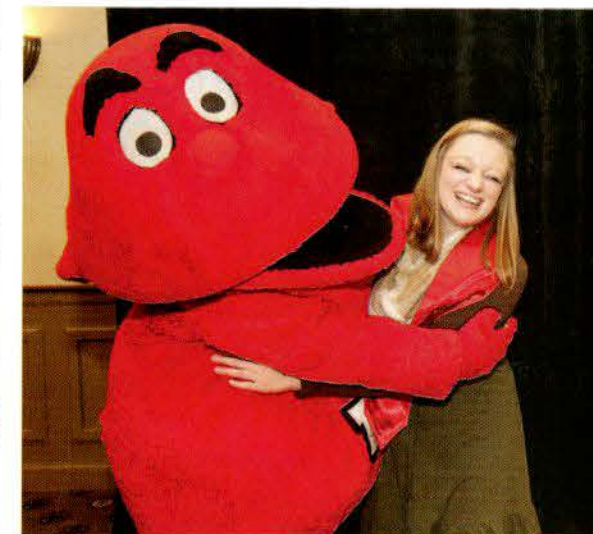
Tau Delta English Honors Society International Language Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"To think that I've had all these experiences but also these experiences on an international level is mind blowing," she said. "It's purely through hard work and being very dedicated to those opportunities that I've been able to do that. I'm so indebted to WKU for the experience and amazing opportunities I've had while I've been here."

The Ogden Scholar award is presented to one graduating baccalaureate degree senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and outstanding University and civic engagement. Brumley also was recognized as a Scholar of the Potter College of Arts & Letters.

Brumley's numerous awards include a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, WKU Presidential Scholarship, Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarship, a FUSE grant and Ministry of Education Huayu Mandarin Language Enrichment Scholarship. She has tutored and mentored elementary and high school students as well as WKU students and has been a member of several campus organizations and clubs.

Brumley, the daughter of John and Julia Brumley of Lawrenceburg, Ky., spent the first part of the Fall 2015 semester doing her student teaching at Nelson County High School. Even though she enjoys teaching high school, Brumley is looking forward to postgraduate experiences. "I'd really like to be a professor," she said.



AROUND CAMPUS

"This is like utopia for people like us who love to learn."



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO JOIN THE WKU FAMILY.

Advanced first through tenth graders find a second home at The Center for Gifted Studies. Our summer programs allow gifted and talented students to learn and grow while surrounded by their intellectual peers. Learn more about summers at The Center and download applications at wku.edu/gifted.

Camp Innovate
June 6–10, 2016

Day camp for grades 4 & 5

Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students (SCATS)

June 12–24, 2016

Residential or nonresidential camp for grades 6–8

Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth (VAMPY)

June 26 – July 16, 2016

Residential camp for grades 7–10

Camp Explore

July 11–15, 2016

Day camp for grades 1–3



"I got to be with other really smart kids like me, and I felt like I fit in."



Honors College & International Center

By Tommy Newton ('84)

A new Honors College/International Center is WKU's "Gateway to the World." The \$22 million, nearly 70,000-square-foot, three-story facility opened for the fall 2015 semester. The location on Normal Street near Northeast and Southwest halls puts WKU's growing Honors and international programs in one location and gives them greater visibility.

"This building provides visible evidence that we are a leading American university with international reach," said Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Executive Director of the Honors College at WKU and Chief International Officer for Global Learning.

The building houses the Honors College, Office of Scholar

Development, Chinese Flagship Program, Study Abroad and Global Learning, Office of International Programs, Kentucky Institute for International Studies, International Enrollment Management, International Student Office and English as a Second Language International. The building also includes classrooms on the second and third floors.

"It's a pretty significant public home for our mission of being a leading American university with international reach," said Raza Tiwana, Chief International Officer for Enrollment Management. "It's not just talk. We are doing what our mission states."

About 40 percent of the facility is used for international programs with about 25 percent for the Honors College and 35 percent for classrooms, study areas and common space. The center provides a one-stop shop for WKU's international efforts.

"All international students coming into WKU will come through this facility," Dr. Cobane said. "And all WKU students who want to have international experiences will pass through this facility."

WKU's international student enrollment has grown from 84 students in 1997 to about 1,500 in 2014. Additional significant growth is expected over the next five years, Tiwana said.

The number of WKU students participating in study abroad programs has grown from about 150 in 2002-2003 to about 670 in 2013-2014. WKU ranked 19th among the top 40 master's institutions—and was the only Kentucky public institution listed—in the Open Doors 2015 report for study abroad participation.



BUILDING FACTS

Contractor: A&K Construction of Paducah
Architect: Ross Tarrant Architects of Lexington
Branding consultant: Advent of Nashville
Engineering: Kerr-Greulich Engineers of Louisville
Project started: March 2014
Project completed: Fall 2015
LEED certification: Designed to be a LEED Silver facility
Special touches: Passport Bistro to serve international cuisine; event lawn to provide a large outdoor space for students to hang out or for faculty to hold classes; kitchen/multipurpose room for meals/events; custom designed pattern was created for wall coverings and metal panels with letters "W," "K" and "U" hidden in the pattern.



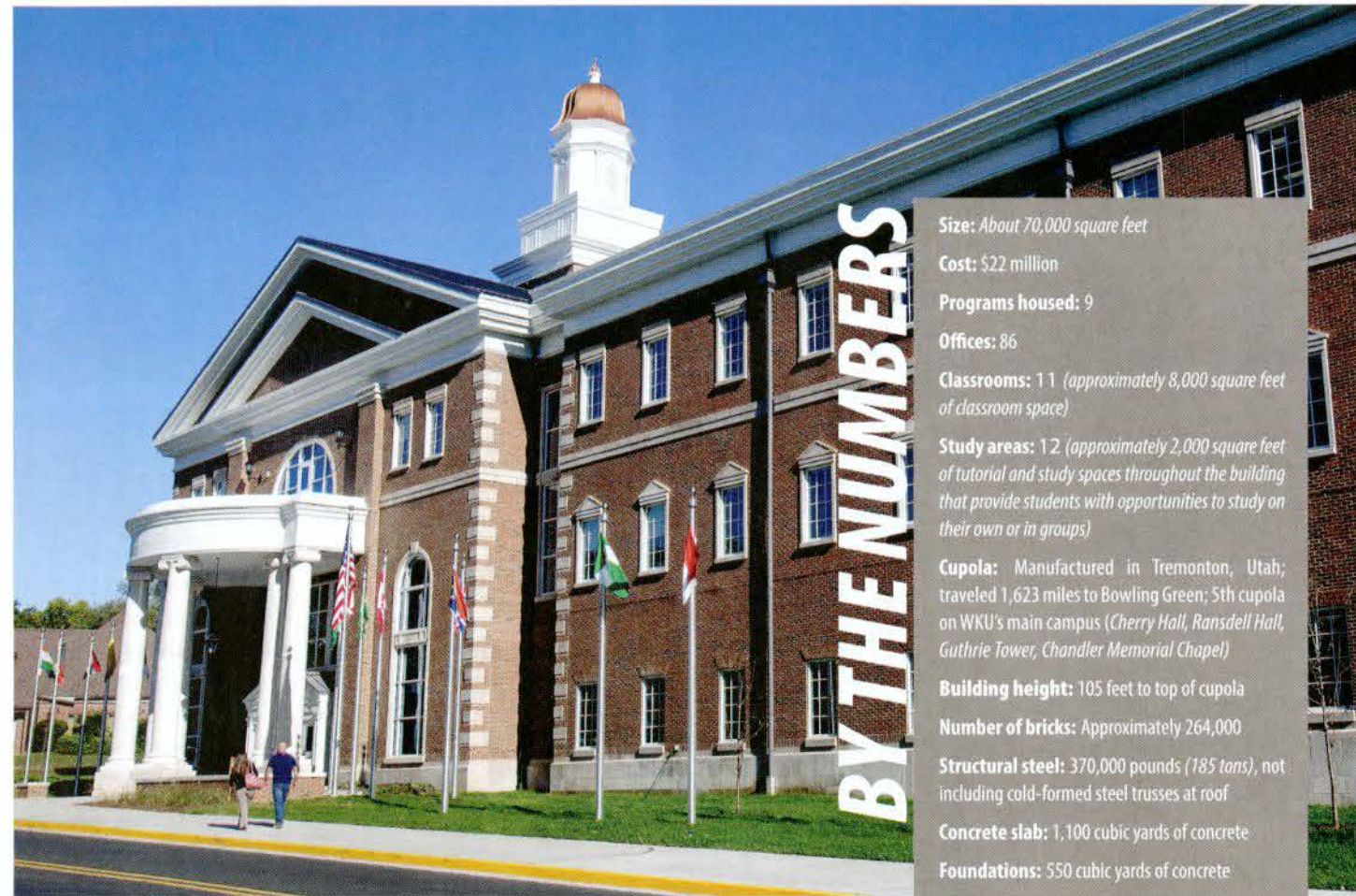
TOP The middle British style phone booth was provided by Vicki and Don Phillips in honor of Maddie Phillips ('15) | **BOTTOM** The John C. and Diane Schroeder Commons

TOP Iconic globe in recognition of Zuheir ('69) and Susan Sofia's support of International Programs at WKU | **TOP RIGHT** Passport Bistro, WKU's only internationally themed restaurant | **MIDDLE RIGHT** World Wall, adjacent to the Mary R. Nixon ('77) Overlook on the second floor | **BOTTOM** Education abroad veterans spotlighted outside the Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning

Even though study abroad participation is growing, fewer than 5 percent of students study abroad annually. That's why providing international experiences on campus—through promoting interaction with domestic and international students or participation in international events like the International Year Of Program and International Education Week—is so important, Dr. Cobane said.

"We cannot deny we are living in a global world," he said. "For our graduates to be successful in a global context, they must have international experiences. This building will provide the opportunities for students to gain those skills."

Many of the building's features are designed to give students an international experience, including 20 international flags at the main entrance; three British-style phone booths with



Size: About 70,000 square feet
Cost: \$22 million
Programs housed: 9
Offices: 86
Classrooms: 11 (approximately 8,000 square feet of classroom space)
Study areas: 12 (approximately 2,000 square feet of tutorial and study spaces throughout the building that provide students with opportunities to study on their own or in groups)
Cupola: Manufactured in Tremonton, Utah; traveled 1,623 miles to Bowling Green; 5th cupola on WKU's main campus (Cherry Hall, Ransdell Hall, Guthrie Tower, Chandler Memorial Chapel)
Building height: 105 feet to top of cupola
Number of bricks: Approximately 264,000
Structural steel: 370,000 pounds (185 tons), not including cold-formed steel trusses at roof
Concrete slab: 1,100 cubic yards of concrete
Foundations: 550 cubic yards of concrete
International flags: 20
British style phone booths: 3 (refurbished phone booths shipped from England)

Skype stations; the Passport Bistro, which features a diverse menu with international flair; outdoor seating/gathering areas; and a kitchen and multipurpose room for meals and events.

For students who don't study abroad, "we can bring the world to them," Tiwana said. "We give them a global campus. We give them a global classroom setting."

The building also provides a home for the Honors College at WKU, which was established in 2008 as Kentucky's first independent Honors College. In the past 10 years, Honors enrollment has grown from about 200 students to more than 1,400. The students' average ACT

score has risen from 26 to over 30.

The Honors College—as well as the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky and The Center for Gifted Studies—has been part of WKU's effort to improve the academic caliber of the entire University over the past decade.

"The goal of the Honors College has always been to do more than attract just the 1,400-plus scholars, but to assist WKU in becoming a destination point for academically motivated students across the Commonwealth and the nation," Dr. Cobane said.

Thanks to the addition of the Office of Scholar Development, more WKU students are competing for

and winning nationally competitive scholarships and are being accepted at top graduate schools across the United States and around the globe, he said. "That's become a part of our culture now at WKU," Dr. Cobane said.

When students from all academic programs achieve success at the national and international level, WKU's prestige and reputation improve, he said.

"The success of the Honors College, our various international programs and this building creates a sense of prestige and national reputation from which WKU benefits," Dr. Cobane said.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

The WKU Young Alumni Council (YAC) provides an opportunity for young alumni to maintain ties to WKU, provide important feedback to the Alumni Association on programming and give back to the WKU community.

According to Allie Sharp, Coordinator of Student Engagement in WKU Alumni Relations, the focus of the program is to educate young alumni, as well as the public at large, about the programs, services and mission of the WKU Alumni Association.

"The YAC leadership team consists of 20-25 members, all of whom have graduated from WKU within the last 10 years," Sharp explained. "The Young Alumni Council meets four times per year. The YAC Board selects five to 10 new members each spring, and each

member serves a term of three years."

This year, YAC plans to host its first annual Red, White & Brew at WKU's Augenstein Alumni Center. "Red, White & Brew—featuring local Kentucky breweries—is scheduled for April 23, 2016," Sharp said. "The WKU Young Alumni Council is excited to share a day of brews, tunes and fun with the Bowling Green community. This 21-and-over event will benefit the Young Alumni Council's scholarship program for upperclassmen students at WKU."

Potential members of YAC can be self-nominated or nominated by a current member. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Young Alumni Council at WKU, contact Allie Sharp at allie.sharp@wku.edu.

23 APRIL 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

RED, WHITE & BREW

Ticket Price: \$30/pre-sale | \$35 at the door
 To purchase tickets or for additional information, visit our website at <http://alumni.wku.edu/rwbrew16> or call 270-745-4395.

Augenstein Alumni Center, WKU Main Campus



CHAPTER CALENDAR

For more information or to view a full list of WKU Alumni Events, visit www.alumni.wku.edu/events.

26 APRIL

Topper Twenty
 presented by the Barren
 County Alumni Chapter
 & WKU-Glasgow

T.J. Health Pavilion

28 MAY

Spring Day
 at the Races
 presented by the Greater
 Louisville Alumni Chapter

Churchill Downs

23 JUNE

WKU Night with the
 Florence Freedom
 presented by the Northern
 Kentucky Alumni Chapter

UC Health Stadium

27 JUNE

Lee Robertson/
 Gary Sundmacker
 Golf Scramble
 presented by the Greater
 Louisville Alumni Chapter

Hunting Creek Country Club

15 JULY

Jared Salvia Memorial
 Alumni Golf Scramble
 presented by the
 Heartland Alumni Chapter

Heartland Golf Club

ATHLETICS

Coach John Pawlowski

WKU Baseball Head Coach John Pawlowski, a 14-year head-coaching veteran with 11 NCAA Tournaments in his 22-year coaching career, began his first season with the Hilltoppers in February. Pawlowski was introduced as WKU's new Head Coach in June 2015, and WKU Baseball signed one of the top classes in Conference USA this past year.

