Members of WKU's new freshmen class gathered at Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium in preparation for their official Class of 2022 photo during the August 2018 M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan activities. M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan is WKU's transition program for new undergraduate students and is designed to introduce them to WKU traditions and help them embrace their new lives as Hilltoppers.

\*PHOTO BY BRYAN LEMON ('12)
Welcome to our newly designed Fall issue of WKU SPIRIT magazine! Under the leadership of Emily Trabue Scott (97, L), our graphic designer and Assistant Director of Communication and Marketing, we are pleased to bring you a brand new look along with many of the traditional components you have always enjoyed.

WKU's new President Timothy C. Caboni (94) has officially been on board for a year, and we are excited about his vision to inspire innovation, elevate communities and transform lives. So that end, we are pleased to share a feature on Hilltoppers Who Help, written by our Coordinator Rose Remer. We invite you to read more about these alumni and their careers in service and support. A number of our Alumni Profiles in this issue also feature Hilltoppers who are helping others in their professions or volunteer work. We're also excited to bring you Down on the Farm, which explores how several of our alumni are leveraging traditional farming operations and marketing new initiatives in their communities.

You'll also meet the new volunteer leaders of our WKU Alumni Association National Board of Directors, see what's on tap for the 2018 “To the Hill and Beyond” Homecoming celebration and explore the latest happenings on the Hill on Alumni Avenue and in Hilltopper Nation, in addition, we'll join with both WKU ROTC and Hilltopper football to celebrate the 100-year anniversaries of both programs!

As always, we appreciate the support of our members, who help make this magazine and our many engagement opportunities possible. In the body of WKU SPIRIT, members of the WKU Alumni Association are noted in red font, with Distinguished Members recognized by an "D" next to their graduation years and Annual Members with an "A." The continued vitality of your Alumni Association depends on the commitment of time, energy and resources from alumni like you. Not yet a member? Join now at alumni.wku.edu/joinnow.

Thank you for reading, and Go Tops! Carol Cummings (92, L), Editor

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We would love to hear your ideas for future stories and your thoughts on our new look. Drop us a note at alumni.wku.edu or tag us on social media @WKUAlumni.

We were excited to hear that Marc Brown (93) enjoyed our summer issue!

Thanks for reading, and Go Tops! Carol Cummings (92, L), Editor

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**LEGACY of SPIRIT**

**SOCIETY OF 1906**

**STUDENT SUPPORT**

"Starting a scholarship is an incredible way to give back to WKU and in turn support students who are just starting their careers. The Dr. Todd Cheever and Mrs. Jean Cheever Scholarship was established to honor my mother's legacy of service. I included it in my estate plans because it's important to me to know the scholarship in her memory will continue to grow even when I'm not here to contribute to it."

Dr. Todd Cheever ('87, L)
Associate Dean, UK College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus

**WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?**

To learn more about planned gifts or other ways to support your favorite WKU program, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 270-745-6993.

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Cuba takes center stage during WKU's 2018-2019 International Year Of... (IYO) program.
6 WKU students awarded Fulbright U.S. Student grants

Six WKU students have been offered Fulbright U.S. Students Grants for the 2018-2019 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: Sarah Angelie of Monticello, Ky.; Sarah Lindar of Louisville, Ky.; Logan Mitchell of Hebron, Ky.; Lillian Nellans of Des Moines, Iowa; Maggie Sullivan of Louisville, Ky.; and Elizabeth Uphur of Antioch, Tenn. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

Corinne Murphy

Corinne Murphy named Dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Corinne Murphy, Interim Vice Provost at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, has been named Dean of WKU’s College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Murphy began her duties on Aug. 1, 2018. She replaces Dr. Sam Evans, who is retiring.

“I am delighted to join Hilltopper nation as the next Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences,” Dr. Murphy said. “Our degrees are key to empowering WKU students to lead and serve our global society. I look forward to working with faculty, staff and students on continuing to build life-changing opportunities within the college.”

Dr. Murphy has a Ph.D. in Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis from Ohio State University and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Her research and scholarship focus on persons with autism.

WKU wins 2018 Hearst overall national championship

WKU’s School of Journalism & Broadcasting has won its fourth overall national championship in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. WKU placed first overall after winning the Hearst Intercollegiate Multimedia Competition and the Hearst Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition and finishing fifth in the Hearst Intercollegiate Writing Competition.

The championship continues three decades of success for WKU’s School of Journalism & Broadcasting in the Hearst program, often called “The Pulitzer of college journalism.” WKU won overall titles in 2000, 2001 and 2005 and has finished in the top three overall for nine straight years and in the top eight nationally for 25 straight years.


14 WKU students awarded Gilman International Scholarships

A total of 14 WKU students received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to fund study abroad opportunities in the summer or fall of 2018.

Katie Daniels of Glasgow, Ky.; Katie Harr of Princeton, Ky.; and Tristan Shaw of Louisville, Ky., were selected as Gilman Scholars and will receive up to $8,000 to fund their study abroad programs in the fall.

Eleven students were selected for the summer: Riana Berry of Lexington, Ky.; Sheila Butler of Bowling Green, Ky.; Elizabeth Chagnon of Lebanon, Tenn.; Lillian Golden of Campbellsville, Ky.; Elizabeth Hernandez-Torres of Bowling Green, Ky.; Michael King of Franklin, Ky.; Jeremy McFarland of Campbellsville, Ky.; Robert Myers of Louisville, Ky.; Antonio McManus of Shelbyville, Ky.; Aashah Nekhom of Cedar Hill, Tenn.; and Nyra Rogers of Charlotte, N.C.
WKU is ready to move ahead now that the 10-year road map is in place.

That was the message WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('74) delivered during his annual Faculty and Staff Convocation.

"What we have created together is our way forward—how we define and how we direct our future," President Caboni said of the University's strategic plan. "We've titled this plan 'Climbing to Greater Heights,' recognizing that our hill is real in the physical sense and it is symbolic of the journey that is indeed an uphill challenge for many, but one that is rewarding and worthwhile at the top."

The plan is the result of months of work and input from across the campus and the greater WKU community. It is divided into three parts: our students, our hill, and our community and beyond.

"The story I want told about this year is that we focused like a laser on the things that will help our students succeed, that will help our campus community succeed and that will help our region succeed," he said. Students are the "heart of everything we do, and the strategies included in our plan ensure we focus even more aggressively on helping every student we admit graduate from WKU."

Charges in the admissions processes have already resulted in a purposefully and strategically shaping the freshman class, President Caboni said, "and the initial indicators are positive. This entering class has the highest average GPA at 3.23 and the highest average ACT score of 23.2 of any freshman class in our history. As we fully implement the student success tactics in our strategic plan, our persistence and success rates will climb."

WKU is also offering more assistance to incoming students whose high school GPAs are between 2.0 and 2.49. "We know they can be successful," he said.

Beginning in 2019, these students will be admitted to the Summer Scholars Program, which will bring them to campus five weeks early. They will complete two classes for six credit hours and will live in the same residence hall room they will occupy in the fall semester.

"These students will begin the semester ahead of the game," he said. "We're going to help prepare them for what it means to do rigorous academic work here at WKU—not just in their first semester, and not just in their first year, but for all four years."

WKU cannot be successful without elevating the region it serves, President Caboni said. "WKU should be a lighthouse, attracting and building a talent pipeline that supports our economy."

He also announced Workforce Administration bachelor's degree program, a 100 percent online program for adult learners who have an Associate of Applied Science degree that will allow them to complete a bachelor's degree in 15 months for $7,500.

"This degree is connected to areas that are in tremendous demand, particularly in the e-gional markets we serve in Owensboro, Elizabethtown and Glasgow," he said.

President Caboni said the WKU Experience remains necessary and relevant.

"Our students need an education that stretches and challenges their assumptions, that pushes them and supports them, and that inspires them to think differently about the world around them," he said. The WKU Experience must create them crucial habits of mind: a willingness to question systematically, a reliance on reason and evidence, a constant striving to be well informed and a tolerance for divergent views. This is so much more than getting them ready for work. We must remain steadfastly committed to preparing them not just to make a good living, but to make a good life." Read more at wku.edu/convocation.

Lindsey Filiatreau ('11)

Lindsey Filiatreau ('11) recently moved to South Africa where she is researching HIV, but the path that led her there has not always been clear. With interests in healthcare, arts and science, she did not feel sold on one specific career path.

"As an 18-year-old leaving rural Kentucky for the first time, the thought of having one path I would set out upon completely terrified me," Filiatreau said. "I realized that not only was it okay that my interests evolved over time but that looking back and spending time reflecting on these changes truly did paint a clear picture as to what my life journey looked like."

She studied Biology and Chemistry at WKU and used undergraduate research as a way to explore her interests. She worked with Dr. Michael Stokes in the Department of Biology to study the effectiveness of rain containment systems in Kenya.

Additionally, Filiatreau said the process of applying for nationally competitive scholarships allowed her to reflect on her evolving and disparate interests. As a graduating senior, she received a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship that funded a master's degree in Public Health at the University of Ghana, Legon.

"I studied in a classroom filled with Ghanaian healthcare providers, most of whom were serving as public health professionals in West Africa," she said. "I gained perspective on the pitfalls that countless foreign aid agencies fall victim to and understand more clearly the importance of creating locally sustainable programs and practices."

Filiatreau's experience in the classroom was complemented by numerous research projects. She analyzed data on traffic accidents and hospital admissions as well as HIV testing and counseling uptake in the Cape Coast Metropolitan Area. Her work in Ghana ultimately led her to a research career in HIV prevention and care. She is currently pursuing a P.I.D. in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

"I hope to aid in minimizing the healthcare disparities experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS through my current and future work," she said.

Filiatreau was recently selected as an NIH Fogarty Global Health Fellow, which is funding dissertation work in South Africa. She is working alongside researchers to gain further insight on multi-level factors that continue to impede HIV treatment and care initiation among highly vulnerable HIV positive adolescents in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. • [OBY DODDS ('13) ]
WKU Philanthropy

WKU announces record fiscal year in philanthropy with more than $45 million in private support in 2017-2018

WKU surpassed its previous record of private support in a fiscal year with a new high of $45 million in private support in 2017-2018. This total includes gifts from more than 14,000 donors from all 50 states and eight countries who made more than 31,000 individual gifts. Donors direct how their philanthropy is allocated, and 786 different initiatives received support that benefited students, faculty and staff.

"Private funding from alumni, friends, community partners, and national and international organizations is core to WKU's ability to advance and transform the lives of its students," said WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94). "These gifts clearly demonstrate the WKU spirit of documented pledges and deferred gifts. Of the record total, $32.1 million in current gifts, a 39 percent increase over the previous high.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year total represents a 23 percent increase in private support over last year's recording-breaking total of $36.4 million. The total includes outright gifts, newly documented pledges and deferred gifts. Of the record total, $32.1 million in current gifts is a 39 percent increase over the previous high.

"WKU students, faculty and staff are grateful to those who invested in the future of our community and beyond through record levels of philanthropic support," said John Paul Blair ('92, L), WKU Interim Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement. "As no time in our history has private support been more important, and we anticipate another excellent year of philanthropy ahead with the launch of WKU's new strategic plan."

In addition to setting an all-time high, the University had record giving levels from alumni, corporations and faculty and staff. With more than $1.1 million, faculty and staff giving increased 94 percent from the previous fiscal year. The 2017-2018 total also represents the second-highest level ever given toward WKU’s endowments, with $7.1 million.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **$87.3 million** in ASSETS
- **$194.3 million** gifted from 420,000+ individuals
- **$133.4 million** in expenses paid on behalf of WKU
- **$15.2 million** invested in WKU SALARIES
- **$13.5 million** in student SCHOLARSHIPS
- **$35.8 million** in 21 new BUILDINGS and facility improvements

Baker Foundation commits $10 million endowment for student scholarships

The Jerry E. Baker Foundation, established through the estate of Jerry E. Baker (51, L), a generous longtime supporter of WKU, has pledged a $10 million endowment for student scholarships.

