

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

Fall 2018

UA77/1 WKU Spirit

WKU Alumni Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Leadership Studies Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [Sports Studies Commons](#)

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

WKU SPIRIT

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI.WKU.EDU





PICTURE THIS

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 ('07, 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. To that end, we are pleased to share a feature on *Hilltoppers Who Help*, written by our Sr. Communication Specialist Rose Rementer. 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 and Up on the Hill*, 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!

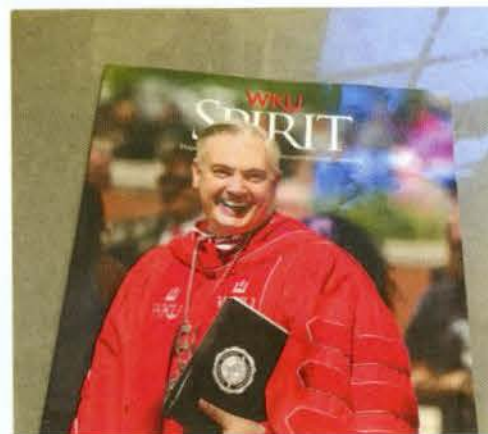
As always, we appreciate the support of our members, who help make this magazine and our many engagement opportunities possible. In the body of WKU SPIRIT, members of the WKU Alumni Association are noted in red font, with Lifetime Members recognized by an "L" next to their graduation years and Annual 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.

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

Marc Brown @DrMarcusWBrown - Jun 18
Just read the newest WKU Alumni magazine- more substantial articles on actual education than I've seen in a while. Thank you President Caboni. #WKU

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!

WKUSPIRIT

MAGAZINE STAFF

Interim Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

John Paul Blair ('92, L)

Executive Director, WKU Alumni Association

Anthony McAdoo (L)

Editor

Carol Cummings ('92, L)

Designer

Emily Trabue Scott ('07, L)

Interactive Specialist

Jenny Johnson (A)

Writers

Deanna Jenkins ('09, '17, L)

Tommy Newton ('84)

Rose Rementer

Bob Skipper ('82, '91)

Photographers

Bryan Lemon ('12)

Clinton Lewis ('04)

Alumni Association

Ginny Hensley ('97, L)

Jennifer Holland ('07, L)

Greg Keightley ('78, A)

Angela Martin ('03, '16, L)

Allie Sharp ('13, '15, L)

Laura Smith ('90, L)

Beth Stamps (L)

CONTACT

Augenstein Alumni Center
292 Alumni Avenue
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3416
1-888-WKU-ALUM
alumni@wku.edu • alumni.wku.edu

ADVERTISING

For advertising information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at 270-745-2586, email to alumni@wku.edu or mail to WKU Alumni Association, WKU SPIRIT, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 309B, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

EDITORIAL

Letters and story ideas for WKU SPIRIT are welcomed and encouraged. Submission does not guarantee publication, and those letters that are published may be edited for style and length. Please include the writer's signature, the year of graduation if applicable, a daytime phone number and a return address. Letters may be sent by fax to 270-745-5017, e-mail to alumni@wku.edu or mail to WKU Alumni Association, WKU SPIRIT Editor, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 309B, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

© Copyright 2018, WKU Alumni Association

WKU SPIRIT is published twice a year by the WKU Alumni Association. Unless otherwise noted, articles may be reprinted by permission only and with appropriate credit to WKU SPIRIT, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY.



24 DOWN ON THE FARM

Farming and agriculture are an important part of Kentucky and WKU. Read about how two alumni are putting a modern spin on their traditional roots with fun and relevant business opportunities.



46 HILLTOPPERS WHO HELP

Hilltoppers help one another. It's part of our DNA. In this feature, we visit with five alumni who work to elevate their communities and transform the lives of people around the world.

ALUMNI PROFILES

- 60 **LARNELLE HARRIS ('69, L)**
The distinguished alumnus and award-winning musician celebrates his musical career in a new autobiography.
- 65 **JANA SUBLETT ('01, '06)**
This alumna is a superhero to children in South Central Kentucky.
- 68 **MARY NIXON ('77, L)**
An investment in a race horse triples in success for this WKU alumna.
- 76 **TRENTON DUNN ('11, A)**
His personal experiences on the Hill gave him the desire to change the lives of underprivileged youth in Chicago, Ill.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 EDITOR NOTES
- 5 FROM THE HILL
 - 6 CAMPUS NEWS
 - 9 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
 - 10 WKU PHILANTHROPY
 - 14 FROM THE PRESIDENT
 - 16 WKU ATHLETICS
 - 18 AROUND CAMPUS
 - 22 AROUND THE GLOBE
- 35 ALUMNI AVENUE
 - 36 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 - 39 HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
 - 43 HOMECOMING 2018
- 59 HILLTOPPER NATION
 - 62 RED TOWEL TRAVELS
 - 66 CAPITOL NOTES
 - 70 CLASS NOTES - THUMBS-UP!
 - 77 IN MEMORIAM
- 80 LOOKING BACK

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.



18 ROTC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

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

FROM THE HILL

News from Western Kentucky University

HIGHLIGHTS

14 FROM THE PRESIDENT

Visit with WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94) and learn more about his recent Big Red Road Trip.

16 ATHLETICS

Celebrate 100 years of Hilltopper Football and meet the members of the honorary All-Century team.

9 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Meet Lindsey Filiatreau ('11), who recently received an NIH Fogarty Global Health Fellowship to fund her dissertation work in South Africa.

22 IYO: CUBA

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. Student Grants for the 2018-2019 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: Sarah Angelle of Monticello, Ky.; Sarah Linder of Louisville, Ky.; Logan Mitchell of Hebron, Ky.; Lillian Nellans of Des Moines, Iowa; Maggie Sullivan of Louisville, Ky.; and Elizabeth Upshur 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.



SARAH ANGELLE | Monticello, Ky.



SARAH LINDER | Louisville, Ky.



LOGAN MITCHELL | Hebron, Ky.



LILLIAN NELLANS | Des Moines, Iowa



MAGGIE SULLIVAN | Louisville, Ky.



ELIZABETH UPSHUR | Antioch, Tenn.



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 Pulitzers 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.

WKU students have won 15 Hearst individual national championships since 1985 — Photojournalism in 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2016; Multimedia in 2015; Writing in 1985; and Radio News in 2006.

GILMAN SCHOLARS

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.; Kate Hart 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 Campbellsburg, Ky.; Elisabeth Hernandez-Torres of Bowling Green, Ky.; Michael King of Franklin, Ky.; Jeremy McFarland of Campbellsville, Ky.; Robert Myers of Louisville, Ky.; Antonio McManis of Shelbyville, Ky.; Aaliyah Neblett of Cedar Hill, Tenn.; and Nyla Rogers of Charlotte, N.C.