"There was much interest in our head coaching position, and when we began our search the main goal was to find someone who was both experienced and a proven winner," said Todd Stewart, WKU's Director of Athletics. "My hope was we could hire someone who not only had high-level winning experiences, but who also had success as a Division I head

coach with multiple NCAA Tournament appearances. With John Pawlowski, we have someone who meets every criterion."

Prior to his tenure on the Hill, Pawlowski played seven years of professional baseball (Chicago White Sox, California Angels and Baltimore Orioles), won 505 games as a college head coach, participated in 11 total NCAA Tournaments and coached more than 80 players who have been selected in the Major League Baseball Draft.

"The common trait through this journey is one of a winner," Stewart said. "Who better to lead us to the places we want to go than someone who has already successfully navigated the journey many times."

PERSONAL

- HOMETOWN** Johnson City, N.Y.
- HIGH SCHOOL** Seton Catholic Central
- COLLEGE** Clemson, 1983-1985; Industrial Education (1996)
- CHILDREN** Christine, Mary Louise and Jenny Caroline

COACHING CAREER

- 2015-Present** WKU Head Coach
- 2014-2015** San Diego State Associate Head Coach/Pitching Coach (2 Years; 2 NCAA Tournaments)
- 2009-2013** Auburn Head Coach (5 Years, 1 NCAA Tournament, 167-126 Record)
- 2000-2008** College of Charleston Head Coach (9 Years, 3 NCAA Tournaments, 3 Coach of the Year Honors, 338-192 Record)
- 1999** Arizona State Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator (1 Year)
- 1994-1998** Clemson Assistant Coach (5 Years, 5 NCAA Tournaments, 1995 and 1996 College World Series)

PLAYING CAREER

- 1992** Baltimore Orioles organization
- 1991-1992** California Angels organization
- 1986-1991** Chicago White Sox organization (87-88 major league stints)
- 1983-1985** Clemson

THE PAWLOWSKI FILE



Brandon Doughty

After a record-breaking WKU career, Hilltopper Quarterback Brandon Doughty is poised for professional success. In his collegiate career, Doughty threw for more yards (12,855), touchdowns (111), and had a better career completion percentage (68.6) and passer rating (161.04) than any quarterback to ever play college football in the state of Kentucky. He led the nation in passing yards (5,055) and passing touchdowns (48) for a second consecutive season while also leading the country in completion percentage (71.8) and points responsible for (304).

Doughty also finished third in the *Lexington Herald-Leader's* "Kentucky Sportsman of the Year" voting, with Head Coach Jeff Brohm finishing fourth. It was the first time in the 35-year history of the award that two representatives from WKU finished inside the top five. The third-place finish for Doughty tied the highest finish for an active WKU figure, as legendary Head Coach Jack Harbaugh finished third following the 2002 National Championship season.

Doughty ranked 24th in FBS history in career yards and 16th in touchdowns, passing greats like Andrew Luck, Dan Marino, Peyton Manning and Doug Flutie in those marks along the way. He was just the third quarterback in FBS history to have consecutive seasons with 4,000 passing yards and 40 touchdowns as he led WKU to its first conference championship and first national ranking at the FBS level.

Brohm's Hilltoppers ended the year ranked No. 24 by the Associated Press as the state's only ranked program and won their first FBS conference championship by becoming the first Conference USA program to go undefeated in league play and win the championship game. They were also the first team in C-USA's 20-year history to go undefeated through league play and win the conference championship game.

In the C-USA Championship Game, Doughty was named the MVP after throwing for 410 yards, the third-most in a C-USA Championship Game, and

scoring three touchdowns, including his first rushing touchdown of the season. He joined the illustrious group of just 16 FBS quarterbacks to ever throw for 12,000 yards and 100 touchdowns in their careers.

After being named first team all-conference, Doughty was voted Conference USA's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season, becoming the first player to ever win the award in back-to-back seasons. He also joined Houston's Case Keenum as the only two players to win the award multiple times. It marked the seventh time a quarterback has been named MVP in the last eight seasons.

No. 24 WKU also won 12 games for the first time since the 2002 national championship team, including 10 of 12 by double digits and seven of 12 by 21 points or more. The 12 wins were the fourth-most in college football last season behind only national championship game participants Clemson and Alabama, and Houston.



TRAVELING TO MIDDLE-EARTH: WKU goes to New Zealand

By Carol Cummings ('92)

In envisioning New Zealand, many people picture the fictional "Middle-earth" and the rolling hills of the shire depicted in *The Hobbit*, which was filmed in its entirety in this breathtaking country. In January, 10 WKU students and their two program leaders were able to experience this beautiful part of the world during a 17-day, whirlwind experiential-learning journey to New Zealand during the 2016 Winter Term.

As part of the New Zealand: Recreation and Tourism class led by WKU Professor Raymond Poff and University Photographer Clinton Lewis, students explored the world's largest industry, leisure and travel, in one of the world's most amazing places.

"THE WORLD
IS NOT IN YOUR
BOOKS AND MAPS.
IT'S OUT THERE."

GANDALF

From *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien



Junior Recreation Administration major, with minor in Outdoor Leadership from Harrisburg, Ill.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER GRADUATION?

"I plan to pursue a graduate assistantship at another university and continue working in campus recreation, or gain more physical experience in my field by working. I currently work at the WKU Outdoor Recreation Adventure Center (ORAC) located in the Preston Center."

HOW WILL WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING THIS COURSE IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

"Now that I have been to New Zealand, the experiences I've gained from this trip will help further my professional career simply because I studied the recreation field there—and I am a recreation major. Everything about the trip was pertinent to who I want to be professionally. I valued all the information I was able to receive."

CHLOE CARR



Junior Recreation major, with minor in Outdoor Leadership from Livermore, Ky.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER GRADUATION?

"I plan to work for the national park system or as an Outdoor Recreation facilitator."

HOW WILL WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING THIS COURSE IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

"Being a part of this amazing trip has helped me grow more independent as a person and has helped me understand more future job opportunities in my field of recreation that I hadn't previously considered. Jumping out of a cable car with only a rope attached to my legs has given me more confidence in myself. I'm stronger for it, and this allows me to conquer future challenges that may arise."

ISAAC SMITH



Though Dr. Poff leads an annual fall fly-fishing class to Montana, this course was his first study abroad teaching experience. "Prior to departure, students participated in learning activities and assignments to become familiar with the leisure/travel industry and prepare for the out-of-country program," Dr. Poff explained.

"While in New Zealand, the course destinations, learning activities and local experts helped teach content while providing a unique chance to experience, firsthand, the innovative aspects of the New Zealand leisure/travel industry and to connect academic knowledge to professional practice."

Students took part in recreation and tourism activities that included surfing, sea kayaking, "black water" rafting, a jet boat tour, visiting a geothermal site, experiencing Maori cultural tourism, visiting filming locations such as Hobbiton, swimming with dolphins, going behind the scenes at Weta, visiting the New Zealand National Museum and touring Milford Sound.

The trip was certainly packed with plenty of exciting and educational activities. "I intentionally made sure that the activities that I identified and scheduled for us were some of the coolest things the students would ever do," Dr.

Poff explained. "For some students, this may have been a once-in-a-lifetime shot, so I didn't want them to go halfway around the world and not get to experience everything New Zealand has to offer."

In almost everything the group did in terms of activities, transportation and accommodations, Dr. Poff intentionally identified different sizes and types of businesses to give students a broad exposure. "We took airplanes, shuttle services and the country's public transportation bus system," he described. "In looking at tourism operations, some were mom-and-pop operations and some were multinational companies. I tried to facilitate as many conversations as I could with people who were running the businesses and in effect managing or partly responsible for the industry."

For example, the students met with officials from Tourism New Zealand, which is a national organization tasked with marketing the country as a destination. However, they also met with local business owners, a local chamber of commerce and everyone in between. "We looked at the industry and how the pieces interacted with each other," Dr. Poff said. "We wanted students to see a variety of operations and talk to people at different levels in the industry."



Graduate student pursuing an M.A. in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities from Chicago, Ill.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER GRADUATION?

"I hope to lead a cultural organization or non-profit."

HOW WILL WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING THIS COURSE IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

"It was refreshing to see how a country cares so deeply about its ecological well-being and has such great respect for the Earth. That's not to say there aren't environmental issues in New Zealand. It's more of an acknowledgement of a constant theme that was present in meeting with tourism officials, academic partners and others. Moreover, I was impressed with Maori tourism officials who communicated their efforts to leverage Maori tourism in a way that supports the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Maori people. They spoke about how their motive is not profit related, but rather driven by a need to care for current and future generations. A recent study was cited which found that the Maori's primary motivation in advancing cultural tourism was to help build sustainable Maori communities and help the Maori people achieve their full capabilities."

MATTHEW MAYER

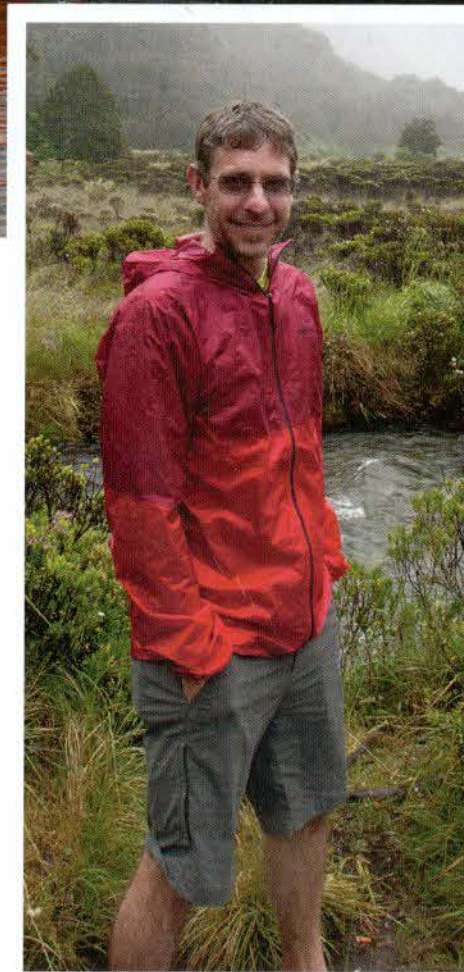


Co-leader Clinton Lewis, who has been the University Photographer since 2008, has previously traveled internationally on behalf of WKU. "I have been to Peru twice (in 2011 and 2013) to document the climate change research Dr. John All is conducting with the American Alpine Club," he explained. "I also traveled to China with WKU President Gary Ransdell and members of the Confucius Institute in 2011, and in 2014 I traveled to Costa Rica with Gattton Academy students on their annual Biology study abroad trip."

"New Zealand was a bit different, because I was asked to be the co-leader on the trip, not just the photographer. Of course that didn't stop me from taking pictures, but I did have more responsibility to the group to help Dr. Poff conduct class and keep the complex logistics of moving the 12 of us around the country going smoothly. I ended up shooting

about 4,000 photos, though: 3,000 on my big camera and about 1,000 on my phone."

The 10 student participants offered a true mix of backgrounds. "We had two Recreation Administration majors and three students who were in the Hospitality Management and Dietetics program," Dr. Poff said. "Everything was right in line with what they're studying. The other five students were a mix that included undergraduates in International Business, Biology, and Family Studies as well as graduate students in Social Work and Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities. As part of the course, students had to keep a field journal. As their final entry, we asked them how they would apply this course to their field of study. All students found strong connections, and all were different."



TRAVEL LOG: NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Travel Log: Clinton Lewis

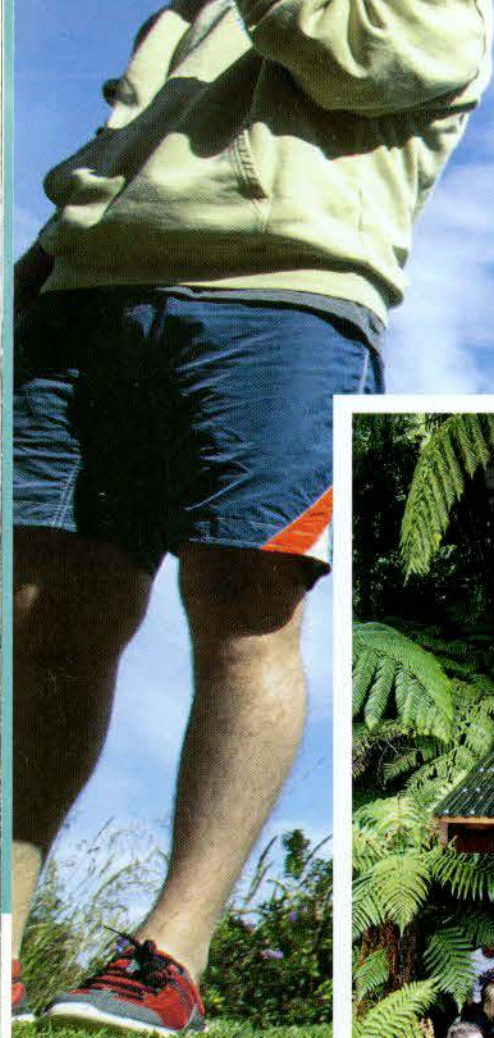
FRIDAY, JAN. 2

We met with Gary Soloff from Air New Zealand in the Los Angeles International Airport to discuss the airline industry and Air New Zealand specifically. Gary treated our group exceptionally well.

MONDAY, JAN. 4

We landed in Auckland and caught a shuttle to Raglan. First up was grocery shopping and lunch in town, followed by surf lessons with the Raglan Surf School. The left-hand break on the main beach in Raglan draws an international crowd for the surf. The conditions were perfect for us, with smooth, four-to-six-foot waves. I managed to get up about a dozen times. Most of the students did well, too.

Later that afternoon, we had a meeting with surf school and Karioi Lodge owner Charlie Young, who was very enthusiastic and urged us to "follow your dreams!" He owns several businesses in the area and works with the local chamber of commerce. Originally from Los Angeles, Young visited Raglan on vacation and never left. He is very passionate about the area and wants to balance success and growth with the need to keep Raglan's character intact and avoid overdevelopment.



TUESDAY, JAN. 5

We visited Jan Mitchell's Raglan EELS (Environmental Education Leaders in Sustainability) farm. This is a fantastic farm that was started by her late husband, Charlie. The facility included alpaca and sheep, New Zealand whitebait fish, and eel research. The entire day brought home the ingenuity of New Zealanders. Genetic breeding and selection are of key importance for the sheep, alpaca and whitefish to produce the best specimens.