"Mr. Baker's goals will be reached through his support of applied educational opportunities for WKU students and faculty through the Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum," said John Paul Blair ('92, L), WKU Interim Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement. "WKU is excited to execute this support and to remain in strong partnership with the Baker Foundation as they continue their exceptional management of the property."

"The Baker Foundation values its relationship with WKU," said Bob Hilliard ('82), President of the Baker Foundation. "In addition to the scholarship support, we are pleased to continue to work closely with the University in programming and in continuing to utilize WKU students as interns both in the Baker Arboretum and the Downing Museum."

"Jerry Baker was a true gentleman who serves as an inspiration to all," said Keith Carwell ('69, A), Executive Director of the Baker Foundation. "His life demonstrates that through education and dedication you can attain true success while remaining humble, kind and caring."

This endowment enhances Baker's previous scholarship support of dance, theatre, art and basketball. "Through Mr. Baker's lifelong philanthropy and thoughtful estate planning, WKU students studying the disciplines he most enjoyed will benefit in perpetuity," said Blair. "The entire WKU community is grateful."

• DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)
Endowment established to support wellness initiatives and reduce stigma surrounding mental health

A newly established endowment will support initiatives for student-athletes through education on mental, physical and emotional health and wellness. Hoping to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, the endowment is named in honor of Andrea Marie Hall (’09), a beloved daughter, sister and friend who passed away on July 30, 2016.

A 2005 graduate of Greenwood High School, Andrea Hall went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from WKU. Though not a student-athlete at WKU, Hall played on the varsity tennis team in high school. She loved making others laugh and would spend her free time playing tennis, swimming and working out. She had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed spending time with friends and family, including her sisters, Christina Hall James and Meredith Hall, and her brother, Robert Hall.

Christina James (’07) graduated from WKU with a degree in Management, minors in Entrepreneurship and Finance, and a Certificate in Financial Planning. She played on the Lady Topper Tennis team.

"It was as if a bomb went off in our family, and we were shattered into a million different pieces," Hall said. "It became a sustaining member of WKU even before I officially started my new job at WKU," shared Caryn Lindsay, Director of Study Abroad and Global Learning (SAGL). "Public radio is my lifeline to the world for both personal and professional reasons. For the safety of WKU students, faculty and staff abroad, I need to know what is happening around the world. The SAGL team and I are committed to making it possible for WKU students to acquire the priceless benefits of an international experience. I therefore also give to the Study Abroad Development Fund so that when a great new opportunity for students comes our way, we can respond."

Dr. Tony Norman, Director of WKU's Educational Leadership Doctoral Program, says he gives back to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program because he wants to support promising students who, without some financial assistance, would not otherwise be able to join or complete the program.

"It also supports the Chinese Flagship Collaborative Endowment because I have witnessed three of my children reap the life-changing benefits of learning a new language as well as another culture," added Dr. Norman. "My daughter who recently completed the program now enjoys a theatre education career where she travels from her home base in New York City to various locations throughout China. I give to support other students who want these same opportunities."

Stacey Gash (’99), Communication Coordinator for the Ford Fond College of Business, also supports the area she works in every day because she can see the impact of her support on a daily basis through the lives of the students who walk through Grise Hall. "I strongly believe that we all should share our time, talent and treasure," said Gash. "It is my hope that my contribution can combine with others to help alleviate a little of a student’s financial stress. Education is the hope of a brighter future and I enjoy playing a small role in someone’s brighter future."

"Our faculty and staff choose to give financially to WKU so they not only transform student lives through their good work, but also through their personal philosophy," said WKU President Timothy C. Caboni (’94). "This new record signifies the strength of our employees’ WKU spirit."

College Heights Foundation celebrates 95 years

Incorporated on July 17, 1923, the College Heights Foundation celebrated its 95th anniversary in 2018. From the very beginning, the Foundation’s primary mission has been the administration of funds entrusted to its care for the purpose of helping deserving students obtain an education.

Faculty and Staff Giving

Faculty and staff giving reaches more than $1.1 million in 2017-2018 fiscal year

Family and friends of Andrea Marie Hall established the Andrea Marie Hall Memorial Endowment to support wellness initiatives for WKU student-athletes. The endowment is a way for her legacy to continue in perpetuity while providing student-athletes with education on mental, physical and emotional health and wellness.

"A person dies twice," James said. "The day they actually die and the day someone says their name for the last time. When you lose someone, you want others to continue saying their name. I also feel a lot of pride supporting my alma mater. I think Andrea would be proud, and that is the most important thing to our family."

Supported four student/beautification projects, including the FUNDRAISING initiative for the Kentucky Building
Q: There's been a lot of excitement about the Big Red Road Trip this summer. Can you tell us about this initiative?

A: Among my top priorities for my first year was to visit the communities that most of our students call home, so we set aside four weeks throughout the summer for what we called our Big Red Road Trip. We visited with folks in 31 counties. It was a great experience, and I certainly gained a broader, more personal understanding of the communities from which our students come.

Q: Why do you feel the need to personally visit each county?

A: It would be easy to sit in Bowling Green and take for granted that every student who comes to WKU has had an experience growing up in a community like ours. But, for most, that's not the case. For many of our students, Bowling Green feels like a big city and our campus seems large. Being in these communities and learning about their local economies and traditions helped me gain a better understanding of the experiences our students bring with them and what they need to be successful here. Also, as a public university we have a responsibility to be engaged in and to serve the communities that surround us, and you can't be a good partner if you don't have a presence. At the heart of it all, I wanted to personally deliver the message in each community that we want their students at WKU and that we want to be a good partner in addressing the economic and educational needs of the region we serve.

Q: What was the primary focus of the Big Red Road Trip?

A: We made a point to visit with the school superintendent in each community as well as local leaders, such as county judge executives, mayors, legislators, economic development professionals and business leaders. We visited with local media and major employers, specifically those that have partnerships already established with WKU. My main focus was simple — to listen and learn.

Q: What is there anything else you'd like to share about the Big Red Road Trip?

A: I appreciate every single person who made me feel at home in every community we visited, and I'm grateful for the support that's out there for WKU. This isn't a one and done — we'll be back.
100 Years of WKU Football

Hillropper Football is gearing up to celebrate 100 years of athletic success in 2018. In honor of its 100th season, the program recently announced the members of an honorary All-Century team.

Over the spring and early summer, WKU invited fans to vote online and put together their own teams to count for a percentage of the overall voting totals. Simultaneously, other voting groups—such as the athletic administration, W-Club Hall of Famers and active W-Club Football lettermen—worked to create their own teams.

The votes were tabulated, and 29 honorary team members, compiled from 100 gridiron stars over the last 100 years, were named. The honorary Co-Head Coaches are the late Jimmy Feix ('53, '58, L), the winningest coach in program history, and Jack Harbaugh, who led the 2002 Hilltoppers to a national championship.

The team features 12 offensive players, 12 defensive players, four special teamsers and one all-purpose star.

Forrest Lamp ('17), former All-American and the highest NFL Draft selection in school history, was named captain of the offensive team. Virgil Livers ('75, '98, L), All-American defensive back and one of only four retired WKU jerseys, was named the defensive side's captain. All-everything quarterback Willie Taggart ('88) earned the third captnity as the program's all-purpose player. In his final two seasons on the Hill (1997-1998), Taggart led the Hilltoppers in both rushing and passing. At the time, his 1,313 rushing yards were the second-most ever by a 1-AA quarterback in a single season, and his 3,997 rushing yards were the most ever in a career.

The defense, to account for variances in offensive schemes used in the program from the Wing-t to the triple option, to a wide-open spread attack, included one quarterback, five offensive linemen, two running backs, one tight end and three wide receivers. Six members of the team played in the current FBS era of the program, two were members of WKU's 2002 National Championship team and four were members of the program during the Ohio Valley Conference era.

The defense, to account for variances in defensive schemes used in the program including 4-3, 3-4, and 4-2-5, included four position players from each level of defense: line, linebacker and backs.

WKU recognized the entire team at the home opener for the 2018 season against Maine on Sept. 8.

---

**ALL-CENTURY TEAM**

**OFFENSE**
- QB: Brandon Doughty (2013-15)
- RB: Bobby Rainey (2008-11)
- RB: Dickie Moore (1965-68)
- TB: Jack Doyle (2009-12)
- WR: Taywan Taylor (2013-16)
- WR: Porter Williams (1970-73)
- WR: Nicholas Norris (2013-16)
- OL: Forrest Lamp (2013-16)
- OL: Buster Ashley (2001-04)
- OL: Chris Price (1999-02)
- OL: David Carter (1973-76)
- OL: Jim "Yogi" Hardin (1955-58)

**DEFENSE**
- DL: Lawrence Brame (1967-70)
- DL: John Bushong (1971-74)
- DL: Tim Ford (1979-81)
- DL: Quanterus Smith (2009-12)
- DL: Sherrod Coates (1999-02)
- LB: Paul Gray (1980-83)
- LB: Rick Green (1972-75)
- LB: Dale Lindsey (1963-64)
- LB: Virgil Livers (1971-74)
- LB: Jim Burt (1961-64)
- LB: Joseph Jefferson (1998-01)
- LB: Mel Mitchell (1999-01)

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WKU ROTC celebrates 100 years

As 16 Hilltopper Army ROTC cadets made their way onto the stage, their fellow graduates and the crowd at Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium stood and cheered.

In what has become a highlight of WKU Commencement ceremonies, Lt. Col. Thomas MacMillin administered the oath of office to the Army’s newest officers on May 11, 2018.

The Hilltopper Army ROTC program is celebrating its 100th anniversary during the 2018-2019 academic year and has a proud history of producing military leaders.

"Between the program itself and the quality of people who come through it, they have the characteristics and qualities to be successful," MacMillin said of the members of the Class of 2018 who joined about 2,000 cadets commissioned in the past century.

One of those cadets is Retired Col. Greg Lowe ’68, a member of the WKU ROTC Hall of Fame. "My goal was to earn a college degree and, most importantly, a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army," said Lowe, who arrived at WKU from Fort Campbell High School in 1964. "As an Army brat, I lived all over the United States and in three foreign countries. I knew that the Army was where I wanted to be," he said.

The WKU ROTC program, part of the Department of Military Science in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, traces its history to the National Defense Act of 1916, which authorized the establishment of Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs to train officers on the campuses of universities across the nation, and to the United States’ entry into World War I in the spring of 1917. The first military training presented on campus was given by U.S. Army trainers to the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) during the spring of 1918. The SATC units grew into the ROTC, which became a permanent part of the school on Jan. 26, 1919.

"The ROTC program became my home, and my life at Western revolved around it and the many activities and classes that it offered," Lowe said. "Ultimately it was my gateway into the Army as a second lieutenant, which was the beginning of what would be a 30-year active duty career. ROTC taught me the art of leadership and the concept of Mission First, People Always. I practiced selfless service for my whole career and for the 20 years since my retirement."

Retired Lt. Col. Carl Filip ’81, L credits joining ROTC for "all the good things I’ve experienced in my life," including meeting his wife and serving a 22-year career in the Army. "I can’t say enough good things about Army ROTC at WKU."

Filip returned to WKU in 1999 and led the ROTC program for four years as Professor of Military Science. The Department of Military Science offers a major in Military Leadership and a minor in Military Science.

As department head, Filip said he told students that it didn’t matter whether they took one ROTC class or made the military a career that the "skills learned in ROTC would serve them well in life. They can look back and see they learned something of value while they were here."

Skills learned by cadets in ROTC include leadership, character, intellect, communication, physical presence and how to prepare themselves and develop others.

"ROTC at Western has given thousands of its graduates a chance to form, lead and excel in any area they entered," Lowe said. "It is an integral part of the University because of what it does for individual students and the leaders it produces for the nation."