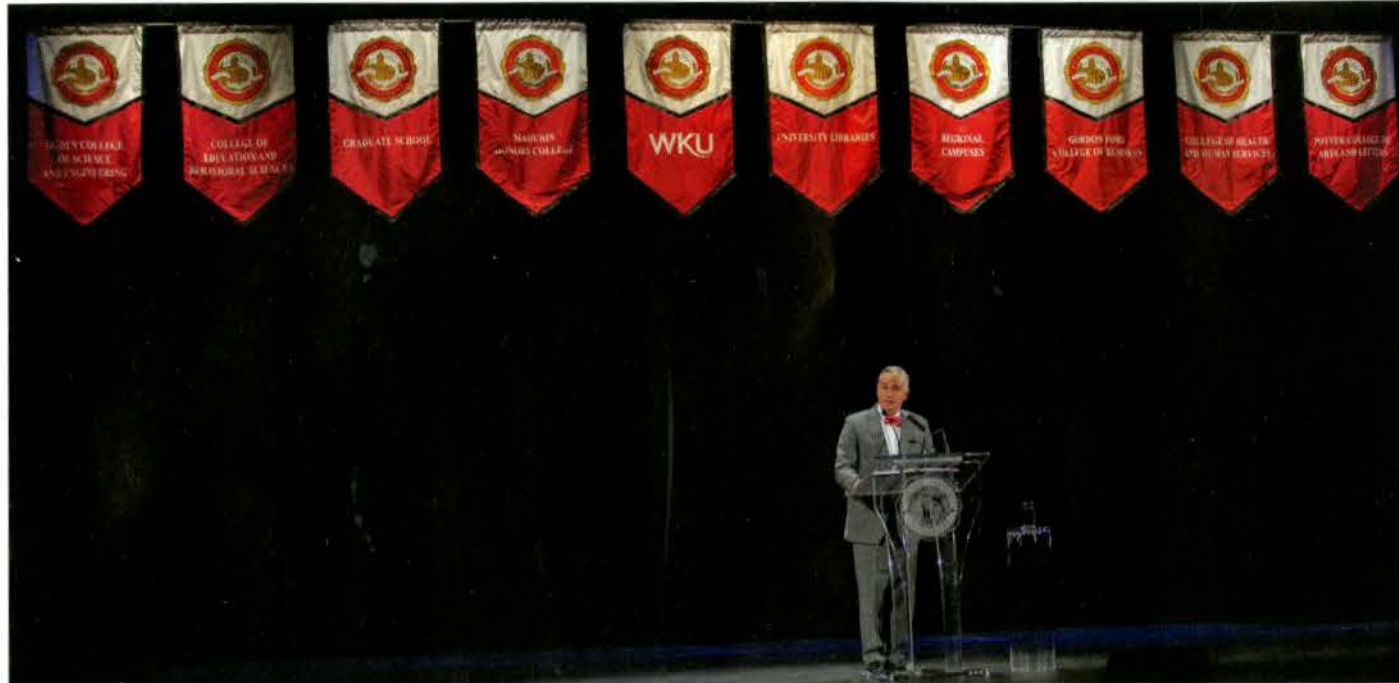
LILLIAN NELLANS

Nellans awarded Rotary Global Grant Scholarship for master's degree abroad

WKU graduate Lillian Nellans ('18) will use a \$45,000 Rotary Foundation Global Grant Scholarship to pursue a master's degree in the United Kingdom.

Nellans, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and the daughter of Jennifer and Bill Nellans, majored in Philosophy and a self-designed International Conflict Studies program. She was recognized as the 2018 Ogden Foundation Scholar, the highest recognition at WKU awarded to one graduating senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in addition to outstanding University and civic engagement.

As a Rotary Global Scholar, Nellans will enroll in the M.Sc. in International Relations program at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She plans to pursue a career researching the underlying causes of conflict and advocating for a greater global focus on prevention. In addition, she plans to complete a Ph.D. in International Relations and later conduct research for a human rights organization.



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 ('94)** 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."

Changes 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 3.39 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 regional 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 in 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, the 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 catchment 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 Ph.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. ■ CORY DODDS ('13)



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 giving and are more important now than ever before."

The 2017-2018 fiscal year total represents a 23 percent increase in private support over last year's record-breaking total of \$36.3 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)**, Interim Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement. "At 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 endowment, with \$7.1 million. ■ **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**



WKU Foundation celebrates 25 years

For the past quarter century, the WKU Foundation has supported philanthropic initiatives to benefit Western Kentucky University. On July 23, 2018, the Foundation, the official repository for gifts to WKU, hit the 25-year mark, having supported more than \$133 million for students, programs and facility improvements.

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 SALARY** support

\$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.

Annual investment earnings from the endowment will be gifted to the University to enhance the Jerry E. Baker Student Scholarship Fund, which was initially created through a direct bequest by Baker. The scholarship fund provides support for students pursuing a major or minor in music, dance, theatre, art or horticulture, and available scholarship funds are divided among the five programs.

The University expects to receive \$450,000 from the Baker Foundation in the first year of the agreement. Combined with Baker's previous support for scholarships, the Jerry E. Baker Student Scholarship Fund will annually award around \$500,000 in scholarships to WKU students.

"Mr. Baker's clear and powerful vision paves the way for future scholars. WKU commits to continuing his legacy of supporting student scholarships," said **WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94)**. "This enhancement of the Jerry E. Baker Scholarship Fund is part of the original gift announced in 2006. Upon the realization of his estate, the scholarship funds will soon be available to generously support our students. His philanthropic spirit endures at WKU and stands as an example to others."

Announced in 2006, Baker's estate plans offered the University the choice of management of Baker's residence, the Baker Arboretum and the Downing Museum or a \$10 million endowment for student scholarships. After careful

consideration, University officials and Baker Foundation leadership have elected for WKU to utilize the scholarship endowment and for management of the properties to remain with the Baker Foundation.

"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's Interim Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni

Engagement. "WKU is excited to administer 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 music, dance, theatre, art and basketball.

"Through Mr. Baker's lifetime of 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)**



"Recognizing that others may be fighting a similar battle, we hope to help remove the stigma surrounding mental illness."

Christina James ('07)

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, 2014.

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 degree in Management, minors in Entrepreneurship and Finance, and a Certificate in Financial Planning. She played on the Lady Toppers Tennis team.

"The day my sister died, life as I knew it stopped," she said. "It was as if a bomb went off in our family, and we were shattered into a million different pieces."

A hard worker with an entrepreneurial spirit, Andrea Hall always helped others and looked for new ways to give back to her community. She was known for surprising her friends and family with gestures that showed how much she cared for them, and this inspired her family with a way to celebrate her life. Each year, on the anniversary of her death, her family and friends perform Random Acts of Kindness to honor Andrea and to bring awareness to mental health issues.

"Andrea was an incredible person, and we want to celebrate her and not focus on that awful day," shared James. "My family decided that on the anniversary of her death, instead of being a flashback to the worst day of our lives, we wanted that to be a day to celebrate her and hopefully help someone else. We want to recognize that everyone is fighting a battle that we know nothing about."

"Andrea had a larger-than-life personality, but she was affected by challenges that were unknown to even her family," James continued. "Recognizing that others may be fighting a similar battle, we hope to help remove the stigma surrounding mental illness."

In addition to showering their communities with kindness, her



ANDREA MARIE HALL

family 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." ■ **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**

Faculty and Staff Giving

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

Faculty and staff giving reached a new record with more than \$1.1 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

A lasting impact is made on the WKU community through the work faculty and staff perform each day, and the mission of the University is advanced even more through their generous financial support.