We then took a kayak float down the Waitetuna River to the Raglan Harbor for lunch and a harbor tour. This was a really nice harbor with very cool rock formations on the banks. After the short tour, we walked in town to exchange money and have our next meeting with Dave Curry, the head of the Raglan Chamber of Commerce, at Orca's Restaurant. Curry shared with the group the struggles Raglan has faced to maintain its character versus the continuing pressure to develop. The area has no chain restaurants and all local or small businesses. Their current initiatives include developing strategies to promote business and traffic during the off-season.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

We left the community of Raglan for Waitomo (population: 30), which is a cave region with the main attraction of glowworms that are found in several caves. The area is not too unlike our cave region in Kentucky. We ate lunch at the general store and walked next door to the Cave Discovery Centre for a few videos on the area and glowworms, or *Arachnocampa Luminosa*. We walked back to our cabins at the Top 10 Holiday Park to prepare for our afternoon of black water rafting. This was not rafting exactly, but tubing through the cave. The highlight of the adventure was linking up in a large tube chain, turning off our headlamps and watching the glowworms come in to view on the cave roof.



HOBBITON



THURSDAY, JAN. 7

We were up early and on the road to HOBBITON!! I was completely geeking out inside! I'm a huge *Lord of the Rings* fan and this was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. The area was very compact, yet expansive, at the same time, and lots of people were visiting. The farm where the movie set was built was the perfect, idyllic New Zealand farm. Thankfully, the tours are set up and the space is designed well, so we really didn't see many other people until we got to the top of the hill where everyone stops to get pictures with Bag End, Bilbo Baggins' house. The tour concluded at the Green Dragon Pub.

After leaving Hobbiton, we rode in to Rotorua and checked in at our hostel for the night. As soon as we set our bags down, we were on another bus to Tamaki Maori Village for an afternoon of exploring the native Maori culture. We had a fantastic one-on-one discussion with Jamis, one of the guides. He was so excited to share his culture and enthusiastic about spending time with the students that we ultimately came away with a deep respect and understanding of the culture. The evening program was a good mass-audience introduction to the Maori with a walk through a traditional village replica with a traditional meal and performances, but it paled in comparison to the time we spent with Jamis. Dr. Poff was chosen to be the chief for all the visitors (about 100 overall), so he had to do the formal welcoming ceremony and choose whether we came in peace or war.

POHUTU

FRIDAY, JAN 8

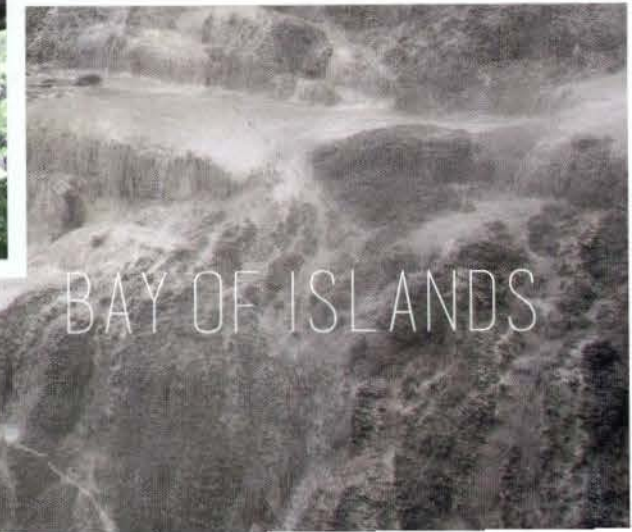
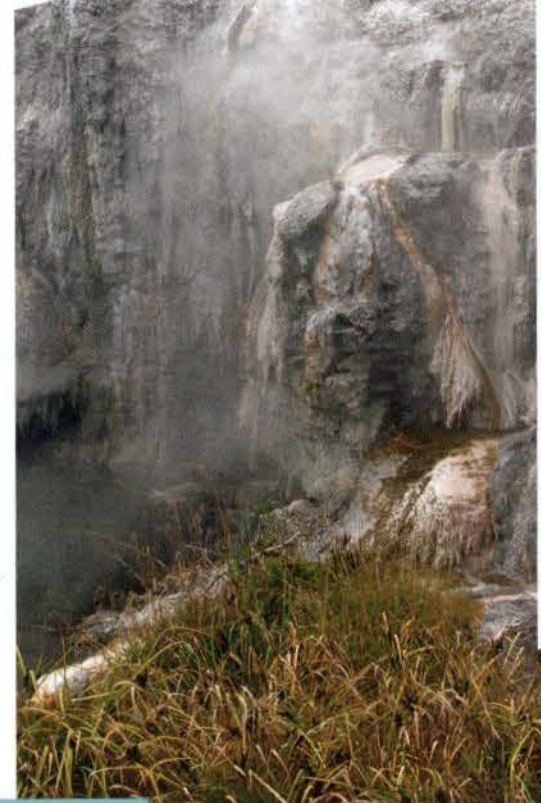
We visited the geysers and the thermal area called Te Puia, which was breathtaking. It is home to the Southern Hemisphere's largest geyser, called Pohutu. Unfortunately, it is not as regular as Old Faithful in Yellowstone, so we were not able to watch it erupt. Next was the Agrodome, a mass tourism experience and show based around the farming industry... mainly sheep. On the other side of town, we stopped at Rainbow Springs. There we found more of a nature park experience with guided walks, lots of rainbow trout throughout the park's waterways and huge Redwood trees.

We then took a bus to Auckland. I went for a run around the University of Auckland where I clocked 2.7 miles all hills in a light rain. It was tough! I went to dinner with Dr. Poff at the hotel's Chinese restaurant and then walked down to Queen Street (Auckland's main drag), where Dr. Poff found a stellar gelato/sorbet spot called Giapo. I had the New Zealand Peanut Slab. That night we stayed in the SKYCITY Hotel, right next to the huge Sky Tower.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

That morning we caught a bus to Bay of Islands. During the four-hour ride, we stopped at Parry Kauri Park to see an 850-year old Kauri tree. The town at Bay of Islands is called Paihia and is a pretty cool place. There we hopped on a boat for a dolphin tour and traveled a wide swath of the bay searching for a pod of dolphins that weren't being mobbed by other boats. We finally found three dolphins just before we had to turn around, and we had plenty of time for everyone to take rotations in the water. I was one of the last ones in and was able to get within an arm's reach of two dolphins. It was spectacular! It was a long bus ride back to Auckland, but the driver provided excellent commentary.

BAY OF ISLANDS



WELLINGTON

SUNDAY, JAN. 10

We caught a flight to Wellington, where we checked in to YHA hostel right downtown. Our afternoon was spent at Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum. It was huge, sat right on the waterfront and offered a really nice array of exhibits relating to the history and culture of New Zealand. There was also a fantastic and incredibly moving display on a World War I battle that involved thousands of New Zealand and Australian soldiers.

Afterward, I went for a run to check out what was around the area. Wellington reminds me a great deal of San Francisco, with many hills. I ran along the harbor for a bit, then turned uphill along some streets and found an entry to a nearby park on Mt. Victoria for some trails. I clocked 4.5 miles with a 1,000-foot gain.

MONDAY, JAN. 11

We spent the day on a *Lord of the Rings* tour with a local company called Wellington Rover. We had a great tour guide and got to see some great locations: We visited Rivendell and Isengard gardens. We also got to go to Weta studio and see some of the exhibits.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

Wellington is called the windiest city in the world for good reason. Holy cow, it was blowing today and pretty chilly. We first met with New Zealand Maori Tourism. We were supposed to do a waka boat tour of the harbor, but it was way too windy. We ended up doing a walking tour of Maori history in Wellington, followed by lunch and discussion at a cafe. Then we walked a few blocks to the Tourism New Zealand offices for a meeting. We had a great discussion on how the company markets New Zealand to the world. They market only internationally, and do no domestic work, which they leave to the regional tourism offices throughout New Zealand. After our meetings, I registered for a weekly 5K race along the waterfront. The course ran along the harbor, so it was nice and flat, but the wind was brutal. I still managed a personal record (23:05)!

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

We traveled to Queenstown in a double prop ATR plane. The pilot had difficulty on the approach, so we did a few loops and got great views of the area for our second landing approach, which was a bit bumpy. Queenstown is amazing and is my perfect mountain dream town. We met with Queenstown Resort College, a specialty school for the tourism and hospitality industry.

QUEENSTOWN

THURSDAY, JAN. 14

What a day! We had a thrilling van ride through Skippers Canyon followed by an amazing, fast and mind-blowing jet boat ride up the Shotover River. The visit also included a neat tour and a summary of the history of gold mining in the area. Back in town, we took advantage of a short line to get a Fergburger. I can see where they get the "Best Burgers on the Planet" praise! The afternoon was spent at a meeting with Destination Queenstown on how they market the area both domestically and internationally. Following that meeting, we took a bus to the original A.J. Hackett bungy location on the nearby Kawarau River.

FRIDAY, JAN 15

We visited the Milford Sound fiord, which was AMAZING. The area averages 24 feet of rain per year. We were able to see Hollyford Valley in Fiordland National Park, Gertrude Valley, Fairy Falls and Stirling Falls, which are three times higher than Niagara Falls. It rained the whole day, but that didn't ruin the scenery.

SATURDAY, JAN 16

Today's objective was tackling the mountain of Ben Lomond. This was the run I had been looking forward to, but it ended up being more of a hike than a run, as it was super steep and slow going. I made it to the top in two hours and 45 minutes. I found lots of people at the summit, and the views were fantastic and probably the best of the trip so far. I was pretty sore and probably overestimated my fitness! I ran most of the way down on legs that felt like total jelly. I stopped for a good rest at the gondola. I finished up on my feet down the tiki trail, although parasailing down was awfully tempting. It was a 5,000-foot climb to the top.



SKIPPERS CANYON

SUNDAY, JAN 17

We had a slow-moving morning and took a walk to watch the town on the lakefront. There we shared deep thoughts about Queenstown being very instant-gratification-thrill commercialized and monetized down to the minute. It's a circus and party town for sure. One student's skydive was cancelled due to weather, so he, two other students and I rented mountain bikes and rode some of the trail network past the airport to the Old Shotover Bridge. It was a 17-mile round trip.

MONDAY, JAN 18

This was our travel day! We finished packing and cleaned our apartment, then wandered around town for a few hours while we waited for our shuttle. We departed Queenstown for Auckland, where we had short layover of a few hours. Then we boarded the plane to Los Angeles at 8 p.m. We landed in L.A. around 11 a.m. (still Monday!) and made our way through customs and immigration. We boarded the plane for Nashville at 3:30 p.m. Pacific time and we were headed back home. We landed at 9:45 p.m. local time, loaded the shuttle and made it back to Diddle Arena at WKU by 10:45 p.m. I finally made it home just after 11 p.m. There's nothing like a 36-hour Monday! I'm glad to be back, but I'm already planning a return trip with the family!



MILFORD SOUND

UP TO
\$25K
IN TAX CREDITS

KENTUCKY SMALL BUSINESSES — Grow Your Business AND Get a Tax Break!

The Kentucky Small Business Tax Credit (KSBTC) program is designed to encourage small business growth and job creation. Most for-profit businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees are eligible. **And now, the program has been expanded and simplified!**



Tax credits range between \$3,500 and \$25,000 and require creating and sustaining at least one new full-time job and purchasing at least \$5,000 of qualifying equipment or technology.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The Kentucky Office of Entrepreneurship has many programs to help grow small businesses in Kentucky. For more information or assistance call 800-626-2250 or visit ThinkKentucky.com.

Services, assistance, and activities are available to all without regard to race, color, gender or national origin.



President Gary ('73, '74) and Julie ('75) Ransdell

WKU ranked No.1 campus *to fall in love*

By Shelby Bruce, WKU Herald Writer

At his mother's funeral in the spring of 1972, WKU President Gary A. Ransdell decided he could not wait another day. He found a private moment, knelt on one knee and popped the question to his WKU sweetheart Julie Bush: Will you marry me?

"Maybe it wasn't a proposal story like everyone else's, but it meant a lot to both of us," Ransdell said. "In my mind, I thought of it as replacing one amazing woman with another."

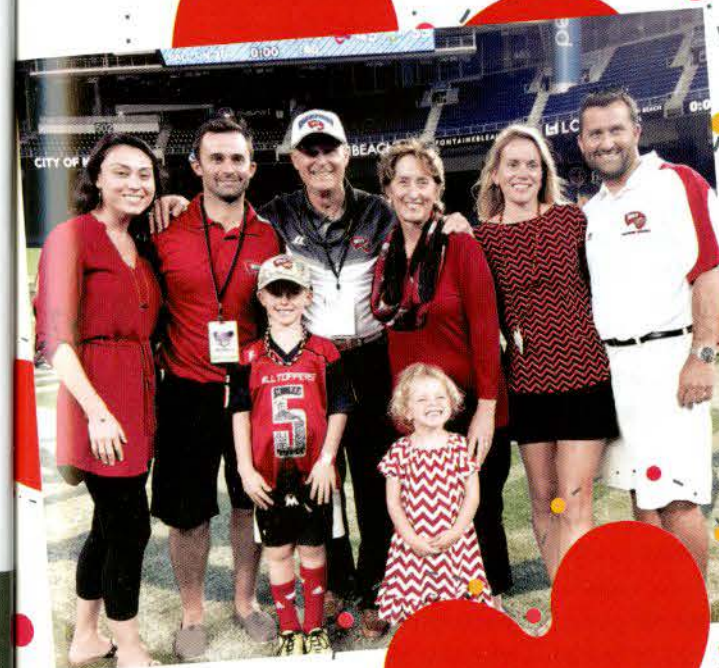
It's been more than 40 years since Ransdell met the love of his life on the Hill, but according to a recent article by the online publication *Bustle*, WKU is still a university where students often meet their soulmates.

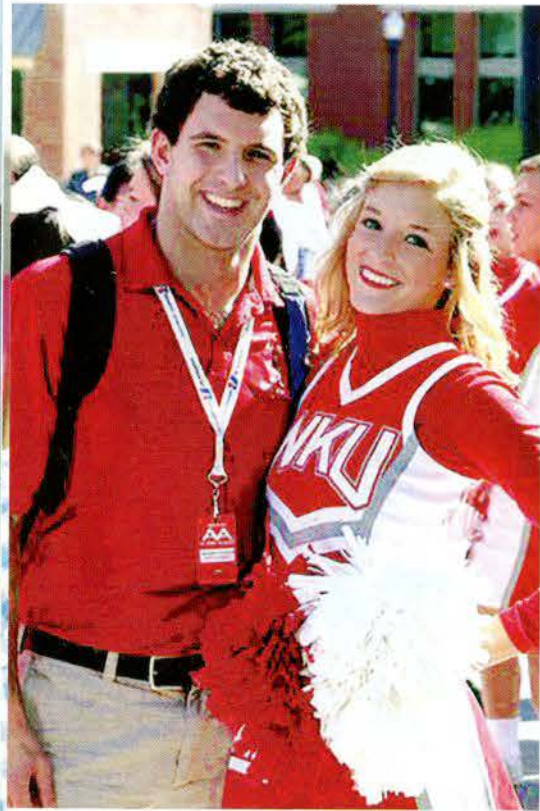
The *Bustle* article ranked the top five universities in the United States for falling in love; WKU took the No. 1 spot.