The impact of the program is evident on campus in an ROTC Hall of Fame that includes generals, colonels, lieutenant colonels and other leaders and in the community at the Aviation Heritage Park that includes aircraft flown by a NASA astronaut and commanders of the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds.

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"The ROTC program taught me the art of leadership and the concept of Mission First, People Always. I practiced selfless service for my whole career and for the 20 years since my retirement."

Retired Lt. Col. Carl Filip ’81, L credits joining ROTC for "all the good things I’ve experienced in my life," including meeting his wife and serving a 22-year career in the Army. "I can’t say enough good things about Army ROTC at WKU."

Filip returned to WKU in 1999 and led the ROTC program for four years as Professor of Military Science. The Department of Military Science offers a major in Military Leadership and a minor in Military Science.

As department head, Filip said he told students that it didn’t matter whether they took one ROTC class or made the military a career that the "skills learned in ROTC would serve them well in life. They can look back and see they learned something of value while they were here."

Skills learned by cadets in ROTC include leadership, character, intellect, communication, physical presence and how to prepare themselves and develop others.
KEY DATES FOR ROTC

- **SPRING 1918**
  The first military training presented on campus was given by U.S. Army trainers to the Student Army Training Corps (SATC).

- **SEPTEMBER 1918**
  The Board of Regents empowered President Henry Hardin Cherry to take steps to secure academic ROTC units for the school.

- **OCT. 1, 1918**
  The War Department authorized Kentucky State Teachers College to the cadet company at Western Kentucky Normal School.

- **MARCH 1919**
  Lt. Col. Wilford Twyman was assigned as the first Professor of Military Science and Tactics.

- **MAY 1937**
  First senior ROTC cadet class was commissioned.

- **JUNE 1947**
  The Army ROTC program was modified to include an Air Force ROTC program on campus.

- **JULY 1, 1957**
  Air Force ROTC program was terminated. During its 10 years, the program produced more than 300 Air Force officers and contributed yet another dimension to the service to the nation by Western Kentucky State College.

- **OCTOBER 1967**
  The ROTC program added another extracurricular organization with the Special Forces Company.

- **FEBRUARY 1962**
  The Committee on Curriculum of the U.S. Congress authorized the establishment of an academic minor in Military Science Program.

- **SEPTEMBER 1973**
  WKU ROTC alumni association was established with the induction of seven members into the ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame.

- **AUGUST 1983**
  The Pershing Rifles Company B-3 initiated sponsorship of a female auxiliary organization known as the Rebelleettes.

- **FEBRUARY 2002**
  WKU ROTC cadets were first commissioned during the spring Commencement ceremony.

- **NOVEMBER 2003**
  Annual Veterans Day Ceremony began at Guthrie Tower.

- **MAY 2005**
  A classroom was dedicated to a WKU ROTC graduate. The room became the Capt. Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor.

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After graduating from high school in Fulton, Retired Lt. Col. Jason Caldwell served as an enlisted soldier for five years after high school then changed career goals and decided to pursue a degree at University of Tennessee-Martin and become an Army officer. "ROTC was and still is a method of getting college paid for, actually getting paid while getting an education, and being guaranteed a job as long as the person agrees to serve his or her country and has the ability and desire to serve as a leader in return," he said.

Caldwell said serving as WKU’s Professor of Military Science from 2009 to 2012 "was a way for me to pay back the Army and ROTC for the positive changes it afforded me and my family." Dr. John Baker, who served as Professor of Military Science from 2003 to 2006, said the WKU ROTC program has always been one of the top programs in this region. "The key to success is the support the University provides to the program," he said. "It was a good program when I got here and that has continued. This area and the University are supportive, which is vitally for the ROTC program."

One area of support has been the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Guthrie Tower. Baker had been part of similar ceremonies when he led the ROTC program at Drexel University in Philadelphia from 1997 to 2001 and brought the idea with him to WKU.

"I think people have a lot of respect and a great appreciation for the military, especially in this area," Baker said.

The WKU ROTC is planning several events to celebrate its 100th anniversary, with most centered on Homecoming 2018 on Oct. 27. Plans include a 100th anniversary red towel, activities for ROTC alumni, an alumni color guard for the Homecoming football game, a departmental open house and skills demonstrations by students.

While celebrating the past, the 100th anniversary will showcase the program for prospective students and tomorrow’s leaders.

"I think there is always a desire to serve," MacMillin said. "We are in a great part of the country where people believe in the flag and in God and country."
WKU celebrates International Year of Cuba

Cuba will take center stage during WKU’s 2018-2019 International Year Of... (IYO) program. Replete with opportunities to learn about this neighboring Caribbean archipelago and its complex history, culture and longstanding relationship with the U.S., the International Year of Cuba calendar of events will include art exhibitions, a film festival, culinary demonstrations, lectures, dance performances and more.

Administered by the Office of International Programs, the IYO is a year-long exploration of a single country that provides the WKU community with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the world around them. Past spotlighted countries include Ecuador (2014-2015), South Africa (2015-2016), South Korea (2016-2017) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017-2018).

The IYO is brought to life by academic departments, on-campus units, community organizations and individual faculty and staff across the University. The Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty Seminar (ZSEIFS) faculty participants, who traveled to Cuba this past spring, are also essential in populating the IVO Cuba calendar, as well as infusing their newly gained knowledge of Cuba into the classroom.

Made possible by the generous support of WKU alumna Zuheir Sofia (69, L) and his wife, Susan, the ZSEIFS aims to internationalize the research, teaching and service of its participants. This past year, five academically diverse faculty were selected to participate in this intensive professional development experience. Co-led by Dr. Andrew M. Michael, Associate Dean of Peter College of Arts and Letters, the cohort met regularly during the spring semester to study Cuba from their respective disciplines. This culminated in a two-week in-country experience in late May.

While in Cuba, the group met with peer scholars, political and cultural leaders and professionals in different fields, such as real estate, sport, business, tourism and dance, and visited major cultural and historical sites, including Old Havana and the Bay of Pigs museum. ZSEIFS participant Julie Shadoan, J.D., WKU Professor of Paralegal Studies, who set out to explore Cuba’s legal system, comments on how her experience put into sharper focus a country often blurred by its mystique.

“This seminar allowed me to develop my own lens for the exploration and investigation of the Cuban experience,” Shadoan said. “It provided me an invaluable social, cultural and economic backdrop for a comparative study of the development of our own legal systems as well as the values and ethics encompassed in the practice of law in both countries.”

Like her fellow participants, Shadoan will integrate Cuba into several of her courses and leverage her new knowledge and connections to develop an in-country program for either students or legal professionals.

Following the IYO Cuba, WKU will dedicate a year to re-engaging with past target countries. By doing so, the “IVO Revisited” will support sustainable international engagement while facilitating educational events that reconnect the University community to past countries and open opportunities for country-to-country comparisons.

The IYO Revisited will be followed by a spotlight on Kenya in 2020-2021. For more information, visit wku.edu/iyo.

ABOUT THE ZSEIFS

The Zuheir Sofia Endowment was created to facilitate the mission of the Office of International Programs, which endeavors to provide leadership in the development of a strong international profile. Zuheir Sofia (69, L), a 2013 WKU Honorary Doctorate recipient, is Chairman and CEO of Sofia & Company, Inc. donate now
Down on the farm and up on the Hill

Traditional farming remains relevant in the modern world

By Rose Remente
Farming and agriculture have always been a vital part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's economy since before the European settlement.

According to the Filson Historical Society, early settlers planted crops for subsistence, but expanded over land, and river transportation soon led to viable commercial farming in the Ohio River Valley. Kentucky continues to be home to agricultural research and hands-on education, such as what is experienced at the WKU Farm.

Noted Kentucky historian Thomas D. Clark, best known for his 1937 work, *A History of Kentucky*, aptly termed Kentucky "a land of contrasts," and that expression is particularly descriptive of the Commonwealth's fast-changing agriculture industry. In addition to farms cash receipts from poultry, eggs, beef cattle, and income from the sale of homes and stud fees, the state's other major commodities include corn, soybeans, barley tobacco, hay and wheat.

"Ag workers are a very small percentage of the population, but a very important part when you look at what drives the economy and look at it from a food security standpoint," said Brian Lacelife ('96, '98, L), Farm Service Agency Executive Director for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "While we employ less than 2 percent of the population in production agriculture, when you start to factor in all the other people involved like bankers, fertilizer salesmen, tractor salesmen or the agriculture business in southern Kentucky, it's closer to 20 percent of the workforce."

"That's a big impact. From that standpoint, you see the importance for not just the farm economy but for the whole state," added Lacelife.

In our fast-paced, technology-rich world, where, exactly, does traditional farming fit in and how are farmers marketing new initiatives that their communities desire? A few of our alumni have come up with some innovative ways to bring their farming operations into the modern world.

"Ag workers are a very small percentage of the population, but a very important part when you look at what drives the economy."
The Howells then found and moved to their 20-acre farm in Scottsville, Ky., and began farming full time. What’s interesting is that even in this modern world, the Howells are finding success through their traditional farming roots.

“Our farm is a blend of modern with a bit of old-fashioned techniques mixed in,” explained Nathan Howell. “Today, many of the larger farms do focus on just one crop. With labor issues, time management and input costs, it’s a lot easier to manage one crop of corn or soybeans or cattle.

“I hate to use the term industrial farming, but it’s that theory of what industry is,” he continued. “It’s growing a commodity. With a diversified farm of many crops, if you had a disaster with one crop you wouldn’t lose your farm and be unable to recover from losing a year of production. Here on our farm, we use the old method of diversifying and having multiple crops, multiple seasons and multiple products. That way, if for some reason one of those doesn’t succeed, we can hopefully make up the difference in the other crops.”

The Howells are able to farm all year with the use of high tunnels. They work much like a greenhouse would, but do not require a heater, as the tunnels rely solely on solar radiation.

“We have a variety of produce, even in the coldest parts of the winter in Kentucky,” stated Nathan Howell. “We have everything from Brussels sprouts, collard greens, mustard greens, carrots, beets, Swiss chard and kale. We do a lot of storing to get us through the winter. We have a root cellar concept to store sweet potatoes, onions and winter squash all winter long.”

In 2011, the Howells, with the help of Dr. Morris Stone, WKU Associate Professor of Floriculture, and his wife, Jodeen Stone, started the Community Farmers Market located on WKU’s South Campus on Nashville Road. It was an innovative source of income but, more importantly, a way for the Howells to connect with the community and educate them on the importance of local agriculture.

“We decided to start a market that had a focus on outreach, and WKU was really supportive of us doing that and has always helped work on a location with us,” noted Michelle Howell. “From the very beginning, we’ve had students come and use the market for research and to volunteer.”

“This has given us just me, but other local farmers and crafters the opportunity to expand the markets in the Bowling Green area,” explained Nathan Howell. “It’s an indoor and year-round farmers market, which we didn’t have in this community until 2011. We have people that ask us gardening questions all the time. We feel that’s a very important way to give back to the community and help the fellow farmer and gardener to learn and grow. We’ve been helped along the way, so we just want to pass that on to the next generation and to our neighbors.”
Besides the Community Farmers Marker, the Howells also have a store on their farm where individuals and families can sign up to get produce and protein from Need More Acres Farm.

“Our goal on our farm is to be as self-sufficient as possible,” said Michelle Howell. “We grow most of our own food, and we also supply 12 households with about 80 to 100 percent of their food. Some of our farm members never even go to the grocery store. The farmers market works really well for people, but we also wanted something on our farm where the food is locally sourced and convenient. We have beef cattle, hogs and raise about 700 chickens a year. We also partner with JD Country Milk and Kenny’s Cheese for their milk and cheese products. We have brown eggs. Our farm members walk in the store, and everything they need is right there. They don’t need to travel around for it, and we also do deliveries.”

food sensitivities,” explained Michelle Howell. “This was about eight years ago, before many gluten-free items were available in typical grocery store chains. I had to start cooking all of our food, and we changed our lifestyle. We started growing more than just tomatoes, and we now grow most of our own food.”