"I became a sustaining member of WKYU 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.

"I also support 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 Gish ('99), Communication Coordinator for the Gordon Ford 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 Gish. "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 bright 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 philanthropy," said WKU President **Timothy C. Caboni ('94)**. "This new record signifies the strength of our employees' WKU spirit." ■ **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**



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.



HIGHLIGHTS

\$73 million in **SCHOLARSHIPS** provided

\$75 million in **ASSETS**

1,250 separate **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS** with **2,498 STUDENTS** assisted this past year

Supported **four** building or beautification projects, including the **FUNDRAISING** initiative for the Kentucky Building



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Q&A with President Caboni

Learn more about the four-week, 31-county Big Red Road Trip

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 did 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 We enjoyed following along with your travel and food tasting adventures. Can you share some of the highlights from your trips?

A One of my favorite ways to get to know people is by casual conversation over a meal. And quite simply, I love food – especially local fare. So we made a point to eat at as many of the town favorites as we could manage. I had some of the best barbecue, burgers, fried chicken and even fried chicken livers you can find. And now when I meet a student on campus from Tompkinsville, I can say I've eaten at Dovie's. I can say to a student from Hodgenville I've eaten at Laha's Red Castle Hamburgers or to a student from Brownsville I've eaten at Walden's Barbecue. It's a great way to relate. Another very special highlight was our tour of the Center for Courageous Kids in Scottsville. That's a truly amazing place that is transforming the lives of so many families. I loved learning about the many ways our students and our student athletes are engaged there. And I was quite impressed with the work that high school students are doing in Metcalfe County running their own donut shop and restaurant at the Old School Café. There are just so many unique and interesting things happening here in south central Kentucky, and I'm glad to have experienced them for myself.

Q 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.

PHOTOS

LEFT TO RIGHT - TOP TO BOTTOM

1 Sampling local eateries, such as Laha's Red Castle in Hodgenville, was a must during the Big Red Road Trip. **2** Staff from the LaRue County Board of Education pose for a photo following a meeting with WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94). **3** Students from Metcalfe County High School and their Superintendent, Benny Lile, treated President Caboni to lunch and donuts at the Old School Café. Innovative thinking helped transform the old high school gym into both a real-life restaurant experience for the students and a place for fresh donuts for the community. **4** Laura Akin, a member of the Hilltopper Class of 2019, spotted President Caboni at Brothers Restaurant in Campbellsville. **5** Dennis Griffin ('86, '12, A), Executive Director of the Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority, shows President Caboni the site of a new industrial spec building during a tour of Simpson County's industrial facilities. **6** President Caboni enjoys a chocolate malt at the Franklin Frosty Freeze during a break between meetings. **7** Bill Adams, Associate Superintendent for Meade County Schools, takes Meade County Judge Executive Gerry Lynn and President Caboni on a tour of the Meade County Area Technology Center, set to open this fall. **8** Kentucky Rep. Wilson Stone ('74, '78) joins President Caboni for a tour of Dugas Park in Scottsville. **9** President Caboni speaks at a reception at Centre on Main in Leitchfield. **10** President Caboni is interviewed by an Evansville, Ind., television station following a presentation at the Henderson Rotary Club.



100 Years of WKU Football

Hilltopper Football announces All-Century team

Hilltopper 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 teamers 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 captaincy 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 I-AA quarterback in a single season, and his 3,997 rushing yards were the most ever in a career.

The offense, 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.

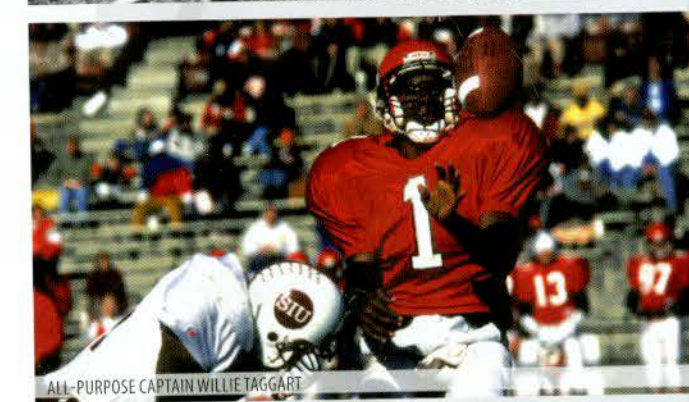
WKU recognized the entire team at the home opener for the 2018 season against Maine on Sept. 8.



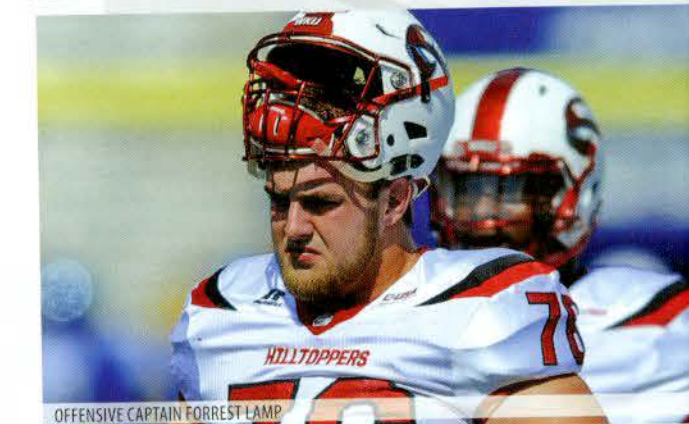
CO-HEAD COACH JACK HARBAUGH



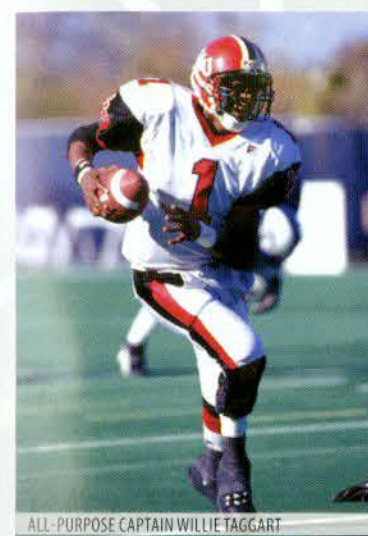
DEFENSIVE CAPTAIN VIRGIL LIVERS



ALL-PURPOSE CAPTAIN WILLIE TAGGART



OFFENSIVE CAPTAIN FORREST LAMP



ALL-PURPOSE CAPTAIN WILLIE TAGGART



CO-HEAD COACH JIMMY FEIX



DEFENSIVE CAPTAIN VIRGIL LIVERS

ALL-CENTURY TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB **Brandon Doughty** (2013-15)
- RB **Bobby Rainey** (2008-11)
- RB **Dickie Moore** (1965-68)
- TE **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)
- LB **Sherrod Coates** (1999-02)
- LB **Paul Gray** (1980-83)
- LB **Rick Green** (1972-75)
- LB **Dale Lindsey** (1963-64)
- DB **Virgil Livers** (1971-74)
- DB **Jim Burt** (1961-64)
- DB **Joseph Jefferson** (1998-01)
- DB **Mel Mitchell** (1999-01)



SPECIAL TEAM/ALL-PURPOSE

- AP **Willie Taggart** (1995-98)
- RET **Antonio Andrews** (2010-13)
- RET **Joey Stockton** (1994-97)
- K **Garrett Schwettman** (2012-15)
- P **Brian Claybourn** (2001-04)

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 here, 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, L)**, 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. 28, 1919.