At a fraternity rush for Sigma Alpha Epsilon in 1971, Ransdell met his future spouse.

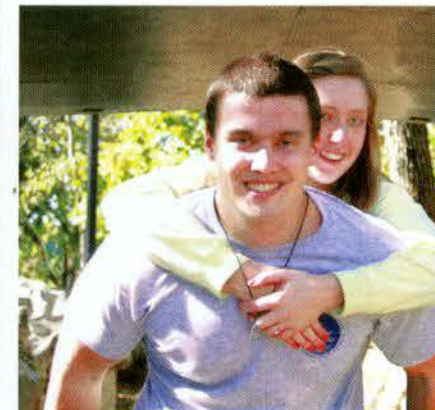
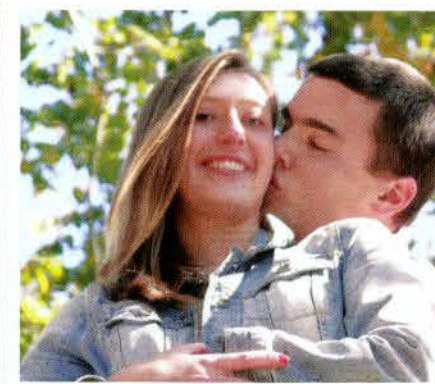
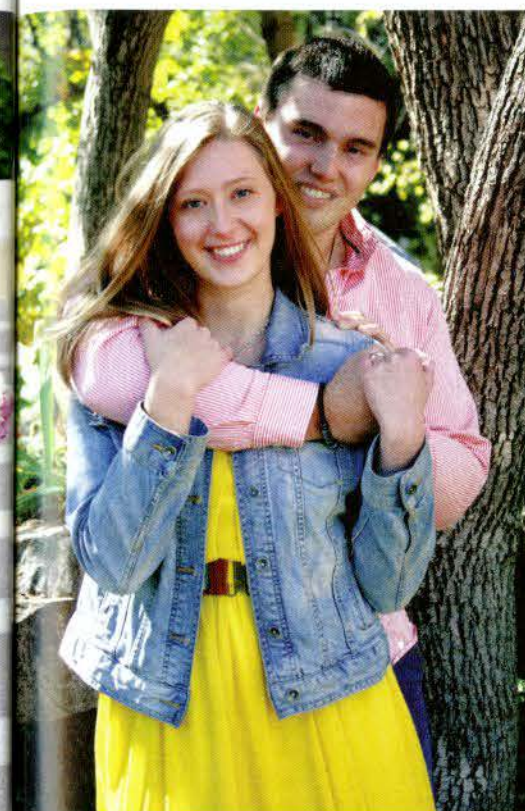
"I saw her and thought, 'I have to join this one,'" Ransdell said. Since the day the couple met, WKU has always been a significant part of Gary and Julie Ransdell's lives.

"We have spent the last 19 years as President and First Lady," Ransdell said. "Our whole life together revolves around WKU."





Zach Talton ('13) and Madison Schwettman-Talton



Austin Stethen and Kyrsten Sutton-Davis

Although not every WKU love story has led to the couple becoming President and First Lady of the University, plenty of other couples have found their soulmates on the Hill.

Austin Stethen of Jeffersonville, Ind., and Louisville, Ky., native Kyrsten Sutton-Davis' engagement took place at the infamous Kissing Bridge located behind Van Meter Hall and Garrett Conference Center.

"I had absolutely no idea he was going to propose," Sutton-Davis said.

During a walk on campus, Stethen lured his girlfriend up the Hill to the Kissing Bridge, where he began to share the history of the bridge. Since it's said that any couple who kiss on the bridge are destined to be married, the pair shared a kiss to follow the tradition.

For Stethen, this was part of the plan to surprise his girlfriend with his proposal.

"I grabbed the box from my pocket and knelt down, and she began to cry," Stethen said.

With the wedding set for September 2017, the couple

agrees that WKU will always have a large impact on their lives.

"I couldn't have imagined a better place for a proposal or a better way to do it," Sutton-Davis said.

Zach Talton from Oldham County, Ky., and Murray, Ky., native Madison Schwettman-Talton began their love story on the Hill.

Schwettman-Talton, a cheerleader for the Tops, had no idea Talton had been on the field as Big Red with her during a WKU football game against the University of Kentucky in Nashville. That was when they first met.

"It wasn't until December at a BCM (Baptist Campus Ministries) dance that we actually began to see each other as more than just friends," Schwettman-Talton said.

Four years later, they became engaged, but the proposal was nothing close to ordinary.

"Zach had been planning the proposal for months, and dozens of people knew about it," Schwettman-Talton said.

The evening Talton proposed, Schwettman-Talton had no idea what would occur at the end of a girls' night out.

"After dinner I got a phone call from my friend Josh Minton," said Schwettman-Talton. "There was panic in his voice. He told me there had been an accident on campus and I needed to get to the old alumni building as soon as possible."

After arriving on the scene to see police officers in front of Chandler Memorial Chapel, Schwettman-Talton and her friends were told the cops had been called due to a broken window. As she approached the Chapel, she realized the Chapel lights were actually turned off.

"When we [arrived] inside, there was a violinist playing and Zach was standing at the front. I was escorted to my seat," said Schwettman-Talton.

Talton then began to tell the story of their love through a book he wrote called *A Fairytale from the Top of the Hill*, which consisted of memories, funny stories, music, sweet moments and a letter of approval from Schwettman-Talton's father.

"Once he finally popped the question . . . I said, 'Yes! Please!'" Schwettman-Talton said. Married now for less than year, the couple, like many others from WKU, continues to feel as if this University plays a huge role in their lives.

"WKU is definitely where our fairy tale unfolded," Schwettman-Talton said.

These stories prove that affection for WKU can extend beyond the obvious aspects of its campus. With a little luck and opportunity, the Hill has proven to be a haven for falling in love.

This story originally appeared in the Homecoming 2015 magazine produced by the WKU Herald.

Did you meet at M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan?

Did your eyes meet across the room at the Goal Post?

Did a friendship in Biology class turn into the love of your life?

Did you propose at the Kissing Bridge?



Did you meet the love of your life at WKU and are you still married to tell the tale of your meeting? If so, tell us your WKU love story, and we'll publish the best stories in an upcoming issue of WKU SPIRIT magazine.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Stories should be kept to 450 words with a PG rating on the details.
- Both must be WKU alumni who met on the Hill and later married.
- Each story should include photos—preferably a wedding photo or photo of you taken on campus, as well as a current photograph. Photos will not be returned.

Submit your story and photos at www.alumni.wku.edu/HeartsOnTheHill.

Deadline to submit a story is May 15, 2016.

WKU SPIRIT reserves the right to edit any story submitted.

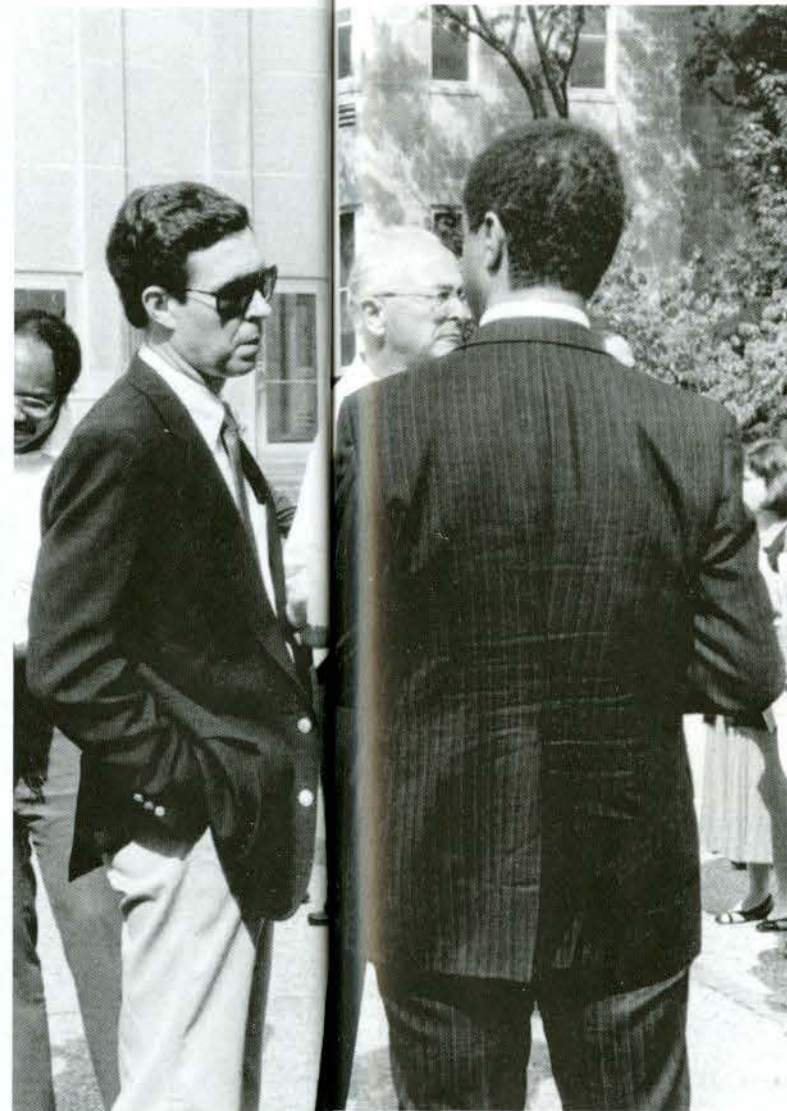
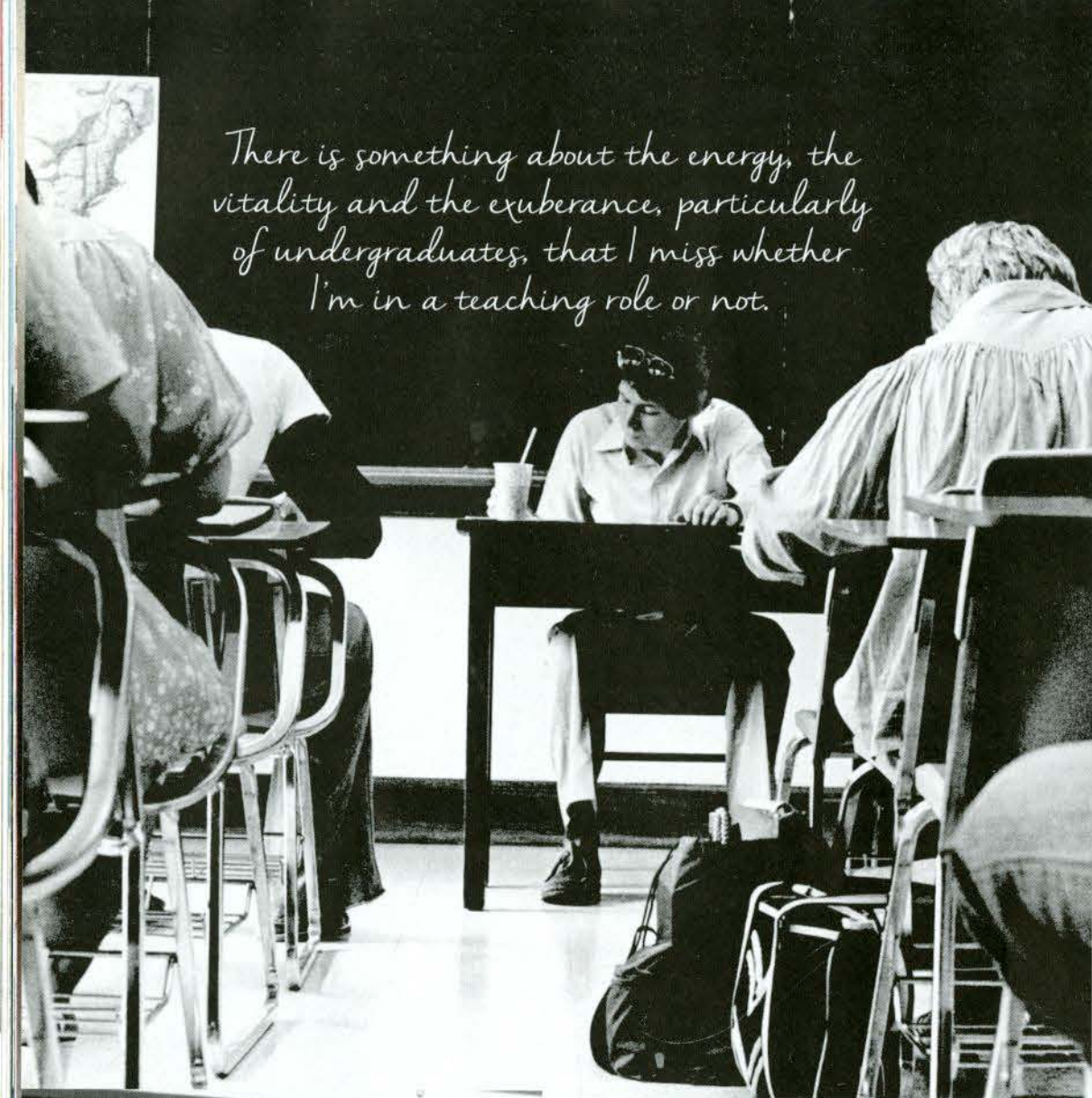


A CONVERSATION WITH
Provost David Lee

By Carol Cummings ('92) and Leslie Watkins ('86,'88)

Long-time administrator Dr. David Lee was named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in August 2015. Dr. Lee earned his Doctorate of Philosophy from Ohio State University in 1975 and joined the History Department at WKU later that year. His teaching interests focused primarily on 20th century American history. He served as Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters from 1992 until 2015. He is a historian and takes an active role in cultural programming at the University and in the community. In December 2015, we sat down with Dr. Lee to learn more about his background and his aspirations for what WKU might achieve during his tenure as Provost.

There is something about the energy, the vitality and the exuberance, particularly of undergraduates, that I miss whether I'm in a teaching role or not.