It all comes back to education and inclusion for the Howells. They want to educate people on farming and create real connections in the community in which they farm.

“I hope people take away a sense of belonging and community—the sense that they can actually be a part of this and it’s not bigger than who they are,” added Nathan Howell. “I think that’s where the educational part comes in too. It allows us to make that connection and have that one-on-one relationship. We don’t want to get too big that we are branching out with multiple locations. We try to purposely remain small, which sometimes is hard to do when it is tempting to grow the farm and get bigger. However, we really desire to keep that personal relationship with our customers and those individuals who desire to learn.”

“The health issues we experienced also truly motivated us to put the hard work in and make sure the food we grow can go to people who can afford it as well as to people who can’t afford it,” Michelle Howell noted. “We accept SNAP, WIC, Senior Nutrition Vouchers and Big Red Dollars. We just started a new program called Fresh RX for expecting mothers to encourage them to eat more fresh foods and vegetables. “I think a lot of this goes back to me personally growing up as a child and having limited access to food,” she continued. “One thing we’ve always believed is that a real food system is only successful if everyone in your community is included. From the very beginning we just made the effort to be inclusive to everyone. A lot of refugees and college students are on SNAP benefits to make ends meet for a reason of time. On the flip side, we help farmers. Billions of dollars are spent in grocery stores on food, so spending that money with local farmers just boosts the local economy and enables more people to farm full time.”
Delivering farm fresh food

Michelle Darnall ('00, '02) of Bowling Green, Ky., studied Exercise Science at WKU and quickly learned diet and nutrition go hand-in-hand with health and fitness.

"I've always been into fitness," stated Darnall. "I learned I could kill myself in the gym, but if I'm not eating right then it's all null and void. The diet is more important than the exercise."

After she graduated from WKU, Darnall, her husband, Byron, and their then-6-month-old child moved to Des Moines, Iowa, for three years. While there, Darnall became a stay-at-home mom after welcoming a set of twins to their family. With the hectic nature of taking care of three children, Darnall found a produce delivery service called "Prudent Produce."

"It was wonderful to have someone who could bring me produce," she explained. "That was really when we got on our clean eating journey too. I started staying home, making all the baby food and really thinking about how we ate."

Darnall told her husband that if they ever moved back to Bowling Green, she wanted to start a similar business. In July 2014, the family did move back to Bowling Green, and she started working toward her business.

"I emailed the lady who ran the produce delivery service in Iowa and told her how much I enjoyed the service," Darnall said. "I told her that there was nothing similar where we were going, and I wished there was. The first fine of her email back to me was, 'Let me help you start it.' We've still never met in person, but we've emailed and talked on the phone. I had Best Box Produce up and running in September 2014 because she told me everything I needed to do to get started, just out of the goodness of her heart. She just said, 'Go help the world eat better.'"

Darnall says the process works like online shopping. Customers sign up, pay, and make changes to their produce and delivery online.

"I think eating local is important, because you know where your food is coming from. We buy from a lot of farmers who are thankful for us because we give them another platform to sell their products."

There's no contract, so people can sign up for weekly or bi-weekly products, and they can even skip weeks if they are on vacation or too busy for the food that week.

"On Mondays, we deliver to all of our Warren County clients, and on Tuesdays we deliver to the majority of our Barren County clients," added Darnall. "Customers can do dinner for one or dinner for four. They can also order produce or lunch boxes, and they can add anything that we offer on to the boxes. We cater to both single people and families."

"It's not just produce either. Darnall also sells all-organic meal boxes for customers.

and the menu and produce change weekly. She obtains from both local farmers and from grocery distributors, which is how the idea to sell meals began.

"If I order from a local farm, I can get exactly what I need for the week, but if I order from a grocery distributor, then I have to order by the case," she explained. "So, then I asked myself how I could turn my waste into profits. That's where we started making the food. We started with just soup and salads, and that went over really well. We started branching out and doing other things. From a business standpoint, we even sell more food boxes than produce boxes."

With business continuing to grow, Darnall expanded to a storefront location in early 2018. Everything that is delivered that week can be purchased in the store located on the corner of Smallhouse Road and Broadway in Bowling Green. Besides food, the store is also filled with other natural and organic products. Darnall says our culture has created a demand for local food, and she loves partnering with local farmers to fill that need in the community.

"There are many farmers around who grow because they have a love for growing and need an outlet for their products," she noted. "I think eating local is important, because you know where your food is coming from. We buy from a lot of farmers who are thankful for us because we give them another platform to sell their products. They're helping me as much as it's helping them, though. It's a good thing for people to come into the store who might not have been before because they want that local produce. They're in any of the other healthy products that are available."

For the future, Darnall says they plan to keep expanding the store with more products and local items as well as expand their delivery area. And, just like the Howell family, education is what it's all about.

"When I started Best Box Produce, I knew I really wanted to encourage people, educate them about health and diet, and go back to my roots," explained Darnall. "We've had some classes and are working on having more classes here in the store with various farmers, physicians and pharmacists to educate people on healthier eating, exercise and stress reduction to help better the whole person."

"Technology is always advancing, so we make sure we update our facility to educate students on new technology that is available," explained Woosley. "We utilize global positioning systems and auto equipment for more efficient fertilization and pest control for our crops. We also use technology to better detect health issues in our livestock. It's all about education and showing our students how to be economically efficient and have a lesser impact on the environment."
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The new WKU Alumni Connection app brings the Alumni Association right to your smartphone!

Your WKU Alumni Association is pleased to announce the launch of our new mobile app, the WKU Alumni Connection. The WKU Alumni Connection app brings the power of the WKU Alumni Association to your smartphone. Available for Apple and Android devices, it's perfect for every Hilltopper, especially members of the Alumni Association.

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ALUMNI AVENUE | HIGHLIGHTS

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Hear from Al Tucker ('73, '77, L), President of the 2018-2019 WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

37 MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS
In July, the WKU Alumni Association welcomed 11 new members to the Board of Directors.

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Redy Ann Gelke Baker ('75, L), Norrie Bayless Counts Depp (1910) and Dr. Richard C. Bink (74, L) will be honored on Oct. 26.

43 HOMECOMING
The 2018 Homecoming festivities will be celebrated with a Toy Story-like "To the Hill and Beyond" theme. Find out more about the details!
LEADERSHIP: Al Tucker ('73, '79, L), center, will serve as the 2018-2019 WKU Alumni Association Board President, with Deanna Meyers ('94, L), left, serving as Past President and R. Barkley Payne ('86, L), right, serving as President Elect. They will be joined by Leslie McCoy ('05, '07, L) at Secretary and Holly Vaughn ('83, L) as Treasurer, as well as three at-large members: Claude Bacon ('94, '01, L), Joe Marel ('02, L) and Peggy Krug ('78, L).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The mission of your Alumni Association is to cultivate the Western Kentucky University Spirit by engaging all members of the WKU family in the life of the institution. "Engaging all members of the WKU family" is a very broad and inclusive statement. Who is our family, and how do we engage them? The WKU family encompasses everyone from our incoming freshman, to current students, to our newest graduates, as well as those who have long since graduated. It even includes administrators, professors and staff, both past and present. How we engage this large and diverse group is the charge given to the Alumni Association as we create various strategies to involve all of our family members in the life of WKU.

This is the responsibility of not just the Alumni Association as an entity of our University, but of each member of the WKU family. Engagement and involvement are responsibilities that belong to all of us.

This year, the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors will build a strategic plan in which alumni engagement is a priority. It is my hope, as President of the Board of Directors, that each of you will reach out to those in your own circle who may not be actively engaged with our great University and invite them to reacquaint themselves with the WKU Spirit that they all experienced at Hilltoppers. Together, we can support the continued growth of WKU as we inspire innovation, elevate communities and transform lives.

Al Tucker ('73, '77, L)
President, 2018-2019
WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors

11 new members to serve on WKU Alumni Association Board

The WKU Alumni Association recently elected nine new board members for 2018-2019 and recognized two members who will serve in one-year appointments.

- The following new members will serve for three-year terms:
  - **Mike Avey** of Owensboro, Ky., a 1980 alumnus and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is Chairman of the Kentucky Workers’ Compensation Board. A member and former Chair of the WKU Owensboro Advisory Board, he is also an attorney, a retired Major with the Kentucky Army National Guard and has volunteered with the Owensboro Chapter of the WKU Alumni Association.
  - **Joe Dan Beaver** of Bowling Green, Ky., a 2001 alumnus and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, serves as President/CEO of LifeSkills, Inc. He is a past member of the Warren County Alumni Chapter Planning Team and the Young Alumni Council.
  - **Drew Hawkins** of Atlanta, Ga., a 2009 alumnus and Annual Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is Senior Manager of Digital Marketing at North Highland. With expertise in social media and website strategy, Hawkins got his start with WKU's Image and Advertising department and was the first Online Advertising Manager for the College Heights Herald.
  - **Scott Higdon** of Bowling Green, Ky., a 1985 alumnus and Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association, serves as Vice President and Mortgage Loan Officer for American Bank and Trust. A longtime supporter of his alma mater, Higdon is a member of the Cupola Society with 21 years of consecutive giving.
  - **Drew Logsdon** of Thompson Station, Tenn., a 2009 alumnus and Annual Member of the WKU Alumni Association, serves as President and CEO of LifeSkills, Inc. He is a past member of the Warren County Alumni Chapter Planning Team and the Young Alumni Council.
  - **Deborah Lynn Thomas** of Bowling Green, Ky., a 2001 alumnus and Annual Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is Co-Chair of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.
  - **Kate Beaudin** of Bowling Green, Ky., a 2001 alumnus and Annual Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is Co-Chair of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.
  - **Matthew Hall** of Bowling Green, Ky., a 2001 alumnus and Annual Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is Co-Chair of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

...
"These Hilltoppers who are joining our board are volunteering their time to help lead the WKU Alumni Association and represent WKU as ambassadors. Each of them will bring a specific area of expertise and a unique perspective to our board, and we are fortunate to have such a loyal group of alumni as key volunteers."

Dr. Anthony McAdoo, Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association

of the WKU Alumni Association, is Director of Communications for Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. WKU gave him his start in his profession, as he was a member of the Eta Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu during his time as a student.

James Edward Schutter of Chicago, Ill., a 1974 alumnus and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, serves as Senior Managing Director at Newmark Knight Frank, an international commercial real estate advisory firm. He has remained involved with WKU through his former fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, and has been active in bringing the chapter back to campus. He also helps promote WKU to high school students in the Chicago Public Schools system.

Dr. Nowelle Gabrielle Altmann Sigman of Bowling Green, Ky., a 2013 alumna and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is a Chiropractor with Bluegrass Chiro. She is also a graduate of the Garrett Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, a residential high school program for high-achieving juniors and seniors that is housed at WKU.

Dr. Tamela Williams Smith of Bowling Green, Ky., is a four-time alumna, earning degrees in 1984, 1997, 2001 and 2013. She is a Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, and she will be rejoining as Manager of Communication Technologies, Audiolvisual Services, at WKU in October. She has also served WKU as a Staff Regent, as a member of both the Parents Advisory Council and Communication Advisory Council, and as an ex-officio member of the Staff Council.

Deborah Lynn Thomas of Nashville, Tenn., a 1982 alumna and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, is a Patient and Family Experience Consultant specializing in physician engagement and communications coaching. She has remained active with WKU through the Music City Alumni Chapter.

In addition, the following two board members will serve one-year terms as representatives of affiliated organizations:

Katie Board of Bowling Green Ky., a 2009 alumna and Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association, will represent the Young Alumni Council (YAC). In addition to serving as President of YAC, the Wealth Administrator for WealthSouth is an advisor for Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and a member of the Cupela Society with seven years of consecutive giving to WKU.