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF

"ROTC at Western has given thousands of its graduates a chance to learn, 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.

"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.



PHOTO CREDIT JOSEPH BARKOFF



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 vital 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." ■ TOMMY NEWTON ('84)

KEY DATES FOR ROTC

1918 · 1919 · 1928 · 1935 · 1937 · 1947 · 1954 · 1957 · 1962 · 1964 · 1967 · 1973 · 1977 · 1983 · 1996 · 2002 · 2003 · 2005

• 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 and vocational units of the SATC.

• OCT. 1, 1918 •

The War Department authorized the formal establishment of the SATC as a part of Western Kentucky State Normal School.

• JAN. 28, 1919 •

Reserve Officers' Training Corps became a permanent part of the school. 1st Lt. Owen Ellsworth assumed temporary command of the Corps upon its formal activation. The Corps was first organized as a Junior Division unit and offered only two years of basic military training.

• MARCH 1919 •

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

• 1928 TO 1933 •

ROTC Rifle Team won the National ROTC Rifle Match sponsored by the War Department for six consecutive years.

• SEPTEMBER 1935 •

A Senior Infantry Branch Oriented Division, replacing the junior ROTC unit, was organized and placed under the command of Maj. John Robeson.

• FEB. 4, 1937 •

The National Society of Pershing Rifles granted a membership charter to the cadet company at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College.

• MAY 1937 •

First senior ROTC cadet class was commissioned. Through World War II, the ROTC program continued to produce commissioned officers, many of whom served with distinction in both the European and Pacific theaters.

• SUMMER 1947 •

The Army ROTC program was modified to include an Air Force ROTC program on campus. Maj. William N. Pace Jr., the first Professor of Air Science, was assigned to Western in late 1947.

• 1954 •

The Infantry Branch Program was converted to the General Military Science Program, which was designed to prepare senior division cadets for commissioning in any of the Combat, Combat Support or Combat Service Support branches of the Army. The program enabled qualified cadets to enter the service branch of their choice.

• 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.

• FEBRUARY 1962 •

The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction and the Board of Regents approved the awarding of an academic minor in Military Science for completion of the ROTC program.

• SEPTEMBER 1964 •

Pershing Rifles Company B-3 initiated sponsorship of a female auxiliary organization known as the Rebelettes. The Rebelette drill teams were selected as the National Champions in 1967, 1973 and 1975.

• OCTOBER 1967 •

The ROTC program added another extracurricular organization with the Special Forces Company.

• SEPTEMBER 1973 •

The U.S. Congress authorized females to participate in the ROTC academic program.

• MAY 14, 1977 •

WKU's first female officer, 2nd Lt. Lynne F. Berry, was commissioned into the Military Intelligence Corps, USAR.

• AUGUST 1983 •

The Pershing Rifles Company and Rebelette Auxiliary were retired and replaced by the Organization of the Red Knights.

• SPRING 1996 •

The WKU ROTC Alumni Association was established with the induction of seven members into the ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame.

• MAY 2002 •

WKU ROTC cadets were first commissioned during the spring Commencement ceremony.

• NOVEMBER 2003 •

Annual Veterans Day Ceremony began at Guthrie Tower.

• SPRING 2005 •

A classroom was dedicated to a WKU ROTC graduate. The MS100 room became the Capt. Charles F. Thomas IV Room of Honor.



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 yearlong 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 to populating the IYO Cuba calendar, as well as infusing their newly gained knowledge of Cuba into the classroom.



Made possible by the generous support of WKU alumnus **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 McMichael, Associate Dean of Potter 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 they 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 two 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 "IYO 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/oip. ■ ANNA YACOVONE



EVENTS CALENDAR

International Year of Cuba

11/1/18:
DINNER BY REQUEST

Micatrotto Dining Room, AC 213
A traditional Cuban meal planned, prepared and presented by students in Food Service Operations. Ticket information available at wku.edu/iyo.

1/22/19 – 4/6/19:
THE ISLAND OF MY LOVE: THE FACES AND STORIES OF CUBA, CUBA AMOR: LOS ROSTROS Y LOS CUENTOS DEL CAMINO

FAC Main and Corridor Galleries
An exhibition featuring the stories of art, artists, teaching and photodocumentary (Project Simple) curated by Dr. Miwon Choe, WKU Associate Professor of Art Education, and Jesús Molina of Cuba. Based on Dr. Choe's decade of action research process (Nepantla) and relationships with Cuban artists and educators.

3/9/19 – 5/28/19:
ARTE CUBANO

Kentucky Museum
An exhibition highlighting Cuba's incredible diversity and representing more than 25 Cuban artists' ruminations on the quotidian, social and political realities of the island and the contemporary world.

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.



Down on
the farm
and up on
the Hill

Traditional farming remains
relevant in the modern world



By Rose Rementer

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 overland, 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 farm cash receipts from poultry, eggs, beef cattle, and income from the sale of horses and stud fees, the state's other major commodities include corn, soybeans, burley 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 Lacefield ('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 Lacefield.

In our fast-paced, technology-rich world, where, exactly, does traditional farming fit in and how are farmers marketing new initiatives 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."



Traditional roots with a modern twist

For **Nathan Howell ('00)**, farming has always been in his blood.

"I grew up on a farm in LeGrande, Ky.," explained Howell. "It was a diversified farm, meaning we didn't just focus on one crop. I also grew up raising tobacco, which paid for the majority of my college."

When Howell attended WKU to study Agriculture, he met his wife **Michelle Howell ('00)**, who was also studying in that program. While she didn't have the exact same farming background as he did, both knew eventually they wanted to have a farm of their own.

"I was raised by a single mom with disabilities, and we had limited access to food at different times in our lives," Michelle Howell explained. "I was always really passionate about people being hungry, because I was in that position. I worked at Jackson's Orchard for nine years, and that was a really important part of my life because I watched everyone's excitement about food

when the peaches or apples came in season. I loved watching that. It really motivated me to go to WKU and pursue a degree in Agriculture."

When the couple graduated, they worked to help tobacco farmers transition to growing fruits and vegetables as part of the tobacco buyout program that was sweeping the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In 2009, Michelle Howell became a stay-at-home mom and, to make ends meet with their growing family, they started selling the tomatoes they were growing at the farmers market.

"We always had the desire of going back to our roots, having our own farm and getting our hands dirty," noted Nathan Howell. "We talked about it for a long time and then started our two-acre farm in Bowling Green and sold the produce at farmers markets. We always talked about our vision, and we needed more acres of land, so that's how the name of our farm, Need More Acres Farm, came about."



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. Martin Stone, WKU Associate Professor of Horticulture, and his wife, Joleen 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 not 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."

"Our farm is a blend of modern with a bit of old-fashioned techniques mixed in."

Besides the Community Farmers Market, 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 so 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 so 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 season 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.”

“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.”