Walk me through your personal history here at WKU.

My time at WKU started a bit unexpectedly. It was July of 1975 and I got a call out of the blue that Western Kentucky University needed a historian who could teach some American History and some Russian History. The semester started in three weeks and could I come down for a quick interview? So I did. I came here for an appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor for one year with no prospect of renewal. And that was 40 years ago. For the first 10 years I was here, I was very much involved in the History Department. I was pretty focused on being a historian. I made full professor and the position of Assistant Dean of Potter College came open pretty unexpectedly. I didn't really think much

about it for a week or two, and then it occurred to me that maybe it was time to try something a little different. So I did that for six years. Then Ward Hellstrom, who had hired me for that position, resigned and went back to the English Department, and I became Dean of Potter College. I had that position for 23 years until I became Provost in late summer of 2015. Along the way, I did a two-year interlude as Interim Head of the Music Department in the late 80s, which in some ways was one of the most enjoyable and most educational experiences I've had in the last 40 years. But that's pretty much what the University has asked me to do during my time here.

What first piqued your interest in history and how does that background influence the work you do today?

I was asked that question in my dissertation defense at Ohio State. I kind of paused at the time and wondered . . . should I tell the truth or should I make up a story appropriate for the occasion? I decided to tell the truth, so I'm going to tell the truth again. In the mid-1950s, television was just coming along, and I was a first-grader just learning to read, and the Davy

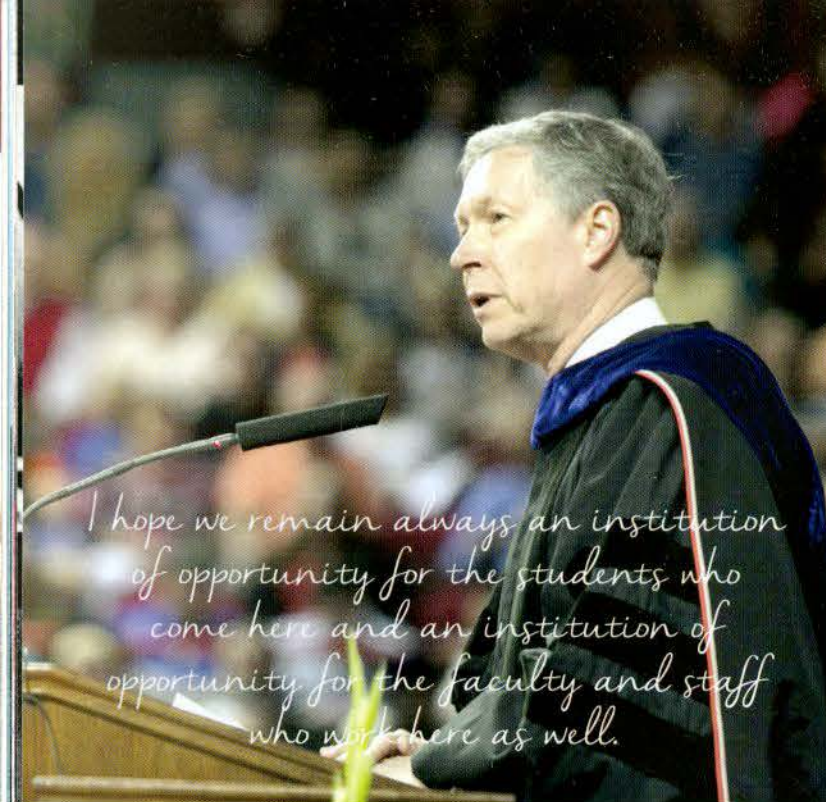
Crockett phase struck the United States. I was caught up in that as much as anybody. It gave me a fascination with history that I have absolutely never lost. I realize that doesn't sound particularly academic or particularly scholarly, but I think it's a Baby Boomer story and I think it does say something about the role of the media in shaping folks' interests and tastes.

Do you miss the classroom?

I miss the classroom a good bit, and not just the classroom. There is something about the energy, the vitality and the exuberance, particularly of undergraduates, that I miss whether I'm in a teaching role or not. Classroom teaching

has changed so much, even in the time of just my administrative career, much less the time that I've been here. In some ways, I feel very old-fashioned the few times that I'm in the classroom, but on its best days it is an interactive environment like no other.





I hope we remain always an institution of opportunity for the students who come here and an institution of opportunity for the faculty and staff who work here as well.



Forty years so far - that is a tremendous career. What do you view as some of your greatest accomplishments during that time?

Throughout my career, I've been really delighted to see some wonderful things happen. I've played some role in them, but not a unique role and in some cases not the most important role. But one thing I've been pleased to see take root has been the Cultural Enhancement Committee. I had people come back to me years after an event and talk about it. I do think that adding something like that to the campus is something I've

always been pleased with.

I've been happy with the things that have happened in Journalism and Broadcasting, seeing the programs come together and become a School. It's been wonderful for me to see the Strings Program develop in Potter College. It's added a rich dimension to the school. I do think overall that Potter College became a more complex and a more dynamic place, and I think I had some role in identifying

the people who ought to make that happen, whatever my role in it actually was.

I take a little pleasure in the Film program. I did encourage some folks to sit down together and talk about how they could put a Film program together, but these are just a few random things. And like I said, my role on these things was not all that significant, but I'm pretty proud to now see them out on the landscape.

What are some landmark changes at WKU that really stand out for you as milestones that have been achieved during that time?

The physical structure of the campus is remarkably different and supportive of the academic enterprise and the broader learning structure in so many ways. Part of it is new structures like Gary Ransdell Hall, but part of it is the renovated oldest building Van Meter Hall and how much better that serves our cultural events as a consequence of the renovation there. It is a physical structure that is aesthetically pleasing and very supportive of the kinds of things we're trying to do as an institution.

the new fields.

The aspirations of the institution are also an important hallmark of change. When I think about what our curriculum has become and what it may yet become—the institutions which we consider our peer institutions, our aspirational institutions, we are simply playing on a broader and more impressive playing field than we were able to do 40 years ago. You can look around in a lot of ways, I think, and see a more energized, more dynamic, more complex, more sophisticated, more impactful institution than we were 40 years ago.

maybe even as much—is how we've not changed. Henry Hardin Cherry marched up this hillside 110 years ago to make us an institution of opportunity, and I think on our best days, that's what we are. Just as there were folks in 1906 and 1966 who only had access to higher education because we were here and doing what we were doing, that remains true. I think that is a constant, and I think that is a pole star for us that has not changed, and that's something that frankly I hope never changes. I hope we remain always an institution of opportunity for the students who come here and an institution of opportunity for the faculty and staff who work here as well.

The faculty has become even more diverse. That was a concern when I first came here. The diversity of the faculty is remarkable, as are the new dimensions and

At the same time, I do think that what impresses me almost as much—

How has the average student changed from 1975 until now?

In a lot of ways, students are still students. They were fledglings then, they're fledglings now. These are students who are the product of a much more complex and much more sophisticated time, and that's also very much reflected.

from 19-year-olds now. They can be a little foolish. They can be a little reckless. They can be a little homesick. I think those things have abided.

The average student in some ways has not changed. Nineteen-year-olds 40 years ago were not that much different

Students come to the University now with experiences they had not had before in the 1970s. It's not all that unusual for our undergraduate students to have traveled more, to have traveled abroad a bit.

Also, our student body is far more diverse. When I first came here, we didn't have all that many international students. This fall we have over 1,400 international students—that's a remarkable percentage of our student body. Certainly, in that sense it's a very different student body than you would have encountered here in 1975.





I think as a Provost you don't have to have the best ideas, but you have to recognize the best idea when you hear it.

What are the main responsibilities you have as Provost?

The Provost is responsible for the quality of a university's academic programs. Now lots of other folks are involved in that, and my concept of that position is that a Chief Academic Officer should set a tone of expectation for quality in all academic programs, responsiveness to students and an expectation about roles in the broader community that we should play an active role in because we're a public institution. So I do think a lot of it is about tone and expectation and an emphasis on quality and service.

A lot of the practical decisions that I'm involved in day-to-day probably center on resources. For much of my career, I have been involved with hiring faculty—maybe we should hire this person instead of that person. Now my role is more in ensuring that the people who are making those decisions have the resources they need to make those decisions. So to a large extent, I think my role now is about identifying and channeling resources to support the kind of quality in academic programs we all legitimately expect to see.

What are the most important goals you hope to achieve during your time as Provost?

Quite legitimately, I get the question about what my goals as Provost are pretty frequently. I suspect folks usually expect me to say something along the lines of this program, that program, that hire. I think as a Provost you don't have to have the best ideas, but you have to recognize the

best idea when you hear it. You have to be able to create the kind of environment that produces that best idea. My goal as Provost is to try to do all that I can to create an atmosphere, an environment and a setting that encourages the interchange of ideas that's going to generate that best idea.

What do you like most about your new role?

The thing that I like most is the opportunity to be involved in conversations that are shaping the future. This is a really

exciting time. There are a lot of conversations happening that could shape what happens at this institution for a long time.

How did the sunglasses on the head become a habit?

Sunglasses on my head—folks have poked fun at me for that for maybe even longer than I've been at WKU. The deal with that is that I've worn contact lenses for a long time, and contact lenses made my eyes a bit sensitive to light. So I got in the habit of wearing sunglasses a lot, even when it's kind of gloomy. At the risk of feeding a stereotype, I can be a scosh

absent-minded, and I lost a few pairs of sunglasses and finally decided, "I'm just going to put these on the top of my head and I'm never going to remove them, and that's the only way I can keep up with them." I still lose them about every couple of years or so but for the most part, putting them on my head has been a solution to a problem, and it works fine.

MOMENT IN HISTORY

From College to University: "Wonderful!"

By Lynn Niedermeier

"There is a good chance that we will get a bill through the Legislature this season without any organized opposition and with little fanfare." When Kelly Thompson expressed this hope to a supporter on Feb. 2, 1966, the President of Western Kentucky State College was anticipating the day that his institution would become "Western Kentucky University."

That day arrived on Feb. 26, when Gov. Edward T. Breathitt signed House Bill 238 into law, granting university status not only to WKU but also to Morehead State College, Eastern Kentucky State College and Murray State College.

President Thompson's prediction of "little fanfare" seems odd in light of such a transformational event in WKU's history, but for years his administration had carefully worked toward this quiet victory. In the decade since becoming President in 1955, Thompson had overseen a period of astonishing growth in WKU's enrollment and facilities—from 1,684 students to 7,824, from 20 major buildings to 41, from 98 full-time faculty to 317. Curriculum expansion, and the reorganization necessary to administer it, was evident in the 1963 merger with the Bowling Green College of Commerce, the 1964 establishment of a separate graduate

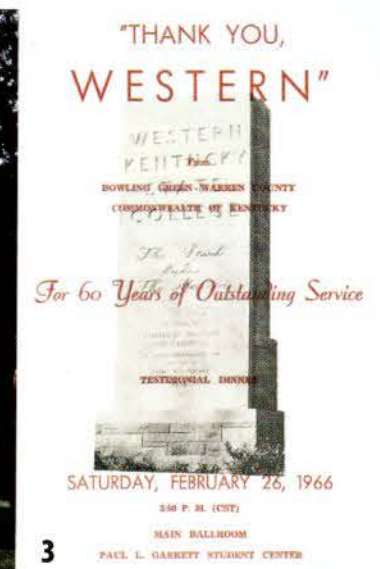
school, and the 1965 formation of the College of Education, the Potter College of Liberal Arts, and the Ogden College of Science and Technology. Chartered in 1906 to train teachers for Kentucky schools, WKU had grown academically and administratively from a single-unit, undergraduate institution to a multi-unit, multi-purpose institution offering not just bachelor's degrees but graduate and professional training—in short, a university in all but name.

Delivering his 10-year progress report to the Board of Regents and proposing more ambitious plans for the decade ahead, President Thompson noted his administration's past resistance to seeking university status because "it was felt that such status would automatically come in due time." Now, he told the Regents, "Western is ready for such change." On Jan. 14, 1966, an 18-member Commission on Higher Education released the results of a two-year study that recommended university status for four state colleges, and Thompson had already alerted many friends in the legislature, then in session, of his intention to move forward.

House Bill 238 was not without critics. The University of Kentucky, worried

about competition from the state colleges, frowned at the prospect of underfunded programs and "a proliferation of 'cheap' graduate degrees." The bill, however, derailed its opponents by establishing an independent Council on Higher Education to oversee planning and budgeting. It also affirmed UK as the principal institution for statewide research and service, with the four new universities providing programs related to the needs of their regions. Ultimately, the bill sailed through the House without dissent and passed the Senate by a vote of 29-6.

The legislative triumph may have been muted, but the shouting at WKU began as soon as President Thompson flew home from the bill signing ceremony in Frankfort. Feb. 26, designated "Western Day in Bowling Green and Warren County," featured a dinner for 650 in the Garrett Center Ballroom to honor both Thompson and WKU's role in the community. At halftime of the WKU Men's Basketball game against Murray, representatives of the administration and student body, legendary Coach Ed Diddle and 12,500 fans celebrated with President Thompson as Gov. Breathitt presented a plaque commemorating their school's university status.



The Board of Regents is pleased to announce that the name of Western Kentucky State College has been changed to WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY by an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky



1- Feb. 26, 1966: Gov. Edward T. Breathitt (seated) signs House Bill 238 elevating WKU and three other state colleges to university status. From left: Dr. Irvin Lunger, Transylvania College; Dr. Philip Davidson, University of Louisville; Dr. John Oswald (partially hidden), University of Kentucky; Dr. Carl Hill, Kentucky State College; Dr. Robert Martin, Eastern Kentucky State College; Dr. Kelly Thompson, Western Kentucky State College; Dr. Ralph H. Woods, Murray State College; and Dr. Adron Doran, Morehead State College. | 2- "University" replaced "State College" on the pylon, unveiled on June 16, 1966. | 3- On the day of the university bill signing, an appreciation dinner drew 650 guests to campus. The pylon shown on the program would be updated to reflect WKU's new name. | 4- At halftime during the WKU-Murray basketball game on Feb. 26, 1966, Coach E. A. Diddle celebrated with Gov. Breathitt and President Thompson. A model of the plaque commemorating university status is in the background. | 5- An official announcement of WKU's new name bore the updated University seal. | 6- Dr. Kelly Thompson accepts a signing pen from Gov. Breathitt.