Matthew Holl of Swansboro, Ill., a WKU senior who is majoring in Business Administration with a certificate in Financial Planning, will represent the Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAA). In addition to serving as President of SAA, he is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, WKU Golf Club and the WKU Red Wave as well as a past TGI Greek Campus Ambassador.

"These Hilltoppers who are joining our board are volunteering their time to help lead the WKU Alumni Association and represent WKU as ambassadors," said Dr. Anthony McAdoo, Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association. "Each of them will bring a specific area of expertise and a unique perspective to our board, and we are fortunate to have such a loyal group of alumni as key volunteers."

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Holly Vaughn ('90, L)
Mike Alvey (96, L)
Claude Bacon (94, 90, L)
Katie Board (96, L)
Tony Alvey (Alpha Gamma Rho President)
Joe Dan Beavers (89, L)
Donna Bredenberg (96, L)
John Carter (88, 91, L)
Deborah Fillman (82, 90, L)
Tori Gerbig (96, L)
Reggie Glass (73, L)
Marshall Gray (92, A)
Society of African American Alumni President
Amy C. Hardin (92, 96, L)
Drew Hawkins (99, A)
Scott Hipigon (95, L)
Matthew Holl
Student Alumni Ambassador President
Jeff Hoy (90, L)
Peggy Krug (78, L)
Will Lambert (80, A)
Drew Logsdon (96, A)
Charles Lovett (99, 80, L)
Curtis Lucas (78, 85, L)
Joe Miccietto Jr. (73, L)
Joe Moriel (92, L)
James Schutter (74, L)
Nowelle Altmann Sigman (73, L)
Tamela Smith ('84, '97, '01, '13, L)
Jeremy Sublett (96, L)
Deborah Thomas (82, L)
Becky Ann Baker (’75, L) is a successful Broadway, film and television character actress who is most recognized for her mothering skills, or lack thereof, in two popular Judd Apatow series, Girls and Girls And Girls, where she plays creator Lena Dunham’s mom and for which she received a 2017 Emmy nomination and two Critics Choice nominations.

In the early 1970s, Baker came to WKU as a freshman, majored in Theatre and minored in Dance. In addition to her most recent television achievements, she has also appeared on Broadway in both musicals and plays, including “Girls” and “Girls And Girls,” for which she received a 2017 Emmy nomination and two Critics Choice nominations.

She considers her best and favorite production to be her daughter, Willa, whom she co-produced with her husband, actor and director Dylan Baker.

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Richard C. Rink, M.D. (’74, L) is a renowned pediatric urologist and surgeon and is Emeritus Professor at Indiana University (IU) Medical Center’s Riley Hospital for Children.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts at WKU and was a 1978 graduate of IU’s School of Medicine. He completed his general surgical training at Emory University and returned to IU for his urology residency before completing a Pediatric Urology Fellowship at The Children’s Hospital, Boston, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Rink served as Chief of Pediatric Urology at Riley Hospital for Children from 1989 to 2014, and he is currently the Surgical Director for the CARES Foundation Comprehensive Care Center for Children and Adolescents with CAH (Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia) at Riley Hospital for Children, one of only three designated centers of excellence for CAH in the United States.

Dr. Rink is recognized as one of the top pediatric urologists in the world. An innovative and groundbreaking professional, his contributions to the field of pediatric urology over the past 30+ years have been immense, particularly related to children who are born with atypical genitourinary systems. In fact, he and his associates have built one of the premier reconstructive pediatric urology surgical training programs, commonly recognized as the international epicenter for major reconstruction in the field. Under his leadership, the pediatric urology program at Riley Hospital for Children was ranked in the top five nationally by the U.S. News and World Report.

Dr. Rink is a member of nearly every prestigious national and international urologic society. In addition, he has shared his knowledge and skills as a visiting professor at most major pediatric urologic institutions within the United States and many institutions across the globe. In 2016, the CARES Foundation presented him with its prestigious Pioneer Award in honor of his career achievements. He has authored or co-authored 264 journal publications, more than 50 book chapters, and he is the co-editor of a major pediatric urologic textbook.

Dr. Rink has also received dozens of other awards and honors including, “America’s Most Honored Professionals Award” and has been repeatedly named by his peers to “America’s Best Doctors,” “America’s Top-Rated Physicians,” “Who’s Who in America” and “America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals.” Golf Digest magazine also noted Dr. Rink to be one of the top 26 Doctor Golfers in America.

Dr. Rink is married to his college sweetheart, the former Kanda Lyle (’74, L), and they have adult twins, Andy and Stephanie (’05, ’12), and four grandchildren.
**Homecoming Chili and Cheese Luncheon & Pep Rally**

**Sponsored by:** JPS Wealth Advisors

**Presented by:** Junior Achievement of Southern Kentucky and the WKU Alumni Association

**Location:** 6:45 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.; Hilliard Lyons Sports Bar, 180 E. 8th Avenue

The official Homecoming kickoff rally begins when WKU Football players, Pep Band, cheerleaders, and Topperettes join Coach Mike Sanford for an exciting afternoon. Proceeds benefit Junior Achievement. For more information, contact Junior Achievement at 270-782-0280.

**2018 Summit Awards Dinner**

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Program

**Location:** Augenstein Alumni Center, 292 Alumni Avenue

WKU honors its outstanding volunteers at this recognition and awards ceremony.

**WKU Spirit**

**Midtown**

**Homecoming Parade**

**“To the Hill and Beyond”**

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

WKU Campus to Downtown Bowling Green

**Location:** At the intersection of College Heights Blvd. and Avenue Champions near Downing Student Union; concludes at Circus Square Park in Downtown Bowling Green.

**Festival of Friends Tailgate**

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** WKU Campus

WKU Alumni Association: Homecoming Tailgate and Celebration

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** WKU South Lawn

Celebrate with a worry-free tailgating experience at the WKU Alumni Association tent located on South Lawn across from Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium.

**Homecoming Football Game**

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium

Take your seat in Houchens-Smith Stadium as the WKU Hilltoppers welcome Conference USA opponent, the FIU Panthers. At halftime, celebrate the tradition of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Queen.

**For a complete schedule, visit:**

[alumni.wku.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.wku.edu/homecoming)
Help is a simple word with an impactful meaning. According to Dictionary.com, help is defined as:

**Help** /help/ v. 1. To give or provide what is necessary to accomplish a task or satisfy a need; contribute strength or means to; render assistance to; cooperate effectively with; aid; assist. 2. To save; rescue; succor. 3. To make easier or less difficult; contribute to; facilitate. 4. To give aid; be of service or advantage.

The more than 110,000 members of the global alumni family include so many helpers that it was difficult to narrow down the playing field for this story. From helping rebuild Puerto Rico after the devastation of a hurricane to giving young people with challenges an extra hand, the WKU family is filled with those whose nature is to elevate their own communities and transform the lives of people around the world.
Shining light in the darkness of disaster

Helping others in need can be done in many ways, from volunteering your time to devoting your career path to a specific mission you are passionate about. For Nathan “Jess” Cary (’04, ’05, ’13) of Nashville, Tenn., his time at WKU led him to a career with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), where he has gained first-hand experience with helping people around the world recover from natural disasters.

While on the Hill, Cary received a bachelor’s degree, a Master of Science in Geoscience and a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS), qualifications that helped him obtain his job as a Realty Specialist and Real Property Accountability Officer with the USACE. The USACE is part of the Department of Defense and the U.S. Army and is one of the world’s largest public engineering, design and construction management organizations. It’s also part of the federal government’s unified national response to disasters and emergencies. On a typical day, Cary works in the Nashville district.

“My role is to help manage spatial data related to property, public land tracts and assets within our like projects and stream,” stated Cary. “I do this via GIS, creating maps and executing necessary acquisitions like property leasing.”

But, he is also part of the USACE Blue Roof Planning and Response Team (PRT), which means that when natural disasters hit, he deploys.

“In September of 2017, our team deployed to Florida in response to Hurricane Irma,” Cary said. “As a member of the PRT, I helped set up public centers throughout central and southern Florida and the Florida Keys to allow residents affected by the disaster to apply for temporary roofs. Contractors then installed temporary roofs to resident homes, free of charge, to help reduce property damage until permanent measures could be taken by the homeowner.”

“While Cary was working on this recovery effort, disaster developed again. “When we were in Florida, Hurricane Maria developed and began to ravage the Caribbean,” he said. “After a month and a half in Florida, many of us were asked to help with USACE’s Power Restore mission in Puerto Rico.”

When Cary arrived to the island, he and his team were charged with electrical power grid repair.

“In simple terms, we had to turn the lights on,” noted Cary. “When I arrived in early November, total power to the island was around 30 percent.”

He spent the next 45 days working on power restoration efforts and returned to Puerto Rico on a 30-day mission in March of 2018. By the end of the second deployment, the power grid was 98 percent restored. As he

recounted the devastation, Cary said it was extremely difficult to see.

“Following Maria, much of the island was a true disaster area,” Cary explained. “Power outages caused traffic lights to not work. Road debris and downed power lines and poles often created adventurous travel. While power outages affected the entire island, the visible destruction was scattered throughout. Seeing the devastation was tough. A lot of those people had nothing—no roofs, no power and no water.”

For Cary and his coworkers, witnessing the results of the catastrophe urged them to work harder, even though they were already putting in 12-hour days, seven days a week.

“The people of Puerto Rico are resilient and were glad their fellow countrymen and women were there to help,” he said. “Many of us experienced countless encounters and were showered with thanks when the public noticed our red USACE shirts. We were all glad to help.”

Cary says helping others is his passion. He urges others to find their passion and donate their time to support it.

“Helping others is the humane thing to do, and assisting others in a time of need is very rewarding,” expressed Cary. “I believe that most people want to help but have a hard time finding time in their busy lives to do so. Fortunately, my job allows me to take advantage of opportunities to help.”
A calling to Africa

Most people attend college with a plan for their future, but Amy Correll-Hehr ('14) found her calling as a 20-year-old WKU student through a simple Google search.

"I was just a college student who was seeking opportunities to serve and make a global impact," explained Correll-Hehr. "A Google search on 'Medical Opportunities in Africa' led me into a world I never saw coming—the world of vulnerable children dying from both curable and chronic diseases.

While serving as a volunteer medical assistant at a small mission hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa, she found an overwhelming compassion for children who could not access treatment.

"Specifically, I was burdened for orphans who faced horrible medical conditions with no living family or advocate who could afford to support their care," she said. "My vision for a hospital that could provide free, life-saving care for orphans struck me with complete clarity, so much so that I grabbed a pen and notebook paper and physically sketched every detail that came to mind."

The Somerset, Ky., native then spent every summer and winter break from WKU traveling to Sota Migori, Kenya, to do research related to her vision. By the time she graduated, she had completed an honors thesis that outlined her hospital plans. One year later, in 2015, OVI and Violet International Children's Hospital (OVI) was registered as a 501(c)(3) public charity. In 2017, OVI opened its doors to serve the 34 million orphans of Sub-Saharan Africa. However, the road to realizing her vision came with some struggle.

"Establishing OVI was a true fight," shared Correll-Hehr. "I had less than nothing financially and really lacked support for my vision. Fortunately, I chose to have faith in my calling and trusted in ultimate provision of resources despite the resistance I met along the way. What started as a sketch on notebook paper became a blueprint and now full ownership of a five-story hospital where I serve today."

OVI Children's Hospital employs 40 full-time Kenyan staff members, has nearly 200 U.S. ambassadors and offers critical round-the-clock medical care to orphans all across Sub-Saharan Africa. Correll-Hehr says the work is challenging but rewarding.

"Our largest challenges go hand in hand with our greatest rewards. We subject ourselves to vulnerable children at the most painful points of their lives," Correll-Hehr shared. "Every day I see children who are suffering and dying from not having access to the help that they so desperately need. Some have never been held or loved.