The Howells say there is a definite demand for local and organic food in today’s culture. This is one of the reasons behind their innovative farm store, but another reason hits close to home.

“We had family members pass away from preventable diseases that were nutrition related, and our daughter developed severe





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 big into fitness," stated Darnall. "I learned I could kill myself in the gym, but if I'm not eating right then it's 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 line 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 Beet 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.

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.

"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."

"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 just 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 orders 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. It's helping me as much as it's helping them, though. It's a good draw for people to come into the store who might not have been before because they want that local produce. Then they are in awe 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 Beet 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."



WKU FARM

The 780-acre WKU Farm, purchased by the University in 1934 and located about 15 minutes from the main campus, is utilized by students for classes, labs and a place to gain experience in their areas of interest by working for one of the farm's many operations.

"We employ around 25 students at the farm during a year, but we have 200-plus enrolled students who come and learn at the farm every year," added **Dr. Paul Woosley ('96)**, the Director of the Agriculture and Research Education Center (AREC) at WKU.

Livestock enterprises at the farm include dairy, beef, swine, equine, goats and backgrounding cattle, each of which provides a solid background for both Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary careers. A variety of crops are produced including corn, soybeans, wheat, grass hay and alfalfa, with this portion of the farm providing hands-on experiences for Agronomy, Plant Science, Horticulture and Turf Management careers as well as those interested in the various aspects of Soil Science, such as soil testing and soil judging.

"Our main role is to help educate students about the day-to-day operations of a farm," noted Woosley. "Less than 2 percent of the U.S. population lives on a farm. That means the majority of our students who are studying Agriculture don't come from a farming background. At the farm, we give them hands-on experience to understand how farming and raising livestock work."

In addition, the WKU Farm is used for USDA research, faculty trials and corn and soybean trials, and by a wide variety of students who are pursuing careers in all aspects of agriculture such as Agribusiness, Agriculture Education, Agriculture Mechanics and Composting. Woosley says technology is ever-changing in our world, and the same goes for Agriculture.

"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."



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

WKU ALUMNI CONNECTION

Now Available For Download!

The new WKU Alumni Connection app brings the Alumni Association right to your smart phone!

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 smart phone. Available for Apple and Android devices, it's perfect for every Hilltopper, especially members of the Alumni Association.

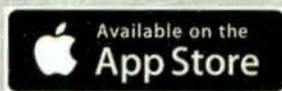
WKU ALUMNI CONNECTION FEATURES:

- Digital membership card for members
- Opportunity to easily join the Alumni Association from your phone
- Alumni Association events calendar
- Social media feeds
- Link to the new Member Savings Program that offers member discounts at more than 400 nationwide locations

Never feel far from the WKU or the Alumni Association again!

Get the app that keeps the Spirit alive.

Download the app to your smart phone at alumni.wku.edu/app.
The mobile app is free and easy to install.



ALUMNI.WKU.EDU/APP

292 Alumni Avenue | Bowling Green, KY 42101 | alumni.wku.edu | 888-WKU-ALUM | alumni@wku.edu



44 HOMECOMING FRIDAY NIGHT

Celebrate Homecoming in downtown Bowling Green on Friday, Oct. 26, with the "To the Hill and Beyond" Parade, Big Red's Roar, the Concert in the Park and The After Party.

ALUMNI AVENUE

HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni Association News and Events

36 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

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.

39 HODA

Becky Ann Gelke Baker ('75, L), Nettie Bayless Courts Depp (1910) and Dr. Richard C. Rink ('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 about the details!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



LEADERSHIP: Al Tucker ('73, '79, L), center, will serve as the 2018-2019 WKU Alumni Association Board President, with Deanna Mills ('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) as Secretary and Holly Vaughn ('83, L) as Treasurer, as well as three at-large members: Claude Bacon ('94, '01, L), Joe Morel ('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 inundating 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 as 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



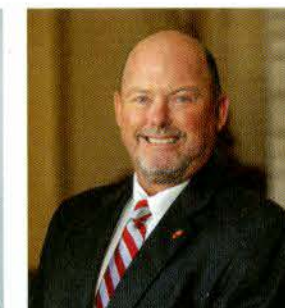
Mike Alvey
Owensboro, Ky.



Joe Dan Beavers
Bowling Green, Ky.



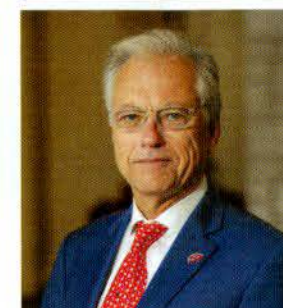
Drew Hawkins
Atlanta, Ga.



Scott Higdon
Bowling Green, Ky.



Drew Logsdon
Thompson's Station, Tenn.



James Edward Schutter
Chicago, Ill.



Dr. Nowelle Altman Sigman
Bowling Green, Ky.



Dr. Tamela Williams Smith
Bowling Green, Ky.



Deborah Lynn Thomas
Nashville, Tenn.



Katie Beard
Bowling Green, Ky.



Matthew Holl
Swansea, Ill.

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 Alvey 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 Beavers 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

ImageWest student advertising agency 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's Station, Tenn., a 2009 alumnus and Annual Member

"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 Altman 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 Gatton 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 retiring as Manager of Communication Technologies, Audiovisual 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 Beard 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 Cupola Society with seven years of consecutive giving to WKU.

Matthew Holl of Swansea, 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."

CURRENT BOARD

PRESIDENT

Al Tucker ('73, '79, L)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Deanna Mills ('94, L)

PRESIDENT ELECT

R. Barkley Payne ('86, L)

SECRETARY

Leslie McCoy ('05, '07, L)

TREASURER

Holly Vaughn ('83, L)

Mike Alvey ('80, L)

Claude Bacon ('94, '01, L)

Katie Beard ('09, L)

Young Alumni Council President

Joe Dan Beavers ('01, L)

Donna Bredenberg ('03, L)

John Carter ('88, '01, L)

Deborah Fillman ('82, '85, L)

Tori Gerbig ('09, L)

Reggie Glass ('73, L)

Marshall Gray ('92, A)

Society of African American Alumni President

Amy C. Hardin ('02, '10, L)

Drew Hawkins ('09, A)

Scott Higdon ('85, L)

Matthew Holl

Student Alumni Ambassador President

Jeff Key ('90, L)

Peggy Krug ('78, L)

Will Lambert ('00, A)

Drew Logsdon ('09, A)

Charles Lovett ('09, '10, L)

Curtis Lucas ('78, '85, L)

Joe Micatrotto Jr. ('11, L)

Joe Morel ('02, L)

James Schutter ('74, L)

Nowelle Altman Sigman ('13, L)

Tamela Smith ('84, '97, '01, '13, L)

Jeremy Sublett ('94, L)

Deborah Thomas ('82, L)



Hall of DISTINGUISHED Alumni

CLASS OF 2018

Three to join WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming 2018

An award-winning actress of the stage and screen, a pioneer in Kentucky education reform and a nationally and internationally recognized pediatric surgeon will join WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni this fall.

Becky Ann Gelke Baker, Nettie Bayless Courts Depp and Dr. Richard C. Rink will be inducted during WKU's 2018 Homecoming Celebration. The 27th class of noted alumni will be recognized during a luncheon at 11 a.m. on Oct. 26 at Sloan Convention Center.