The absence in the university bill of an "emergency clause" mandating immediate implementation meant that it would not become effective until 90 days after the adjournment of the current legislative session. With that date yet to be determined, Thompson took up a long list of administrative details early in March. Addressing his "fellow Prexies" at Morehead, Eastern and Murray, he outlined his plans for 1966 diplomas (bearing the new name and dated only "June"), class rings (with the new name), and use of new stationery and a new seal (after the expiration of

the 90-day period). Also on the agenda was consideration of name changes for the *College Heights Herald*, College High, and various signs and markers. After the legislature adjourned and the law's effective date—June 16, 1966—became firm, a ceremony that same day unveiled the remodeled pylon bearing WKU's new name at the campus entrance below Van Meter Hall.

Only once did administrative enthusiasm appear to outrun protocol. In its last official act on behalf of Western Kentucky State College, the Board of Regents was required to file with the

Secretary of State a certified copy of its resolution approving the name change. This step had to be repeated, however, when the seal with the new name, instead of the old, was mistakenly affixed to the document. But no matter. By this time, as President Thompson noted, a "long thought out process" was complete. Still, as Thompson reflected on WKU's achievement, picturing it not as a dramatic watershed but as a station on the path to increased opportunity, higher service, and greater challenge, he could not resist exclaiming: "WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – wonderful!"

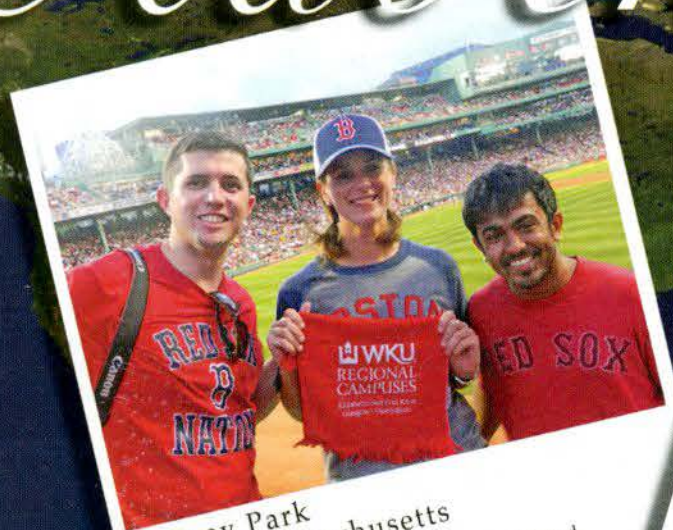
Adventures of the

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RED TOWEL



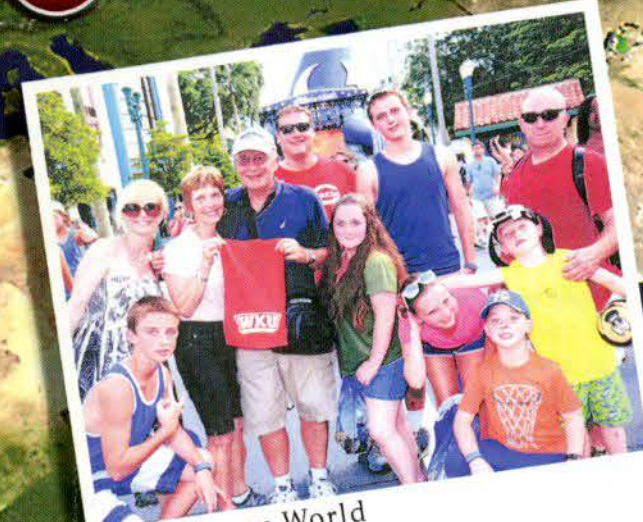
See all the Adventures of the Red Towel online at www.alumni.wku.edu/redtoweltravels



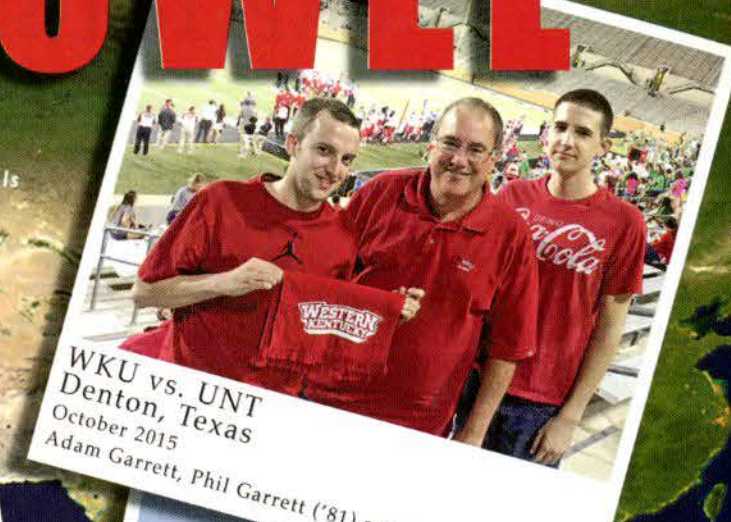
Fenway Park
Boston, Massachusetts
July 2015
John Roberts ('12), Heather Garcia ('98) and
Ian Venskus ('07)



Arch of Constantine
Rome, Italy
July 2015
Kevin Dorth ('11, '14) and Kristin Dorth



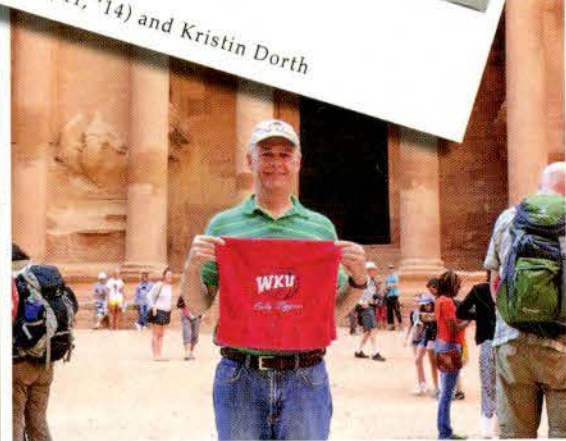
Walt Disney World
Orlando, Florida
July 2014
Austin King, Ann King, Carolyn McClard Honchell ('65),
Ken Honchell ('66), Rich King, Baileigh Embry, Trey
King, Savannah King, Ken Honchell Jr., Ryan Honchell
and Dylan Honchell



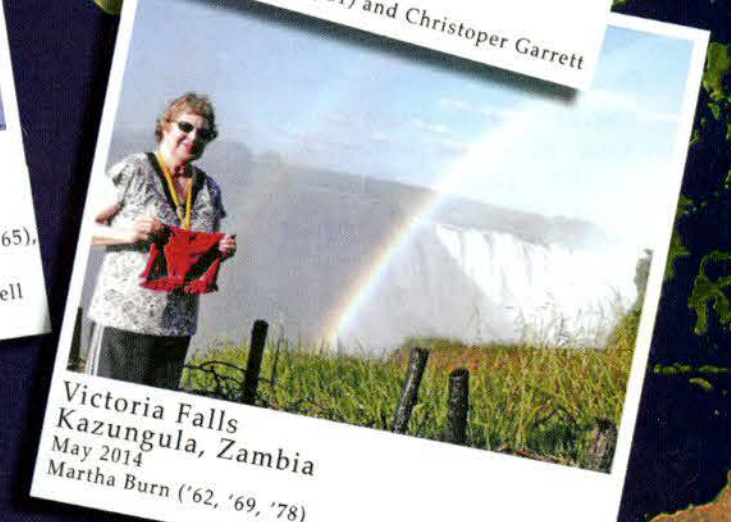
WKU vs. UNT
Denton, Texas
October 2015
Adam Garrett, Phil Garrett ('81) and Christopher Garrett



Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
September 2015
Karl Miller ('91, '00), Tristan Miller (Future Student),
Karlie Miller and Jennifer Miller ('92)



Al Khazneh ("The Treasury")
Petra, Jordan
October 2014
Mark Smith ('83)



Victoria Falls
Kazungula, Zambia
May 2014
Martha Burn ('62, '69, '78)



St. Petersburg, Florida
June 2015
Lindsay (Antone) Carnes ('10) and
Joey Carnes ('07, '09)



Bonaire (Leeward Antilles)
November 2015
Steve Broderson ('89)



Inishbofin Island, Ireland
October 2015
Tina Marie DeVincenzo ('82)

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.

CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT

Sen. C. B. Embry Jr. ('63)

By Jennifer Breiwa Smith ('03)

Sen. C. B. Embry Jr. has dedicated his life to public service. He grew up in a household where politics was talked about often. "My dad was a Kentucky State Senator from 1945 until 1948, and I spent a lot of time with him in Frankfort during his service as a state senator," Embry noted.

Embry's father also started seven different newspapers, which led to many discussions of current events and politics. "I have to say, my mom was much more political than my dad. I can't remember a time when she didn't talk about politics at the dinner table," he said.

Embry's parents instilled in him a passion and responsibility for public service and giving back to his community. While a student at Western Kentucky University, Embry served as the Chair of the WKU Young Republicans Club and President of the Geography Club. After graduating from WKU in 1963, he continued to serve others; he has served as president or chair 16 times for various civic organizations. However, it was his experience with the Beaver Dam Jaycees that led to his first elected position.

"As President of the Beaver Dam Jaycees, I wanted to help the city parks office with their Little League baseball fields," he said. "I and several others from the Jaycees tried without success to lobby for improvements to the parks, so I decided to run for mayor so that I could improve Beaver Dam."

Embry won the election for Mayor of Beaver Dam, and several of his colleagues in the Jaycees won the city council elections. Embry felt the only way to truly make change was to get involved. After serving one term as Mayor of Beaver Dam, he ran for Ohio County Judge and then Ohio County Judge-Executive. He served three terms as Ohio County Judge-Executive before being elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2002. He served in the House of Representatives for six terms until he was elected to the Kentucky State Senate in 2014.

Embry started his career as a teacher at Horse Branch Elementary and Pleasant Ridge Elementary in Ohio County and

Cromwell Elementary in Butler County. He taught for seven years until he was elected Mayor of Beaver Dam. Then he joined the family business and served as Editor of the *Ohio County Messenger*.

Because of his professional background, he has been an advocate for education during his tenure in the General Assembly. "I believe the future of Kentucky depends on the education our citizens receive," he said. "Education is an important part of economic and workforce development."

In fact, education is among Embry's top goals for the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly, along with healthcare and the state pension systems. He wants to find a permanent solution to stabilize the pension systems and to provide healthcare that is affordable and accessible for all Kentuckians.

Embry is married to Wanda (Ralph) Embry, and they have three children and four grandchildren. He serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee, Budget Review Subcommittee on Education, Natural Resources and Energy Committee; Transportation Committee, Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee, and Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee.



Sen. C. B. Embry Jr. speaks with area reporters.



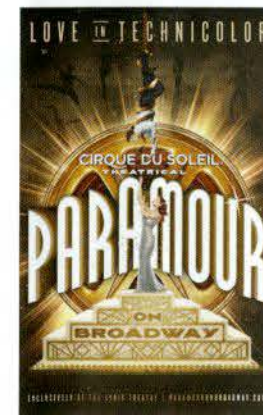
Thumbs-Up!

Thumbs-Up! recognizes 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 309, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.



Tessa Duvall ('13)

Tessa Duvall ('13) of Jacksonville, Fla., recently gave a TEDx Talk at TEDx Jacksonville. Duvall, a reporter at *The Florida Times-Union* newspaper, was selected to speak following a three-day series she wrote and reported, which featured a once-struggling urban school and its promising transformation into two single-gender leadership academies. Duvall's talk, "Learning the truth about bad schools," was one of a dozen presentations at the Oct. 24, 2015 event.



Ruby Lewis ('07)

During the 2015 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Ruby Lewis ('07) sang the title track from the upcoming Cirque Du Soleil show *Paramour*, which will debut on Broadway in April 2016. Lewis, a native of Shelbyville, Ky., and her cast mates rode the Dreamseeker float, which spanned many disciplines including trampoline, dance, contortion, fire breathing and juggling. Lewis has been singing and dancing all her life. While at WKU, she appeared in numerous Department of Theatre & Dance productions.

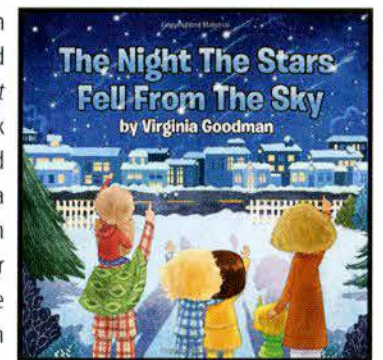


Scott Crowell ('90)

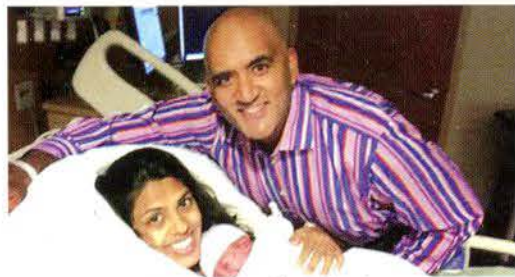
On Jan. 8, 2016, the feature film *The Masked Saint* made its national theatrical debut. The script was written by Scott Crowell ('90) of Nashville, Tenn., for Ridgerock Entertainment. *The Masked Saint* stars Brett Granstaff, the legendary Diahann Carroll, and the late great wrestling maverick, Roddy Piper, in one of his final roles. After winning the Best Picture Award at the 2015 International Christian Film Festival, *The Masked Saint* went on to secure theatrical distribution with Freestyle Releasing. Visit themaskedsaint.com for more information.

Virginia "Ginger" (Hartle) Goodman ('71)

Virginia "Ginger" (Hartle) Goodman ('71) of Griffin, Ga., has published her first children's book, *The Night the Stars Fell From The Sky*. The book tells the story of a little girl named Hunter, her cousins and how a special Christmas gift turns into an unbelievable holiday surprise. Ginger and her husband, Donald, have three children and seven grandchildren who are featured in the book.