"While many children are so grateful, there are some who have simply lost all hope. I specifically think of one little boy with cerebral palsy and epilepsy who for six weeks screamed in agony and refused to bond with us in any way. I would sit in my apartment in the hospital every night and just listen to him—wondering how on earth we would ever win his heart. Today, his smile, laugh and his simple 'hello' are among my greatest gifts. Meeting him in his pain and resistance was nearly defeating, but without these challenges I would never have experienced the miracle of his transition."

Correll-Hehr does this work with her husband, Rob.

"Rob recognized his call to medical missions at age 18 while studying at UCF Orlando," she said. "This calling would later reunite him with me, his long-time Kentucky friend from youth camp."

His journey in Africa began in 2014, shortly after the couple's engagement. The two have since welcomed two children into their family: 6-year-old Moses and 2-year-old Lily.

"Rob is a dedicated husband, father, clinician and lover of all things medicine," she explained. "He is constantly studying new medical journals and developing protocols of care for the OVI Children's Hospital. His love for clinical studies has also paved the opportunity for our facility to offer clinical rotations for M.D., D.O., PA. and Public Health students from across the world."

"It is a huge responsibility to meet every child's medical and emotional needs, but what a honor it is to call them our own," Correll-Hehr said.

To donate or volunteer, visit: ovinternational.org.
In Destinie O’Rourke (‘95, ‘08, L) has leveraged her previous positions in the WKU Admissions Office, WKU Alumni Association and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to ignite her true passion for working with high school students.

“I realized my biggest impact needed to be with students,” explained O’Rourke. “It was a really deep calling.”

To fulfill that calling, O’Rourke serves as the College and Career Readiness Coach at Bowling Green High School where she works with students, discussing their strengths and weaknesses, talking about different career options and encouraging them when it comes to grades and ACT scores. She also does group work with students, coordinates a class where students learn real-world skills like cooking and budgeting, and takes them on field trips to businesses that vary from medical facilities to factories.

She also makes it a priority to have open office time to allow students to work directly with her and other community volunteers on anything from filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) form, to completing college applications to learning skills for the workforce. O’Rourke says her passion for helping students figure out what they want to do in life comes from her own personal struggles.

“I look back over my own life, especially my high school career, and I felt like I didn’t have someone who could walk me through these things in a very specific way,” she explained. “People would tell me assistance was out there, but no one really showed me how to access those opportunities or tap into those financial resources. So, for me, it’s a blessing to now offer that help to students and structure it in a way that works best for my school community.”

“If I can inspire a student to let go of perceptions, think outside of the box and find their strengths and a future that suits them—one that provides a high quality of life where they can own the responsibility they are about to jump into—then I feel like we’ve not only made that student better, but we’ve enhanced their lives for generations to come. I love this work, I’m passionate about this work, and I think it changes lives and ultimately our communities.”

O’Rourke’s students come from all types of backgrounds, but she says the most challenging students can often achieve the greatest outcome.

“One of the more recent students who stands out is a kid who hated school. He did not want to be here, and he came from a very rough background," explained O’Rourke. “His family wasn’t there for him in the way most families are for their kids. He came to my office his senior year and he wanted to think through other opportunities. So, the senior guidance counselor and I introduced him to our local area technology center—which we have a great partnership with—and he decided to take welding classes.”

O’Rourke said something magical clicked with the student. He met with mentors from the community, earned a welding certification and participated in a program called SKYFAME, which connects students with local businesses. They can work for the company on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and still be full-time students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At the end of five semesters, participants have great work experience, a degree and access to retirement and medical benefits.

“If I just got a text from him this past May saying, ‘We did it. I graduate Friday,’” she said. “This kid who hated school is graduating from college, has a great job, certifications and a degree. He is going to be fine, and his future family is going to be fine.”

While her past definitely sparked her passion to help students, O’Rourke says she’s reminded daily that what she does is not about her but about the young people she is able to help.

“As one of my mentors once told me, my job is not to prepare students for my past but to prepare them for their futures, whatever that looks like to them,” stated O’Rourke. “I think you always have to remember who are you are serving and how their lives are better because of the work you do. I love what the kids are able to accomplish with just a little support.”
Tori Henninger

Saving lives and breaking the cycle of domestic violence

Tori Henninger ('06, '09, L) started her professional career at WKU, but she always dreamed of working in the nonprofit world. When she saw the job opening for the Executive Director of the Barren River Area Safe Space (BRASS), Henninger was hesitant to apply, as she did not have experience with domestic violence or with running a shelter. However, the hiring committee realized that her business, management, and grant writing skills would be a positive fit and offered her the job.

BRASS is a domestic violence shelter and program that provides a safe space for people in the 10-county region of South Central Kentucky. It's a 28-bed, three-bedroom facility that serves all victims of domestic violence—men, women, gender neutral and children. While the location is confidential, it's accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week through a crisis line, and all the services are free of charge and confidential.

"We work with the dependents of those victims, so children mostly, who are in turn victims of domestic violence themselves. We can do this residentially or non-residentially," explained Henninger. "A person can come into shelter if they meet the criteria or they feel like they are in imminent danger and admit to being a victim of domestic violence. Or we can provide them with non-residential outreach services and assistance with court advocacy, counseling, assessments and case management."

During 2017, BRASS served 405 people through the shelter, some of whom were repeat clients.

"A person often has to leave his or her abuser five to seven times before they leave for good. Most people don't want their relationship to end, but they want the abuse to end, so we help them through that grieving process and provide non-judgmental advice," stated Henninger. "We will take them over and over again, whether they decide to come and go in 24 hours or if it's been three years or 10 years. We are always available."

Henninger says they help educate their clients using a visual called the power and control wheel, which demonstrates how the cycle of domestic violence works.

"We are also able to help educate kids on how to handle their feelings and channel their frustrations," she said. "We also provide preventative measures to help younger populations understand and be aware of the cycle of domestic violence and to see the red flags and warning signs. Statistically, children who grow up in homes of domestic violence are more likely to become a victim or abuser as an adult, so we teach them how to recognize it and how to seek help."

In addition to their residential and counseling programs, BRASS offers two housing options to help people living on their own, as some of the greatest obstacles to leaving one's abuser are finding housing and becoming self-sufficient. Henninger acknowledges that domestic violence is a societal issue that is not easily solved.

"The question I get asked most often is, 'Why don't they just leave?'" she said. "There are thousands of reasons why a person can't just leave, ranging from simple basic needs of how they are going to shower or eat, or where are they going to sleep that night, or how they can handle starting over with all their worldly possessions gone. Sometimes it's simpler to stay as opposed to the scary situation of leaving when they have no idea what to expect. In addition, the most volatile point in an abusive relationship is often when the victim decides to leave."

Henninger says it's a tough job, feeling as though she holds people's lives in her hands, but it's rewarding to know she is helping and empowering people at the worst time in their lives.

"The difference in how a person appears the day that they come in, physically bruised and broken from an assault, and the day they leave holding their head high, able to look someone in the eye is inspiring," she said. "That's why this job is worth it."

For more information on how to volunteer, visit barrenriverareasafespace.com.
Random acts of kindness in California

Stephen Bray ('89) of Monrovia, Calif., recently received the Iris Award from the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, which is presented each year to a Los Angeles-area individual whose volunteer efforts have the greatest lasting impact on a wide base of the city’s citizens. To learn why Bray received this award, we need to first go back to his roots.

Bray was born in Paducah, Ky., and when it was time for him to attend college, he chose the school right down the road—and up the Hill—Western Kentucky University. Like many college students, Bray struggled to make ends meet. “I lived off student loans,” explained Bray. “But I really lived off the kindness of my friends who had a food card and would share the pizza and burgers they bought with me.”

Bray said two of his friends who helped him the most were: Kirk Covardill ('90) and Dave Moore ('88).

“Kirk shared his food card with me during much of my early senior year, and Dave took me to his parents’ home for a free sandwich many times over the four years we were together at WKU,” said Bray. “While small, these acts of kindness have greatly impacted me over the years and have given me the desire to give back to others.”

With a degree in Corporate and Organizational Communications from WKU, Bray moved to Montrose, where he has resided for the past 20 years with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children. He works as a Regional Sales Representative for the Masco Corporation and says the move to California has blessed them financially.

“Jennifer and I set a long-term goal for ourselves and as we close in on that goal, we have more flexibility to give back,” stated Bray. “We both want to influence others to act and make an impact on our community.”

After an unsuccessful run for City Council, Bray decided to create random acts of kindness to make a difference in his community. From his own pocket throughout the years, he has paid for a quinacitras for a family who couldn’t afford one and bought tools to replace a business owners’ equipment and allow his employees to continue to work.

“Several years ago, I also started a fundraising effort in the city around Christmas to help those who were in a bad situation,” said Bray. “Among other things, we have raised more than $20,000 in cash to help buy a car for a working mother in danger of losing her job because she didn’t have reliable transportation and bought clothes for children after their apartment burned down.”

His fundraising initiative focuses on asking each donor to simply give one dollar to greatly impact their community.

“It brought our city together as a community, strengthened our bonds to our neighbors and gave those who have plenty the opportunity to help those who have very little,” he explained.

Bray says it’s rewarding to give back, and the reactions from those he partners with the community to help is the best part.

“While there have been many highlights over the years, the one that will always stick with me was an impact on the children of a mother who had been murdered earlier in the year,” Bray said. “We filled their aunt and uncle’s trunk with toys, books and Bubble dolls for the kids. When they were about to pull out, I handed them a check for $1,300 to help with feeding and clothing the kids. The uncle just stood there that a perfect stranger would do this and started to cry. I hugged him and shed a few tears myself. I knew I was doing my part to restore faith in humanity.”

Bray says he’s grateful he wasn’t elected to city council because he’s making more of a difference in his community through his volunteer efforts. He encourages everyone to be leaders in their communities and to create change.

“There is a quote that goes something like, ‘Be the change you want to see in the world’,” explained Bray. “You can’t wait for someone else to lead. If there is something you feel passionate about, jump in and start making an impact.”
Lee (Humphrey) Whalen ('06) and Michael Whalen of Covington, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Cooper Nicholas, on March 22, 2018.

HILLTOPPER NATION

62 RED TOWEL TRAVELS
Check out these adventures of the Red Towel, as alumni share the WKU Spirit during their travels.

66 CAPITOL NOTES

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See the latest news from your fellow classmates.

77 IN MEMORIAM
The WKU Alumni Association pays tribute to members of our Alumni Family who have recently passed away.
Larnelle Harris ('69)

Distinguished alumnus and award-winning musician Larnelle Harris ('69) celebrates his musical career in new autobiography.

Lyrics and songs by WKU alumnus Larnelle Harris ('69, L) of Louisville, Ky., have hit the right notes for more than five decades in a career that has been full of praise.

From being the first Christian artist to sing inside the Kremlin after the fall of the Soviet Union, to performing at the National Day of Prayer event in Washington, D.C., Harris has had some remarkable experiences. However, he said no one achieves success alone.

"My total and complete motivation is to be part of a heart-changing message to help men, women, boys and girls—regardless of ethnic, racial or economic backgrounds—to embrace the concept that the world can only be what we make it," Harris said.

Spheres of influence is the main theme of Harris' new book, Shaped Notions: How Ordinary People with Extraordinary Gifts Influenced My Life and Career, which became a number-one best-seller on Amazon within a week of its release in February. Originally, the idea of writing his autobiography wasn't appealing to Harris, but he said after thinking about the people in his life he realized their stories were worth telling.

"None of us achieves any success alone, and as I began to recall the people who supported, challenged and motivated me along the way, it was quite humbling," he added. "Sometimes, just by offering someone a word of encouragement or showing them kindness, we can help shape a person's life forever."