The Hall of Distinguished Alumni is presented by Franklin Bank & Trust Company, a longtime supporter of WKU. For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at (270) 745-2586 or visit alumni.wku.edu/hoda18.



PRESENTING SPONSOR
FRANKLIN BANK & Trust Company

BECKY ANN GELKE

Baker ('75)

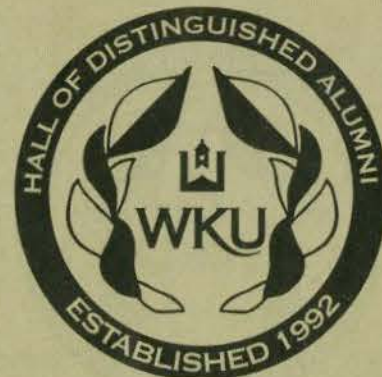
Becky Ann Baker ('75, L) is a successful Broadway, film and television character actress who is most recognized for her mothering skills, or lack thereof, in two popular Judd Apatow series, *Freaks and Geeks* and *Girls*, where she plays creator Lena Dunham's mom and for which she received a 2017 Emmy 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 *Good People*, *All My Sons*, *Assassins*, *Titanic*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Her off-Broadway credits include *Cardinal*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Othello*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Wonderful Town*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *Shanghai Moon*, *To Whom It May Concern*, *Laura Dennis*, *The Vagina Monologues* and more. In addition, she has performed for many regional companies, including the Williamstown Theatre Festival, where she is an artistic associate.

Baker has also appeared in 25 big-screen productions, including *Starbright*, *A Simple Plan*, *Hope Springs*, *Death of a President*, *23 Blast*, *War of the Worlds*, *Men in Black*, *Nights in Rodanthe* and *White Squall*. Her television credits are numerous. In addition to *Freaks and Geeks* and the HBO blockbuster *Girls*, she has also appeared in 30 series that include *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Madam Secretary*, *Gotham*, *Law and Order: SVU*, *Person of Interest*, *L.A. Law*, *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order*, *Frasier*, *Sex and the City* and *Star Trek: Voyager*. Her career accolades also include a Drama-Logue Award and nominations for an Online Film and Television Award, a Gold Derby TV Award and a Blockbuster Entertainment Award. She is a member of Actor's Studio and Usual Suspects.

Baker has remained close to WKU, returning to campus for Theatre and Dance reunions and workshops and to star in the 1991 production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, sharing career wisdom and amazing teachable moments. Even today, after the success she has enjoyed, Baker is always quick to host student groups at her home in New York, encouraging them and opening doors for their own budding careers.

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



NETTIE BAYLESS COURTS

Depp (1910)

A pioneer in Kentucky education reform, **Nettie Bayless Courts Depp (1910)** was a teacher, principal and superintendent in Barren and Allen counties.

Born on Nov. 21, 1874, Depp attended Southern Normal School, the forerunner of WKU, studying directly with WKU founder and first President Henry Hardin Cherry and his brother, T.C. Cherry, and earning a Life Certificate in 1910.

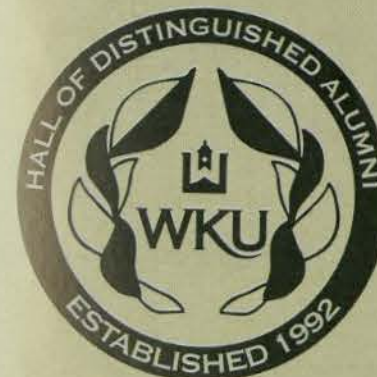
Depp taught at several rural schools before serving as Barren County Schools Superintendent from 1914-1917. Having taught for several years, she ran on the Democratic ticket for County School Superintendent in 1913 and was the first female public official in Barren County—seven years before women earned the right to vote. She was also the first WKU graduate to be elected as a County Superintendent of Schools.

During her tenure as Superintendent, she was instrumental in unifying local schools to create the county's first four-year high school at a time when high schools were not common in Kentucky. Managing a rural district presented challenges that included impassable and frequently flooded roads. Despite these obstacles, Depp served a broad geographic area, built 13 new and repaired 50 existing schoolhouses, and added water wells and outhouses.

Her term as Superintendent was focused on working toward the future. Depp introduced and implemented a uniform curriculum to all county schools and added music, art and business courses. Several schools added libraries, and others utilized a traveling library service. She also strived to enforce the compulsory school law. During her tenure, county school attendance tripled.

After serving as Superintendent, Depp became Principal at Cave City School until 1923. That same year, the Republican Party asked Depp to run for reelection as Superintendent, but she declined, stating that she would only run in the name of education, not a political party. She completed her career as a teacher in Scottsville, Ky., from 1923-1931.

A true visionary, Depp has been honored with a bronze marker in Barren County, has been inducted into the Kentucky Women's History Project and was featured in the award-winning documentary, *Dreamers and Doers: Voices of Kentucky Women*. She is also being honored with a life-size bronze statue inside the entrance of the Kentucky State Capitol. She passed away on Aug. 3, 1932, and her funeral was moved outdoors to accommodate a crowd of mourners estimated at more than 1,500.



DR. RICHARD C.
Rink ('74)



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.

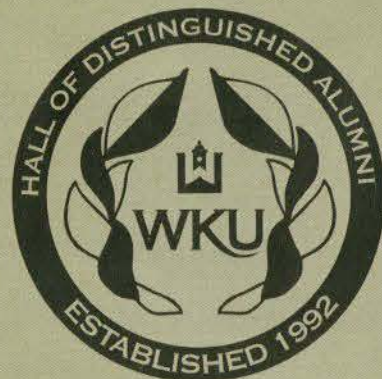
He earned a Bachelor of Arts at WKU and was a 1978 graduate of IU's School of Medicine. He completed his general surgical training at Emory University and returned to IU for his urology residency before completing a Pediatric Urology Fellowship at The Children's Hospital, Boston, Harvard Medical School. 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.



TO THE HILL & BEYOND

WKU

WKU HOMECOMING • OCTOBER 27, 2018

CELEBRATE HOMECOMING 2018
Festivities begin Thursday, October 25 and conclude Saturday, October 27.

For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at 270-745-2586 or online at alumni.wku.edu/homecoming.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 25

Homecoming Chili and Cheese Luncheon & Pep Rally

Sponsored by
JPS Wealth Advisors of Hilliard Lyons
Presented by
Junior Achievement of South Central Kentucky
and the WKU Alumni Association
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
6-4-3 Sports Bar, 360 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

6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Program
Augenstein Alumni Center, 292 Alumni Avenue
WKU honors its outstanding volunteers at this recognition and awards ceremony.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26

Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon and Induction Ceremony



Presented by Franklin Bank & Trust Company
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sloan Convention Center, 1021 Wilkinson Trace
The 2018 inductees are Becky Ann Gelke Baker, Nettie Bayless Courts Depp and Dr. Richard C. Rink.