CLASS NOTES



15 Shailen Bhatt ('01)



7 Melissa Knight ('00)



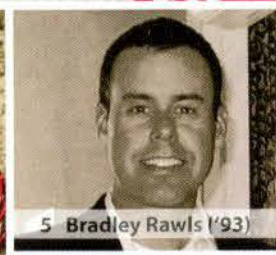
21 Andrew ('07 & Kara ('07) Salsman



20 Greg ('08) & Mallory ('08, '12) Ryan



17 Chris ('12) & Jennifer ('09) Leptinsky



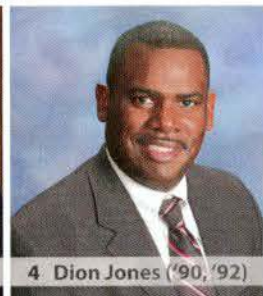
5 Bradley Rawls ('93)



18 Kathy Morris ('08)



1 Greg Keightley ('78)



4 Dion Jones ('90, '92)



2 Tim Culver ('86)



13 Joshua Wiseman ('12)



19 Wes ('11) & Alice ('12) Orange



12 Julie Ford ('11)



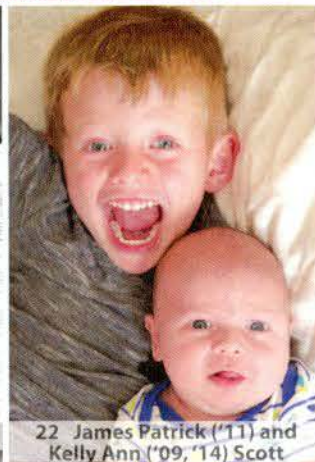
14 Allie Sharp ('13, '15)



3 Elizabeth McKinney ('86)



16 Mandy Dyer ('03)



22 James Patrick ('11) and Kelly Ann ('09, '14) Scott



11 Susan Arterburn ('04)



8 M. Todd Osterloh ('01)



9 Christina L. Vessels ('01)



6 Summer Goldman ('99, '05)



10 Dr. Joy Jones-Carmack ('02)

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 309, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

Dr. Carol June Maker ('70) of Tucson, Ariz., received the International Award for Research at the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children's World Conference. The conference was held in Odense, Denmark, on Aug. 10-14, 2015. Dr. Maker is a Professor of Special Education at the University of Arizona.

John Osborne ('72, '74) of Bowling Green, Ky., was one of three individuals inducted into the Pleasure Ridge Park High School Hall of Fame for 2016. John recently retired from WKU after serving the University for 41 years. As a former PRP basketball player, he has continued to support the team by providing a point of contact for basketball players interested in attending WKU.

Bob Manning ('73) of Louisville, Ky., was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame in September 2015. Manning, who has had a successful career in radio and television, credits returning to WKU in 1970 after his Army service with helping make the transition to civilian life much easier. He is a founding member of USA Cares, a non-profit providing financial and advocacy support for military families.

Greg Keightley ('78) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined the WKU Alumni Association in January 2016 as the Assistant Director of Alumni Resources, where he is responsible for revenue generation, activities including membership, affinity marketing, sponsorships and underwriting for Alumni events and programs. After working for many years in financial services marketing in Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas, he relocated home to Kentucky in 2011 and worked as Marketing and Public Relations Director at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center and also spent time in Louisville, Ky., as Director of Marketing and Public Relations at the Kentucky Derby Museum. (Photo 1)

Bryan Howard ('79) of Antioch, Tenn., was published in the September 2015 edition of the *PM World Journal* with an advisory article titled "Creating Harmony through Diversity." This article addressed the subject of project management using illustrations from his experience as a Project Manager and a musician. Howard serves as Senior Project Program Manager with AT&T Services, Inc. and is certified as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute. He is married to **Julie Markland Howard ('78)**.

Jesse Huff ('84) of Madisonville, Ky., was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Kentucky Army National Guard. Presently, he is the Deputy Commander of the Kentucky Medical Detachment.

Mike Simpson ('85, '93) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been appointed Chairman for the International Bluegrass Music Museum's Board of Trustees. He has been integral in building awareness and raising funds for the International Bluegrass Music Museum and its programs.

Tim Culver ('86) of Louisville, Ky., has been named Vice President for Advancement at Lexington Catholic High School in Lexington, Ky. He served the previous 14 years as Director of the Trinity High School Foundation in Louisville, Ky. (Photo 2)

Dr. Kaye Lafferty ('86, '89, '94) of Louisville, Ky., recently completed her doctorate degree from the University of Louisville. Lafferty has worked for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System for 15 years and is currently working as a Professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College, where she teaches Psychology courses.

Elizabeth McKinney ('86) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined law firm English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP (ELPO) in Bowling Green as a partner and attorney on Sept. 1, 2015. She primarily focuses on the areas of estate, probate, wills and taxation. McKinney has been an attorney for 20 years and is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant. Before joining ELPO, she had her own solo law practice. (Photo 3)

Laurie Moon Berry ('89, '90) of Henderson, Ky., has been named Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Southern Indiana (USI). Prior to this position, she worked in Housing and Residence Life at USI for 22 years.

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DR. TY J. HANDY



Dr. Ty J. Handy ('84) of Louisville, Ky., has been appointed President of the Jefferson Community & Technical College. Dr. Handy, who has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, most recently served as President of Northwest Florida State College.

"I remember my time on the Hill as one of the best times of my life. I met the love of my life there, I found my love of academe there, and I grew into a responsible person there," Dr. Handy said. "Upon graduation, I enrolled in the MBA program at Drexel University. There wasn't a topic covered in my graduate studies that I had not been introduced to on the Hill, and I found myself regularly tutoring students from such prestigious places as Emory, Cal-Berkeley, Dartmouth and Columbia."

Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC), is one of 16 colleges forming the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. A public, comprehensive, postsecondary institution, JCTC enrolls about 13,000 students a semester in academic and technical programs.

"Since my graduate years, I have found I draw on what I learned at WKU on a daily basis," Dr. Handy added. "Western has turned out to be the finest investment of time, effort and money that I have made in my life, and I am so appreciative of the experience."

Dion Jones ('90, '92) of Suwanee, Ga., Principal of Roberts Elementary School, has been named both the Advocate of the Year by his own school district and the Georgia Administrator of the Year by the Georgia School Counselor Association (GSCA) for his efforts to support school counseling. The Georgia Administrator of the Year award is presented to an administrator who supports, promotes and improves existing school counseling services as well as implements new counseling services. (Photo 4)

Bradley Rawls ('93) of Colorado Springs, Colo., has accepted a position as Senior Vice President, Business Development with SSPPR Public Relations Agency. Recently relocating to Colorado, Brad and his wife, Brooke, have a 4-year-old son named Silas and an 18-month-old daughter named Maeve. (Photo 5)

Sue Hackmiller ('96) of Louisville, Ky., has been named Principal of Harmony Elementary School in Goshen, Ky. Hackmiller, who began her career in Oldham County Schools, returns to the district with 25 years of education experience, including serving as an elementary school principal in Illinois for the past eight years and 13 years in Jefferson County Public Schools in various positions.

Jamie Froedge ('98, '99) of St. Louis, Mo., was named a Zhi-Xing Eisenhower Fellow for 2015. During his fellowship, he built relationships with key decision makers and learned about the evolution of the state-owned enterprise structure in China to facilitate cross-border investment in industries of mutual interest such as oil and gas, telecommunication and data centers. Froedge currently serves as Vice President, Acquisitions and Development for Emerson Electric.

Daron Jordan ('98) of Madisonville, Ky., recently received certification from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as a Certified Economic Developer (CED). This certification, held by about 1,500 individuals worldwide, is the industry gold standard for excellence in the profession of Economic Development. Jordan serves as the Community Development Director for the City of Madisonville, Ky.

Summer Dixon Goldman ('99, '05) of Grandview, Ind., has been named Vice President Business Systems and Processes for Farm Credit Mid-America based in Louisville, Ky. Goldman leads the Business Resource Service Team, which is charged with removing obstacles to doing business, providing technical and training resource to the association, and supporting and improving credit delivery systems and compliance efforts. (Photo 6)

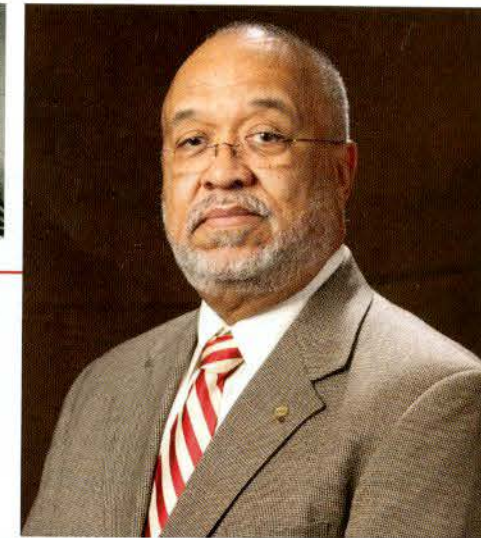
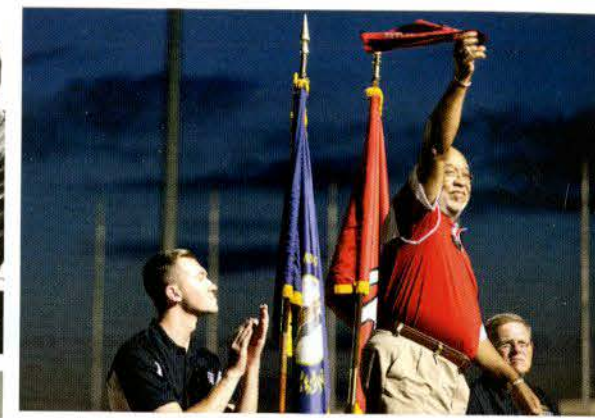


Melissa (Lee) Knight ('00) of Lebanon, Ky., has been named the 10th President of Farmers National Bank of Lebanon, Ky. She is the first female to hold the position. Knight joined the bank in 2003 as Director of Marketing and most recently held the title of Vice President. She has extensive experience in the bank's operations, product development and customer service as well as human resources. She recently graduated from the prestigious Leadership Kentucky program. (Photo 7)

M. Todd Osterloh ('01) of Midway, Ky., has been promoted to member of the law firm Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney. Todd represents municipalities and water, sewer, gas and electric utilities, applying the wealth of knowledge he acquired during his time as a staff attorney for the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Using his litigation and practice experience, he frequently instructs courses on the Open Records and Open Meetings Acts. Todd, a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, is active in several water and utilities associations and completed the Leadership Frankfort program. (Photo 8)

Christina L. Vessels ('01) of Lexington, Ky., has joined Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., L.P.A. as a partner focusing her practice on insurance defense and coverage, professional liability defense, bad faith and extra-contractual litigation, governmental liability, employment matters and appellate law. She represents a wide variety of clients including individuals, small businesses and national corporations. Vessels served as Newsletter Chair for the DRI's Government Liability Committee in 2014 and is an active member of the Fayette County Bar Association, participating on the Women Lawyers section committee. She is also AV Pre-eminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named a Kentucky Super Lawyer Rising Star since 2013. (Photo 9)

Dr. Joy Jones-Carmack ('02) of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., presented a research study at the prestigious Academy of Management Conference at National University of Ireland examining the factors that impact the "Motivation to Lead" in a retail context and exploring future leadership as Baby Boomers reach retirement age. She is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Atlantic Cape Community College. (Photo 10)



ALUMNI PROFILE

Howard Bailey retires from WKU

After an impressive 45-year career in higher education, Howard Bailey, former WKU Vice President for Student Affairs, retired at the end of 2015. Except for a one-year stint at North Carolina State University, Bailey spent his entire career mentoring and shaping lives at WKU. He came to WKU as a student in 1966 from Middlesboro in southeastern Kentucky and was the first person in his family to attend a predominantly white college.

"My grandmother, who graduated from Knoxville College, was beside herself," Bailey shared. "She said, 'Why are you doing this?' I said, 'I don't know, I just think it would be a great thing to do.'"

Bailey's choice turned out to be a good decision. Logging time as a Residence Assistant while attending WKU, Bailey got a job in Student Affairs after he graduated, never dreaming he would work his way to the top. He became Dean of Students and in 2008 was named Vice President of Student Affairs.

After Bailey's retirement announcement, WKU President Gary A. Ransdell noted that Bailey had served

the University well and had impacted the lives of thousands of students. "His is a remarkable professional story of commitment, dedication and loyalty during some of the most tumultuous periods of student life in American higher education," Dr. Ransdell said. "No one on our campus knows better than Howard Bailey the needs of our students and the challenges they face, and how those needs and challenges have evolved over the years—especially in recent years."

Dr. Ransdell noted that Bailey has served on countless University committees, including one term on the WKU Board of Regents as the elected Staff Regent. He is also widely known in national student affairs circles as a leader in his field and has been asked to present at a number of conferences and meetings across the nation on leadership, race relations and a host of issues related to Student Affairs in higher education. In addition, Bailey spent one semester in 1995 in South Africa helping universities there re-write their Student Government constitutions in the wake of the fall of Apartheid. He has also been active

in the Bowling Green community, is a founding member of the Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education and has served on the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission, the NAACP and the U.S. Jaycees.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to know Howard throughout his career at WKU and to personally work closely with him these last 19 years," Dr. Ransdell said. "He has been a valued member of our University leadership team, the Administrative Council, and has earned respect from his colleagues and peers."

While looking back at the past and toward the future, Bailey said he has considered writing a book about his career. "Some people I've encountered will get a sentence, some will get a paragraph and some will get a chapter," he said. "You'll have to wait and see who gets a chapter."



50TH ANNIVERSARY

Sigma Nu celebrated their 50th anniversary at WKU during the 2015 Homecoming weekend with more than 250 alumni and guests in attendance. The festivities included an alumni reception, game-day tailgating, guided campus tours and a special banquet at the Knicely Conference Center commemorating the Chapter's many strong achievements.

Attention members of the Class of 1966!

Make plans to return to WKU to celebrate the 50th anniversary of your graduation.

The Golden Anniversary Club
CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 1966



May 13-14, 2016 | Western Kentucky University

If you have not received an invitation or would like additional information, contact Ginny Hensley, WKU Alumni Association, at 270-745-4395 or ginny.hensley@wku.edu or online at www.alumni.wku.edu/gac16.



FAMILY OF THE YEAR

On Sept. 26, 2015, during Parents and Family Weekend, the Rhea Family from Louisville, Ky., was named the WKU 2015 Family of the Year. Peyton Rhea, a sophomore Sports Management major and a member of Phi Gamma Delta, nominated his family by writing an essay, and they were recognized after the first quarter of the Miami of Ohio football game. In his essay, Peyton wrote about how his parents' love of WKU has always been part of his and his brother's lives and how being members of the WKU Alumni Association's Growing Up Red program helped them start their own WKU affinity.

"I believe my family stands out not only for things we have accomplished while on campus but also by the things we've done and connections we've maintained since graduation," Peyton wrote. "Both of my parents received their bachelor's degrees in 1987 and my mother earned

a master's degree in 1989. She played basketball from 1984-1987, and was a member of the 1985 and 1986 Final Four teams. My father was active in the School of Broadcasting, working for the campus radio and television stations and the WKU Theatre Department in multiple productions. My brother Charlie was a WKU Spirit Master, a member of Phi Gamma Delta and worked in Admissions."