There are the messages Harris uses in his music as well. He is the only Gospel Christian artist to become a member of three distinct hall of fame organizations, including the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and the American Radio Hall of Fame. Some of his vocal honors include five Grammy awards, 11 Dove awards and a Stellar Award for Best Solo Performance.

Before he accomplished all of these great musical feats, Harris says his time at WKU influenced him to consider music as a career. He said he was fortunate to have instructors who educated and encouraged talent, including opportunities to perform in shows representing the school.

"It was also a great asset to be at an institution that is committed to its foundational responsibility—that of shaping young minds and preparing them for a bright future," he explained.

Harris' time on the Hill was more than just background music. He met his wife, Cynthia (Mitty) ('69, L), through mutual friends and they have been enjoying their life together now for 45 years. They have two children, Larnelle Jr. (Lorraine), who has a master's in Electrical Engineering, and Teresa, who has a degree in Finance.

"My life has been like most people's, I think," Harris said. "We start out one way, thinking we may do this or that, and because of the encouragement of others, we end up in a different place."

He hopes that's what people take away from his book: that all people have a sphere of influence.

"I remember seeing a picture some years ago of a turtle on a fence post. Like that turtle, none of us get where we are in life alone, and I know a lot of people at WKU played an important role in where I am today," Harris stated. • LARYN HILDERBRANDT (18)
Please list names of each person in picture and their graduation year. Also include date and location of picture and send your pictures to:

WKU Alumni Association, Red Towel Travels, 292 Alumni Ave. Suite 309, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or email to alumni@wku.edu.

*Pictures will not be returned.

70's WKU Sigma Chi 10th Annual Get Together at LAKE MARTIN, ALA. in June 2018. Richard Green, Richard Baker, Larry West ('71), Jack Thompson ('66, '71), Joe Breeding ('71, L), and Brad Childes ('73).

Linda ('75, L) and Mike Inman ('75, L) attending the NAR Issues Conference at The Atlantis Paradise Island in NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS, in March 2018.

Marvin Jarboe ('80, L), Paula Jarboe ('93, L), Karen Matchou ('66, A), Jim Denhardt ('64, L), Grace Denhardt, Woody Harrell ('73, L), and Becky Harrell ('73, '75, L) on board the Oceania Marina in the Baltic Sea as part of the BALTIC AND SCANDINAVIA TREASURES CRUISE presented by the WKU Alumni Association in June 2018.

Denise Baker ('81) at the Brandenburg Gates in BERLIN, GERMANY, in May 2018.

Kenneth Gray ('72, '76, '80, L) on the Swedan Bridge on the Old Course at St. Andrews in ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND, in May 2018.

Vicki Gregory ('87, '99, A) at the Catherine Palace in SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, in April 2018.

Brittany Groh ('16, '17) at the summit of MT. HOOD, OREGON, in June 2018.

Tara Knisslow ('94, L) and Jeff Welch ('91) near BOTSMARK, ICELAND, in 2018.

John Record ('73, '75) and Pam Record ('74) at Portol Point on the ANTARCTIC PENINSULA IN ANTARCTICA, in February 2018.

June Laves ('13), Andrew Salzman ('07, L) and Kendall Seaton ('94) celebrating the WKU 3NT Final Four berth at Rector Hayden Realtors in LEXINGTON, KY, in March 2018.

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Jana Sublett ('01, '06)
A superhero to children in South Central Kentucky

A variety of reasons, it is often very traumatic for them. It's tough for the volunteers, but it's rewarding as well.

"I often have people tell me that they don't think they could do our kind of volunteer work because they would get too attached to the children," added Sublett. "I do understand where they're coming from when they say that. However, I try to relate to them that our relationship with the children has to be about building rapport, but it also has to be somewhat analytical. There are times that people's emotions can be counterproductive to the goal, and that's why we have a number of parties involved in cases."

"The children I work with have had lives most of us cannot even imagine and there is no stability in their lives," said Ashley Smith Badger ('99), a CASA Volunteer. "The one constant in most of these cases is the CASA volunteer advocate. With CASA, children know they have someone to call for help or to talk, or someone to visit and be there when they need them."

Sublett says she loves what she does. Even on the toughest days, she knows she's making a difference.

"I encourage everyone to check into the CASA mission," stated Sublett. "Last year, more than 3,000 abused and neglected children went without our services simply due to lack of volunteer advocates. We are just looking for people who want to give of their time to make a vulnerable child's life better. I think anyone who has done our advocacy work will tell you that you as an individual get just as much out of this as the children do."

To get involved, visit casasoftky.org.

Two of Western Kentucky University's biggest advocates in the Kentucky General Assembly will retire at the end of 2023. Rep. Jody Richards (D-20) and Rep. Jim DeCesare (R-70) have dedicated their time in the Legislature working to advance WKU. Even though Richards and DeCesare are on opposite sides of the aisle, they always worked together for the betterment of Bowling Green, Warren County and WKU.

Richards was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1975. “My desire is to improve the quality of life for Kentuckians, particularly my determination to assure equal and better educational opportunities for young Kentuckians, compelled me to seek a seat in the House of Representatives,” Richards stated.

Richards knew that to promote a better Kentucky meant the state needed better infrastructure, especially the roads, which would in turn create jobs. Richards decided to run for a leadership position, in part to help accomplish his goals for Kentucky. He first served as Majority Caucus Chair, then Speaker of the House – serving as the longest Speaker in Kentucky’s history – and finally Speaker Pro Tem.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Richards has seen many important pieces of legislation pass. “The 1990 Education Reform Act is perhaps the most important legislation of the 20th century,” he said. “This legislation put an emphasis on more effective teaching methods that revolutionized elementary and secondary education.”

Richards was also instrumental in postsecondary education reform in 1997, which resulted in better defining institutional missions, identified programs of distinction, provided state matching funds for private funds for “Builds for Brains” and greatly increased state funding. He is particularly proud to have played an instrumental role in securing funds to create the Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science in Kentucky and the WKU Center for Research and Development, both which were transformational for WKU and for Kentucky.

While Richards has seen many ups and downs in state government over the past 40-plus years, his biggest disappointment has been the decline in funding and lack of financial support for Kentucky’s public universities, community and technical colleges and public schools. “Our properly funding education at all levels in the 21st century is a travesty and is doing a regrettable disservice to children, young adults and nontraditional students who seek a quality education and a fulfilling future,” he said.

It is Richards’ hope that the Legislature will begin to restore funding to education moving forward.

Richards received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1960 and a Master of Arts in Journalism in 1962 from the University of Missouri. He began his career as an English and Journalism instructor at Amarillo College in Texas after serving a six-month obligation in the U.S. Army Reserve at Fort Knox. He then came to WKU, teaching English and Journalism, and was advisor to the College Heights Herald and the Talisman. He and former Alumni Association Executive Director Lee Robertson (50, '57) created the WKU Alumni Magazine in 1970. Richards left WKU to run for State Representative and opened his own business, Superior Banks, Inc., a wholesale library company which sold and distributed library books around America and Canada. Richards has received many awards and recognitions for his public service, including an Honorary Doctor of Public Service from WKU, and Warren County Public Schools named Jody Richards Elementary for him. In 2017 Kentucky Wesleyan College inducted him into their Alumni Hall of Fame.

Richards and his wife, Neva, have one son, Roger, and daughter-in-law, Ellen. Both are teachers and are graduates of WKU. His granddaughter, Holly, and her husband, Kyle, are also WKU graduates. Richards has served on county boards and commissions and is a longtime member of Greenwood Park Church of Christ.

Jim DeCesare (18, L) was drawn to public service because he wanted to make a difference for Bowling Green, Warren County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. DeCesare was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2004, campaigning on Right to Work and the repeal of Prevailing Wage.

“It took some time, but in 2017 I finally saw my goals accomplished,” he said. “I co-sponsored Right to Work legislation and helped draft the repeal of prevailing wage legislation, which both passed and we aligned into law in the first week of the General Assembly.”

DeCesare began working on unemployment insurance reform during his first term, which offered him myriad opportunities, including a position in the Legislature. He is pleased that some parts of the legislation passed but would have liked to have seen full reform.

“With Jody and Jim, WKU would not have seen such tremendous growth and progress over the years. I’m grateful to them for their service to Kentucky and support of WKU and especially for all they have done and will continue to do in support of WKU,” Jennifer Bingham Smith (83, ’84).

“Without Jody and Jim, WKU would not have seen such tremendous growth and progress over the years. I’m grateful to them for their service to Kentucky and support of WKU and especially for all they have done and will continue to do in support of WKU,” WKU President Timothy C. Caboni (94).
Mary Nixon ('77)

An investment in a race horse triples in success for WKU alumna Mary Nixon ('77)

Whether you are an owner, an investor or even a person placing a bet at the track, you hope and dream that your race horse will win a race like the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness or the Belmont Stakes. But, to win all three—with the same horse, in the same year—many would say that’s a fantasy. For Mary Nixon ('77, L) and the horse she invested in, Justify, that fantasy of winning the Triple Crown is now a reality.

“I never dreamed we would be chasing the Triple Crown,” she exclaimed.

Nixon’s love for horses started at an early age, growing up in Lexington, Ky.

“I fell in love with horses as a young girl reading all the Black Stallion and Black Beauty books,” added Nixon. “In junior high school, I had a friend who rode. I went to the farm with her and learned to ride. I actually worked on that farm up until my junior year of college.”

Her true passion for horses even influenced her decision to attend WKU.

“I have to admit it, but once I decided I did not want to stay home and go to UK, one of my main criteria was, ‘Where could I go and take my horse?’ Dr. Paul Cook (former professor and administrator) hosted my visit as a high school senior and went out of his way to research some options,” said Nixon. “Unfortunately, my horse went lame before I started my freshman year at WKU. While I missed having her with me, I would never have gotten as involved as I did if I’d spent all my spare time riding.”

After graduating from the Hill with a degree in Accounting, Nixon worked and retired after 23 years as Finance Executive at Yum! Brands, Inc., in Louisville. She put horses on hold while pursuing her career, but she served 24 years having Derby horse owners as a Volunteer Ambassador for Churchill Downs. When retirement was approaching, Nixon decided to hop back into the saddle.

“In 2015, I invested in a ladies’ syndicate, StarLadies Racing, that races just fillies,” explained Nixon. “In early 2018 my husband, Theodore, and I got an opportunity, through the same group, to invest with StarLight Racing, Justify and Audible—who placed first and third in the Kentucky Derby—and jumped in it, of course never dreaming we’d be chasing the Triple Crown and then winning it.

Nixon says she never thought she would own a race horse, let alone a winning one, so as Justify kept the victories coming, the shock kept growing.

“After all three races, my husband and I kept looking at each other and saying, ‘Is this really happening?’ As he’s a trainer, it was surreal and still doesn’t seem real. That said, it has been a thrilling adventure,” said Nixon.

After being around a horse like Justify, Nixon says she doesn’t plan to stop investing in horses any time soon.

“Justify is a big, strong horse with a big personality,” she noted. “He is good looking and better than the others—and he knows it. He has a swagger. We were able to be with him a lot, which was a joy. We’d love to have seen him race a few more times, especially since the Breeders Cup is at Churchill Downs this year, but that was not to be. It was a good ride while it lasted! We love the people we’re in partnership with and love the business. It fulfills a childhood dream I never really had, as I just didn’t see it as a possibility.”

Mary Nixon (77)
Class Notes is a department that allows alumni to update fellow classmates on significant accomplishments and events in their lives. If you wish to publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 502, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or e-mail at alumni@wku.edu.

1960s

Dr. Robert Stanton ('68, '66, A) of Georgetown, Ky., was recently awarded the annual Founder's E. Teague Award by the Kentucky Public Health Association in honor of his commitment to health and well-recognized contributions in the field of public health.

Joe Bugal ('64, '65) of Scottsdale, Ariz., received the 2018 Tull & Z. Zimmerman Award from the Pro Football Writers of America (PFWA). The award is given for lifetime achievement as an assistant coach in the NFL.