HOMECOMING FRIDAY NIGHT

Midtown

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT LIVING

MIDTOWNBG.COM

Presented by Midtown

Homecoming Parade "To the Hill and Beyond"

5:00 p.m.
WKU Campus to Downtown Bowling Green
A WKU Homecoming tradition, the Parade begins at the intersection of College Heights Blvd. and Avenue Champions near Downing Student Union and concludes at Circus Square Park in Downtown Bowling Green.

Homecoming Concert in the Park Featuring Jordan English

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Circus Square Park, Downtown Bowling Green
As the Parade makes its way to Downtown Bowling Green, enjoy music by WKU's own Jordan English. Bring your lawn chair!

Big Red's Roar 2018

6:30 p.m.
Circus Square Park, Downtown Bowling Green
Following the Parade and Concert, be entertained at a pep rally featuring the WKU student body.

The After Party

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Steamer Seafood, 801 State Street
Calling all young alumni and friends! Head to Steamer for a casual, no-host parade watch party and then stick around for the After Party with cold brew, good food and live music.



HOMECOMING DAY! SATURDAY OCTOBER 27

100th Anniversary of WKU ROTC

The WKU ROTC is planning several events to celebrate its 100th anniversary, with most centered around Homecoming 2018. Plans include a 100th anniversary Red Towel, activities for ROTC alumni, an alumni color guard for the Homecoming Football game, departmental open house and skills demonstrations by students.

Alumni W-Club Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Brunch



10:00 a.m.
E.A. Diddle Arena, John Oldham Court
Contact Paul Just at paul.just@wku.edu or 270-792-4247 or Bill Edwards at bill.edwards@wku.edu.

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS TAILGATE

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
WKU Campus
Visit with Hilltoppers from across the globe at the Homecoming Festival of Friends tailgate.

WKU Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate and Celebrate



Presented by U.S. Bank
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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 WKU vs. Florida International

6:30 p.m.
Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium
Take your seat in Houchens-Smith Stadium as the WKU Hilltoppers welcome Conference USA opponent, the FIU Owls. At halftime, celebrate the tradition of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Queen.



FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE, VISIT
ALUMNI.WKU.EDU/HOMECOMING



HILLTOPPERS

BY ROSE REMENTER

who help

Help. It's 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.



Jess Cary

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 lake projects and streams,” 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 travels. While power outages affected the entire island, the visible destruction was scattered throughout. Seeing the devastation was tough. A lot of these 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.”





Amy Correll-Hehre

A calling to Africa

Most people attend college with a plan for their future, but **Amy Correll-Hehre** ('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-Hehre. "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 Suna 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," stated Correll-Hehre. "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-Hehre 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 point of their lives," Correll-Hehre 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-Hehre 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., P.A. 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-Hehre said.

To donate or volunteer, visit:

ovinternational.org.





Destiny O'Rourke

Inspiring children to create better futures

Destiny O'Rourke ('05, '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 that trains students on 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 in to—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 his 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.

"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 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-bathroom 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.

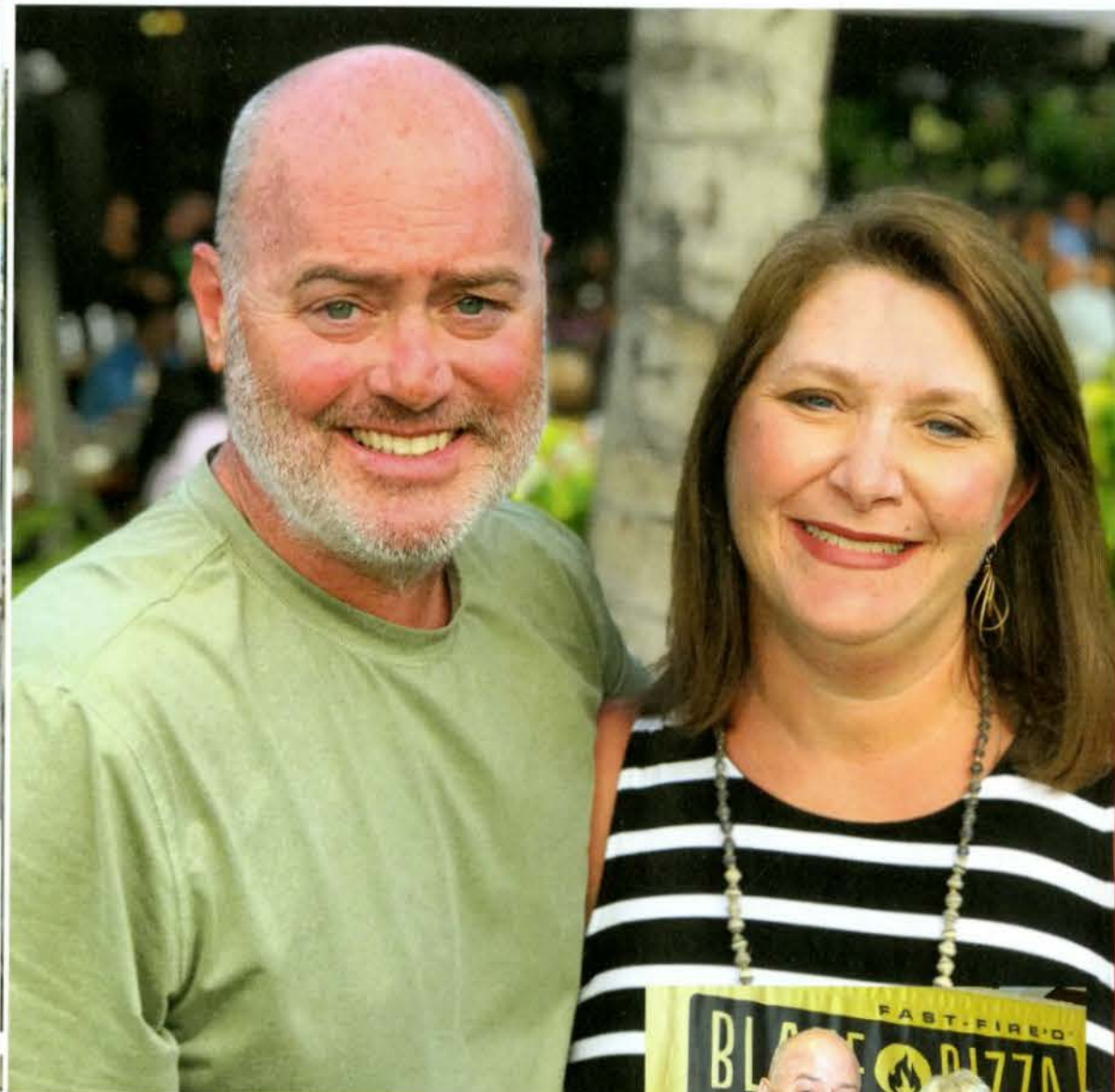
"The question I get asked most often is, 'Why don't they just leave?'" she said. "There are thousands of reasons why a person can't just leave, ranging from simple basic needs of how are they going to shower or eat, or where are they going to sleep that night, or how they can handle starting over with 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 smiling with their head held 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: barrenriverareasaftespace.com.





2015 Iris Award recipient, Janet Wall (right), presents Steve Bray with the 2017 Iris Award

Stephen Bray

Random acts of kindness in California

Stephen Bray ('89) of Monrovia, Calif., recently received the Iris Award from the Monrovia 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 Coverdill ('90)** and **Dov Moore ('88)**.