Peyton ended his essay by saying, "The one word that I think would best describe our family would be 'grateful' for what the University has done for us and what we have been able to do for the University."

The Rhea Family includes **Peyton Rhea (Current Student)**, **Charlie Rhea ('15)**, **Laura Ogles Rhea ('87, '89)** and **Tim Rhea ('87)**, shown here with President Gary A. Ransdell.

Katie Capps ('02) of Granger, Ind., was named Director of Women's Basketball Operations at the University of Notre Dame in May 2015.

Susan Arterburn ('04) of Crestwood, Ky., has been named the newest member of Senior Management at Fastline Media Group. She has been with the company since 2012 in the position of Marketing Manager and as a Department Manager. (Photo 11)

Michelle Briggs Dement ('05) of Buckner, Ky., has joined Fastline Publications as Staff Accountant. In this role, her responsibilities include working with the sales team to ensure accuracy of orders, invoicing customers, assisting in the month-end close process and general ledger reconciliations. Dement previously worked at Churchill Downs as Corporate Staff Accountant and at Perseus Books Group.

Matt Fuqua ('08) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently featured in *Insurance Business of America Magazine* as a "young gun" for making waves in the insurance industry at a young age. Fuqua, who is a member of the WKU Alumni Association's Young Alumni Council, is a Senior Vice President at Assured Neace Lukens.

Julie (Bandas) Ford ('11) and Eric Ford of Louisville, Ky., were married in Dallas, Texas, on May 15, 2015. The couple resides in Little Elm, Texas. (Photo 12)

McKenzi Loid ('12) of Louisville, Ky., has been promoted to Account Manager at Guthrie/Mayes Public Relations. She joined the firm in January 2013 as an Assistant Account Manager. Loid is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Young Professionals Association of Louisville, and she is a graduate of Leadership Louisville's Focus Louisville program.

Joshua Wiseman ('12) of Lexington, Ky., spent time during the summer of 2015 studying the stunning ecosystems and the diversity of life at the Bahia de los Angeles UNESCO World Heritage site and in the crystal blue waters of the Sea of Cortez. He took the graduate course in pursuit of his master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program. (Photo 13)

Alanna Baugher ('13) of Louisville, Ky., began a one-year appointment to teach English in Thailand in October 2015. Baugher, an Honors College graduate, credits WKU with her desire to seek new cultures, chase dreams and grow past her comfort zone.

Lauren Cherry ('13) of Louisville, Ky., has joined Heaven Hill Brands as Communications Coordinator. She will support internal and external communications and media relations for the largest family-owned and operated distilled spirits supplier in the U.S. Prior to joining Heaven Hill, Lauren developed extensive media, public relations and public affairs strategies as an Account Executive with RunSwitch Public Relations.

Allie Sharp ('13, '15) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined the WKU Alumni Association as the Coordinator of Student Engagement, where she is responsible for the Student Alumni Ambassadors, Young Alumni Council and Alumni Leadership Scholars. As a student, Allie gained vital leadership and professional skills through a variety of internships, including the Alumni Association and a two-year graduate assistantship in Student Activities. (Photo 14)



MARKIE AWARDS

In November 2015, two WKU Alumni Association Board Members who started their own marketing companies were honored at the Annual Bowling Green Professional Marketing Association Markie Awards.

Crowdsouth, founded by **Jason Heflin ('97)**, won a Silver Award for Logo and a Gold Award for Email Marketing. Bruckner Strategies, LLC, owned by **Kathleen Overton ('95)**, won a Gold Award for Sales Promotional Material/Best Pitch.

Ray Williams ('14) of Fulton, Miss., set a world record by squatting 938 pounds at the International Powerlifting Federation Raw Classic in June 2015. He also took home first place for the second straight year in the superheavyweight class with a total lift of 2,205 pounds, including 517 pounds in the bench press and 750 in the dead lift.

Shailen Bhatt ('01) and Neelam Bhatt of Denver, Colo., announce the birth of their daughter, Nandini Shailen. (Photo 15)

Mandy (Williams) Dyer ('03) and Marcus Dyer of North Liberty, Iowa, announce the birth of their daughter, Marla Kay, on May 23, 2015. She was 7 pounds, 6 ounces and 20 inches long. (Photo 16)

Chris Leptinsky ('12) and Jennifer Leptinsky ('09) of Bowling Green, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Charles Howard, on Sept. 15, 2015. (Photo 17)

Kathy (Smallwood) Morris ('08) and Mike Morris of Indianapolis, Ind., announce the birth of their son, Franklin Minor, on July 8, 2015. He was 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. (Photo 18)

Wes Orange ('11) and Alice (Weber) Orange ('12) of Louisville, Ky., announce the birth of their first child, Olivia Sue. She was born on Oct. 13, 2015. (Photo 19)

Lynn Reins ('11, '14) and Travis Reins of Bowling Green, Ky., announce the birth of the daughter, Scarlett Tyla Abigail, on April 15, 2015. She was 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 21 inches long.

Greg Ryan ('08) and Mallory Neltner Ryan ('08, '12) of Burlington, Ky., announce the birth of their son, William Carter. (Photo 20)

Andrew Salsman ('07) and Kara Salsman ('07) of Lexington, Ky., announce the birth of their first child, Gwendolyn June, who arrived in July 2015. (Photo 21)

James Patrick Scott ('11) and Kelly Ann Scott ('09, '14) of Smiths Grove, Ky., announce the birth of their second child, Archer English, on May 18, 2015. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. (Photo 22)

Chandler Memorial Chapel & Columbarium
Spend Eternity on the Beautiful WKU Hilltop Campus

A key part of the Chandler Memorial Chapel is the WKU Columbarium. The Columbarium allows WKU alumni and friends to secure a permanent place on sacred WKU ground. An owner's ashes will be placed in an urn and permanently sealed in each personally identified niche. Each owner's name and limited personal information will be forever etched in stone to mark the niche. Each niche is \$3,000 and may hold two urns.

The 82 niches in the previous construction have been sold. Construction has begun on an additional 58 niches. Those niches will be available for purchase this spring.

For more information on The Columbarium at Chandler Memorial Chapel, contact Ginny Hensley, WKU Alumni Association, at ginny.hensley@wku.edu or call 888.958.2586.



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IN MEMORIAM

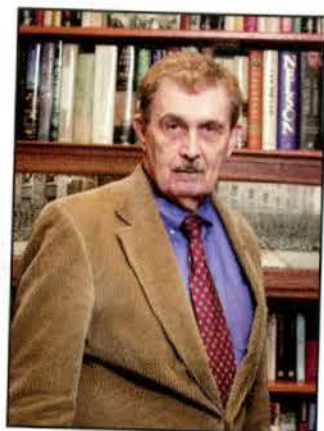
We pay tribute to all members of the WKU family who have passed away.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Mr. Austin Abell Jr., '70 | Mr. James C. Blair | Mr. Charles Bruce Childers Sr., '51 | Mr. Michael D. Denney |
| Mr. Vernon Adair | Mr. Andrew Jerald Blaner | Mr. Ronald Edwin Chumbley, '64 | Mr. Dennis R. Denton, '60 BU |
| Mr. Lucian Adams | Dr. Aryeh Blumberg, Faculty | Mrs. Sandra Kaye Cilyok, '88, '89 | Mr. William Gene Devine |
| Ms. Marion Lee Adams, '51 | Mr. Alex Bognar | Mr. Kenneth D. Clark, '01, '09 | Mr. Nick C. Diachenko, '50 |
| Mrs. Glenna B. Alexander, Staff | Ms. Nicole Alyce Borum | Ms. Barbara E. Clay, '57 | Mr. James Vickers "J. V." Dittmore, '56 |
| Mr. Clifford A. Allen, '70 | Mr. Chris Bosley | Mrs. Marilyn M. Cleland | Mrs. Rebecca A. Dixon |
| Dr. Connie Irish Allen | Ms. Diane (Karle) Boyce, '67 | Maj. (Ret.) Charles M. Cole, '56 | Mr. William W. "Bill" Dockins, '71 |
| Ms. Dorothy L. Allen | Ms. Mary (Underwood) Boyken, '65 | Mr. Gary Lee Cole | Mr. Dennis L. Doerr, '64 |
| Mr. Eugene Coleman Allen, '51 | Mrs. Marcella (Clark) Brashear, '50, '51, '55 BU, Staff | Mr. William G. Cole Jr. | Mrs. Katherine Ann (Milliner) Droom, '99 |
| Mrs. Helen L. Almond, Staff | Mr. Dennis "Eddie" Bridgeman | Mrs. Anna Smith Collins, '38 | Mr. Robert W. Dunaway, '62, '73, '76 |
| Mr. Forest B. Amburgey, '38 BU | Mrs. Brenda S. Bristow, '67 | Mrs. Bobbie Joyce Coomer, '76, '81 | Mr. Austin Lee Dunn |
| Ms. Helen I. Amos | Mr. Randall "Randy" T. Brosche, '08 | Mrs. Lori (Qualls) Corley, '92 | Mrs. Deborah Hust Dunville, '78 |
| Ms. Freda (Fannin) Anderson, '47 BU | Mr. Hazel Earl Brown | Mrs. Mary Crawford Cornett | Ms. Linda (Davisson) Early, '73 |
| Ms. Margaret (Christian) Anderson, '45 | Mr. Michael W. Brown Jr., '92 | Mr. Wendell F. Couts, '56 | Mr. Samuel J. Early |
| Mr. Michael Harold Armuth, '76 | Ms. Diana Lynn Burke, '82 | Mr. Horace B. Crow | Mrs. Nancy Hunt Ellis, '75 |
| Mr. David Anthony Atwell, '71 | Ms. Claudia Elizabeth Burnam | Lt. Col. (Ret.) William J. Dadek, '78 | Mr. Roger H. Eppinger, '70 |
| Mr. J. Glenn Babb | Mr. Donald R. Butler, '64, '65 | Ms. Susan Adcock Daniels, '90 | Col. (Ret.) Russell W. Ernst |
| Mr. Brasher C. Bacon Jr., '44 | Mrs. Nancy (Armstrong) Button, '61, '71, Faculty | Mr. Kenneth Edwin Darmody, '09 | Mr. Hal Evans |
| LTC (Ret) Bennett D. Baird, '57 | Mr. Daniel F. Byrne Jr. | Mr. Billy Glenn Daugherty, '64, '75, '79 | Mr. Robert Lawrence Fears Sr. |
| Mr. Layne Franklin Baker, '95 | Mrs. Tommye (Williamson) Cagle, '62 | Dr. Francis Leo Daugherty, '61 | Mrs. Laura (Hendrick) Fisher, '45 |
| Ms. Mary D. Banahan | Dr. Bruce Harrison Carter, '52 | Mr. Benjamin G. Davidson IV, '75 | Mrs. Margaret Deutschman Fisher |
| Ms. Barbara L. Banton, '92 | Dr. Charles D. Carter, '48 | Mr. Eithal Davis, '52 | Mr. Miriam (Cox) Fitzpatrick, '59 BU |
| Mr. Steve W. Barnett, '73 | Mr. J. Carl Causey | Mr. James S. Davis | Ms. Barbara Hunt Flener, '84, '87 |
| Dr. Robert M. Barr | Mr. James W. Chambers | Mr. Ollie C. Davis | Mr. Boyce Dale Flener II, '85, '91 |
| Mrs. Mildred Hurst Barrios | Dr. Joe Cheek | Mr. Donald Dearing, '53 | Mr. Hugh Jackson Floyd, '48 BU |
| Mr. Arlin J. Barton | Mr. Raymond James Cheron, '69 | Mr. Ron W. Delk, '70 | Mr. Gary Veston Foley, '74 |
| Mr. Charles S. Bell, '47 BU | | Mrs. Nancy (Robinson) Demonbreun, '71 | Mr. John Maxwell Forbis, '76 |
| Mrs. Nina H. Bennett, Faculty | | Mrs. Joan Mills Dening, '71 | Mr. James W. Ford |

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Wayne "Ex-Lawman" Fowler | Mr. Sean Heltsley | Mrs. Carrie (South) Kelly, '50 | Mrs. Janis Boyd Melton, '75 |
| Ms. Eva Ann (Brooks) Froedge, '67 | Mrs. Theresa B. Herrera | Mr. Marshall Ryan Kemp, '09 | Ms. Vivian Ruth Millam, '90 |
| Mrs. Doris Kearns Frost | Mr. Lanny Ray Hester | Mrs. Sally Kenner, '62 | Mr. Harry Miller, '67 |
| Mrs. Melody Scales Fulkerson | Mr. Thomas D. Hewlett Jr. | Mrs. Kathy Inell Kerr | Mr. Patrick W. Miller |
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Longtime faculty member **Dr. J. (Jack) Warner Thacker** passed away on Nov. 18, 2015. He taught in the History Department at WKU for 51 years (1964-2015). Dr. Thacker's specialty was Military History and he trained numerous soldiers in WKU's ROTC Department, many teachers throughout our region and countless other History majors. Dr. Thacker received his B.A. from Georgia State University and his Ph.D. from University of South Carolina. He received the University Award for Teaching in 1971 and was a Visiting Professor at West Point in 1982. As a senior member of the faculty, Jack was the Macebearer (2004-2009, 2014) who led the procession at several WKU graduation ceremonies.



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* Data for In Memoriam is gathered from a variety of sources and is deemed to be correct to the best of our knowledge.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Tanya Escobar

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Recipient

Tanya Escobar, a Bowling Green, Ky., junior and Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient, is excited about her upcoming study abroad trip to Granada, Spain. The five-week program through Sol Education Abroad provides language instruction through daily language classes, cultural immersion activities, and the opportunity to live with a Host Family, all of which are important components for the future high school Spanish-language teacher.

The Gilman Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the regions and countries where they go. Escobar received support and advice from WKU's Office of Scholar Development (OSD) throughout the application process.

Since she was little girl, Escobar, a junior Spanish major with a concentration in Teacher Education, has always wanted to teach. "Helping people brings happiness to my life, and because of that, my dream job is being a counselor at a high

school," she said. "However, I have to teach first."

Her capacity to reach that goal is already growing. In addition to the Gilman, Escobar has also received the Minority Educator Recruitment and Retention Scholarship, a program that requires recipients to teach a semester in a school located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"I consider Warren County a future system of employment not only because I reside in this beautiful city, but also because of the cultural diversity found throughout the high schools," she explained. "As a minority teacher, I would understand their problems and struggles. Developing empathy toward these students is something I look forward to through my study abroad program and teaching posts in Kentucky."

Escobar wants her teaching experiences to extend beyond the United States. A future option includes applying for the Princeton in Latin America, a fellowship program that provides a one-year opportunity to work with a non-profit organization in Latin America.



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