Dr. Thomas Meredith ('66, L) of Oxford, Miss., was inducted into the University of Mississippi School of Education's 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame.

Dr. Thomas Knarr ('57, L) of Edwards, Tex., and Harry Gray is the Cotton Medal at Texas A&M. Both Knarr and Gray practices medicine in Tyler, Texas, and Harry Gray are still working, reunited after 61 years for the 1950s. Both Knarr and Gray received the LMI Board of Directors. She is the Professor of Social Studies.

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Brenda Meredith ('71, '72) (left) and Romanza Johnson ('60, '68, L) (right) both of Bowling Green, Ky., had the opportunity to be recognized during the past year when Johnson served a term as President of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA). Meredith is the Editor of the KRTA News and the KRTA News Express.

Melanie (Jones) Jones (97, '91) of Southern Pines, N.C., was named Principal of Cape Creek Middle School.

Mark Alcott '71) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently named to Heritage Bank.

Jeff Meulf ('93, '94) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Green County City Manager.

Anne Balcom of Louisville, Ky., recently published a book titled "The Blue Heaven Deeple". Dobbs with Stearns, which recovers the trials and small victories with her mother's dementia.

1970s

Sister Ann Patricia Cecili ('73) of Maple Mount, Ky., is celebrating her 60th year of religious life as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph. During her career, Sister Cecili worked as a teacher in Overdowen, Louisville and the state of Nebraska. She was the Secretary to Mount Saint Joseph Leadership Council for 21 years and has been the Postmaster at Maple Mount Community Post Office since 2013.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Amy Hardin (’02, ’10, L) offers homegrown children’s camp that fosters inclusion

When WKU Alumni Association Board member Amy Hardin (’02, ’10, L) was weighing her options for a summer camp program for her 7-year-old son, JW, who is on the autism spectrum, she had to consider what choice would be the best fit.

“One of the aspects of special needs parenting I’ve struggled with is summer camp,” Hardin said. “I loved camps when I was younger. I made lifelong friends and had so much fun. But the conversations with JW down to this day: Do I send him to a camp on the spectrum where the staff will be more familiar and not at all what we’re looking for, or do I send him to a normal camp where he will be understood and enjoy ‘different’ things? The answer is both. I’m sure the staff at LSD Camp is going to adore JW, and the other kids will love him. He will be a star!”

Coming up short, she decided to create her own homegrown option, and “Camp Amy” was born. For a week in June, nine neighborhood kids joined JW and his fun-loving mom for two hours a day in the inaugural camp experience at the Hardin home.

“Each day we had a sensory activity, a craft, snack and a physical activity,” she shared. “We’re so lucky to be surrounded by neighbors who love our boy for who he is, encourage his children to be inclusive to all individuals and who help us in our journey to better prepare JW for the coming school year and life in general. Our village is strong and JW is loved more than he will ever know!”

2000s

Charlotte Dixon (’99) of Owensboro, Ky., has retired from WKU-Owensboro after more than three decades as an Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

Dawn Hall (’99) of Bowling Green, Ky., recently published an academic book titled Anxious: The Films of Kelly Reichardt through Edinburgh University Press. She is a tenured Professor in the WKU English Department.

Candice Johnson (’93), of Louisville, Ky., recently received a Doctor of Education degree from Spalding University.

Tiffany Porter-Talbert (‘06) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named the Women’s Basketball Assistant Coach at WKU.

Carry Brown (’97, ’09) of Temple Terrace, Fla., has been named the Head Volleyball Coach at Florida College.

Brian Courtney (‘92) of Conover Creek, Ky., has been named Principal of Beekmantown Elementary.

Holly Lewis (’01, L) of Hopkinsville, Ky., was named Director of Scheduling for U.S. Sen. John Barrasso.

Amanda Groat (’01) of Bowling Green, Ky., was just named President of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers.

Matt Rogers (‘00) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently named Assistant Director of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Jenna Haugen (’07, ’09, L) of Louisville, Ky., was named one of 20 Young Leaders by Louisville Business First. Haugen is an Assistant Professor of Management at the University of Louisville.

Jason Stann (’07) of Knoxville, Tenn., is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee in the Communication and Information program.

Sarah Burton (‘06) of Columbus, Ohio, was honored as the Adair County Education Association Teacher of the Month. Burton is the Curriculum Resource Teacher at Adair County Primary Center.

Laura Blackman (’09) of Cave Run Lake, Ky., was just named Principal of Barnsdall High School.

Dr. Amera Almusarrf (‘11) of Charlotte, N.C., was named Associate Professor of Mathematics at Monroe County Community College.

Lindsay Medley (’11, ’17) of Springfield, Ky., joined the staff at Epstein-Dowling Family and Internal Medicine as an Advanced Practice Provider.

Joseph Wiederhold (’12) of Elizabethtown, Ky., graduated basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.

Tyler Jury (’12) and Clay Simpson (’12) of Louisville, Ky., were recognized by StreetVegas in an article titled “2 Southern Men’s Brands We’re Smitten With” for their company, Clayton & Course.

Blake Crabtree (‘13) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Head Baseball Coach at Dare County High School.
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THUMBS-UP! Ruby Lewis ('07)
Ruby Lewis ('07) of Los Angeles, Calif., is taking on the role of Marilyn Monroe in Marilyn: The New Musical at the Paris in Las Vegas, Nev. The musical celebrates the life of the Hollywood starlet and is told through the point of view of Marilyn Monroe's driver, Charles. Lewis' extensive background includes tours with Gypsy, Grease, Jersey Boys and We Will Rock You as well as television roles on shows such as Medium and Girl Meets World. She made her Broadway debut as Indigo in Cirque du Soleil's first Broadway show Paramour.

THUMBS-UP! Brent Rupard (’09) and Anthony Olympia (’09)
Brent Rupard (’09) and Anthony Olympia (’09) of the country duo, Everette, released their debut single and music video “Slow Rock.” The video recounts the time the pair broke down in an RV on their way to Memphis but went with the flow and had a good time. Everette signed with Broken Bow Records in early 2018.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT
We loved Lee (Humphrey) Whalen (’06, L) Class Note submission so much that we gave her and her son, Cooper Nicholas, a place of honor on the introductory section of Hilltopper Nation on page 59! Send us an awesome photograph, and you could also be featured in this space. Visit the Class Notes Drop Box at alumni.wku.edu/classnotes, or send them by email to alumni@wku.edu.

BIRTHS

Lee (Humphrey) Whalen (’06, L) and Michael Whalen of Covington, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Cooper Nicholas, on March 22, 2018.

Tanya (Deitrich) Reeder (’08) and Sean Reeder (’09, ’12) of Shelbyville, Ky., announce the birth of their son, London Ash, in September 2017.

Alicia (Bandas) Kunkler (’09, ’12) and Ryan Kunkler of Huntingburg, Ind., announce the birth of their son, Harvey Roy, on Nov. 4, 2017.

Hannah (Blais) Ward (’14, ’17) and Dylan Ward (’13, ’18) of Owensboro, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Lindleig Nicole, on March 24, 2018.
Trenton Dunn (’11)

Trenton Dunn (’11) helps change the lives of underprivileged youth in Chicago, Ill.

For Trenton Dunn (’11) of Hartshorne, Ky., his push in life could have gone very differently if he hadn’t enrolled at WKU and found what he calls his second family.

“Trenton Dunn (’11) helps change the lives of underprivileged youth in Chicago, Ill."

"I wouldn’t be the same person today without my experience at WKU. It’s a sanctuary for me and a place where I have so many connections."

Trenton Dunn (’11)

"It’s one thing to take students out of their neighborhood and elements. Ninety percent of our students are students of color, and a great many of our students live below the poverty line," Dunn commented. "Putting these students from low economic status into these elite private schools in Chicago and all over the country definitely has its challenges in terms of transitions. My role is to be that aid and guide to that transition. Sometimes it’s making them aware that student awareness comes from a different place and that’s okay, but you can’t let that be a deterrent for how you excel and thrive in this new environment."

DMSF receives more than 1,000 scholarship applications each year, with about 130 students receiving awards. The goal is to increase the program to 500 scholars by the year 2020. Dunn says he’s excited to be a part of making this goal a reality and that while he is making a difference in these children’s lives, they are also making a difference in his.

"A lot of the students I have spoken with directly reflects my experience," Dunn said. "In one interview recently, we visited with a 13-year-old girl with average grades and recommendations inside the classroom. I learned that outside the classroom this girl is sometimes hungry, doesn’t have money for lunch, is in temporary housing staying with a friend of a friend in a basement and has a two-hour commute to school. Those are the types of obstacles these students are facing. It’s a pleasure and so fulfilling to be able to help these kids.”

While Dunn is hundreds of miles from WKU, he says it’s his second home and WKU is part of his plans for his future and legacy.

"Building a pipeline to WKU of amazing students of color who are having amazing experiences and who feel like there is a place that is for them—that’s my goal," Dunn concluded. "I wouldn’t be the same person today without my experience at WKU. It’s a sanctuary for me and a place where I have so many connections."
Professor Mary Ellen Miller of Bowling Green, Ky., passed away in January 2018 at the age of 89. He had an illustrious 30-year career, fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and served throughout the United States, France and Germany for many years. His final assignment was Chief of Staff for the Berlin Brigade, where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Col. Spiller returned to Bowling Green in 1980 where he obtained an Agriculture degree from WKU. Upon graduation, he became the Director of the WKU Exposition Center.

He leaves behind his wife, Cora Jane Spiller (50), supported WKU for many years as volunteers and donors.

Mr. Thomas G. Wallace, '54

Mr. Marshall Summers

Mr. Arthur A. "Art" Sullivan Jr., '64

Mr. Marshall Summers

Mr. Larry Tyler

Mr. Robert W. Smith, '85

Mr. John S. Vince/Ii, '68

Mr. Marshall Roy Stephens, '51

Mr. John S. Vince/Ii, '68

Mr. Marshall Roy Stephens, '51

Mr. Don Williams, '93

Mrs. Amelia (McNabb) Lewis, '50

Mr. Randy Wray, '82

Mr. Robert E. Spiller, '49

Mr. John White, '67

Mr. Robert E. Spiller

Mr. John White, '67

Mr. Robert E. Spiller

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Mr. Robert E. Spiller

Mr. John White, '67

Mr. Robert E. Spiller

Mr. John White, '67

Mr. Robert E. Spiller

Mr. John White, '67
LOOKING BACK

1993

BIG RED WAY

STOP

1968

1918

50 YEARS AGO

On Apr. 2, 1968, Dawson Springs, Ky., senior William E. "Winky" Menser was sworn in as WKU’s first Student Regent, and on May 31 Herbert E. Shadowen became the first Faculty Regent. The Board of Regents had recently been enlarged with the addition of these two non-voting members.

25 YEARS AGO

On Sept. 27, 1993, the Office of University Relations announced the winner of a contest to rename the portion of Center Street that ran through the campus. "Big Red Way" won out over "Spirit Way" and "Scholastic Way." WKU’s main address, 1 Big Red Way, was changed to 1906 College Heights Blvd. during the WKU Centennial celebration in 2006.

1943

75 YEARS AGO

On April 3, 1943, 400 members of the 321st College Training Detachment arrived at WKU for preflight training under a contract with the Army Air Force. They lived on campus, studied academic and military subjects, and took flying lessons at the Bowling Green Airport.

100 YEARS AGO

On Dec. 21, 1918, WKU President Henry Hardin Cherry announced his second try for the nomination for Governor of Kentucky. Hoping "to win through the personal influence of friends who will get their friends interested thereby making an endless chain," Cherry nevertheless withdrew from the race on April 7, 1919.

• LYNN NIEDERMEIER | PHOTOS: WKU ARCHIVES; BIG RED WAY PHOTOS BY SHERYL HAGAN-BOOTH '00
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