"Kirk shared his food card with me during much of my early senior year, and Dov 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, those 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 Communication from WKU, Bray moved to Monrovia, 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 quinceañera 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 our impact on the children of a mother who had been murdered earlier in the year," Bray said. "We filled their aunt and uncle's truck with bikes, toys and Barbie 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 was in shock 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."



WKU



npr

LOST RIVER SESSIONS

FOLK ~ BLUEGRASS ~ AMERICANA



Photo: Rob Taber



WKU | PBS

Watch performances online at lostriversessions.org and on WKU-PBS (check your local listings)

LOST RIVER SESSIONS LIVE!

Monthly concert series at the historic Capitol Arts Center in downtown Bowling Green. Visit us online for concert and broadcast information.

LostRiverSessions.org

WKU | npr

Listen on the radio and online at wkyufm.org every 1st Thursday of the month @ 8/9e

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



W K U FIGHT SONG

STAND UP AND CHEER
STAND UP AND CHEER
FOR DEAR OLD WESTERN
FOR TODAY WE RAISE
THE RED AND WHITE
ABOVE THE REST
RAH-RAH-RAH!

OUR TEAM IS FIGHTING
AND WE'RE BOUND TO WIN THE FRAY
WE'VE GOT THE TEAM
WE'VE GOT THE STEAM
FOR THIS IS DEAR OLD
WESTERN'S DAY!!

HILLTOPPER NATION

from Alumni Around the World

HIGHLIGHTS

62 RED TOWEL TRAVELS

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

66 CAPITOL NOTES

WKU recognizes Rep. Jody Richards and Rep. Jim DeCesare ('18, L), both of whom will retire from the Kentucky General Assembly at the end of 2018.

70 CLASS NOTES

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.



"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."

LARNELLE HARRIS ('69, L)



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 Notes: 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 achieve 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."

Those 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 Amateur 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 (Mitzy) ('69, L)**, through mutual friends and they have been enjoying their life together now for 45 years. They have two children, Larnelle Jr. (Lonnie), who has a master's in Electrical Engineering, and Teresa, who has a degree in Finance.

"I'm happy to report that they are, to date, paying their own bills," Harris joked.

Harris was inducted into WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1993. Today, he continues to tour and do concerts in both the U.S. and overseas. He's a part of a Christmas musical that he co-wrote with Dave Clark and Nick Robertson that will be released this year through LifeWay. The musical is based off Harris' song "All Year Long" that's featured on a Grammy-winning Christmas album. He watched it come to life at a premiere in Nashville, Tenn., this past December.

"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)



RED TOWEL

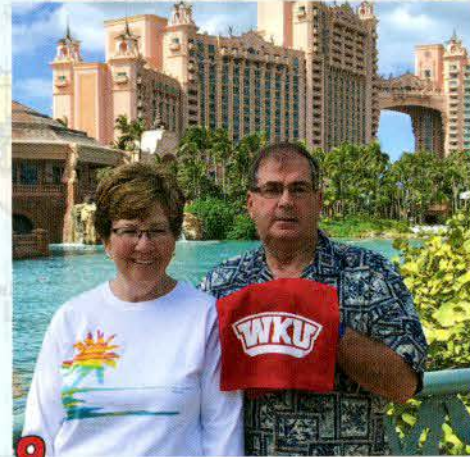
DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

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.



'70s 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 Childs ('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 Matchus ('66, A), Jim Denhardt ('68, 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 Swilcan Bridge on the Old Course at St. Andrews in ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND, in May 2018.



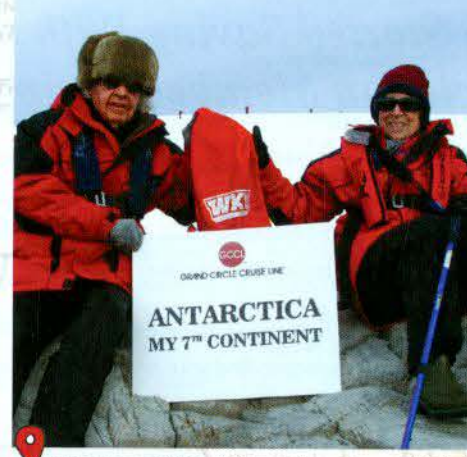
Vicki Gregory ('87, '89, A) at the Catherine Palace in SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, in April 2018.



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



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



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



June Laves ('13), Andrew Salsman ('07, L) and Kendall Seaton ('68) celebrating the WKU NIT Final Four berth at Rector Hayden Realtors in LEXINGTON, KY., in March 2018.

RED TOWEL TRAVELS

ALUMNI.WKU.EDU/REDTOWELTRAVELS

WKU ALUMNI MEMBER SAVINGS PROGRAM



Have You Started Saving With the WKU Alumni Association Member Savings Program?

A New Reward For Alumni Association Members!

A complimentary added benefit with your active WKU Alumni Association Membership, this program provides up to 50% off at more than 400 locations! For the first time, WKU Alumni Association Members living anywhere in the U.S. can enjoy discounts at favorite restaurants, retailers, theme parks, travel vendors and more!

You simply login using your membership ID Number. To take advantage of this NEW member benefit, just visit alumni.wku.edu/membersavings to find your favorite discounts by city or ZIP code.

Not A Member ... Join The WKU Alumni Association and start taking advantage of this reward.

ALUMNI.WKU.EDU/JOIN



"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."

JANA SUBLETT ('01, '06)

Jana Sublett ('01, '06)

A superhero to children in South Central Kentucky

For **Jana Sublett ('01, '06)** of Bowling Green, Ky., her career path to becoming the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of South Central Kentucky started with her volunteering after finishing her undergraduate degree at WKU in 2001.

"I started volunteering for the state office of Kentucky CASA, doing administrative tasks for the State Director," explained Sublett. "My volunteer work quickly turned into a paid position as a Program Development Coordinator where I helped start up local CASA programs throughout the Commonwealth for about a year. I also volunteered as a Volunteer Advocate in Warren County from 2003 to 2010."

Sublett then took her career on a different path, as she managed public relations and marketing for different nonprofits and law firms. But her heart was ultimately called back to CASA.

"I found my way back to CASA of South Central Kentucky and have been the Executive Director since September 2015," Sublett said. "Our agency recruits and trains concerned citizens to advocate for abused, neglected and dependent children in the family court systems in Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Metcalfe and Warren counties in Kentucky."

Volunteers go through hours of training and background checks before they are assigned to a case. Then they spend six to 10 hours each month reviewing the case, participating in case meetings, spending time with the child, and working with the family, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers and anyone else who is involved in the child's life. The goal is for the volunteer to gather all of the information needed to present a case to a judge on what represents the best interest of the child.

"It's interesting to try to define what a positive outcome is for the kind of work that we do," said Sublett. "It can mean a child goes home to his or her biological family, goes to live with his or her next of kin or is adopted by his or her foster family. In any of these scenarios, we are always glad to have a child find permanency in a safe and loving home. It's definitely a team effort that we are honored to be a part of."

As the children CASA serves are removed from their homes for a



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

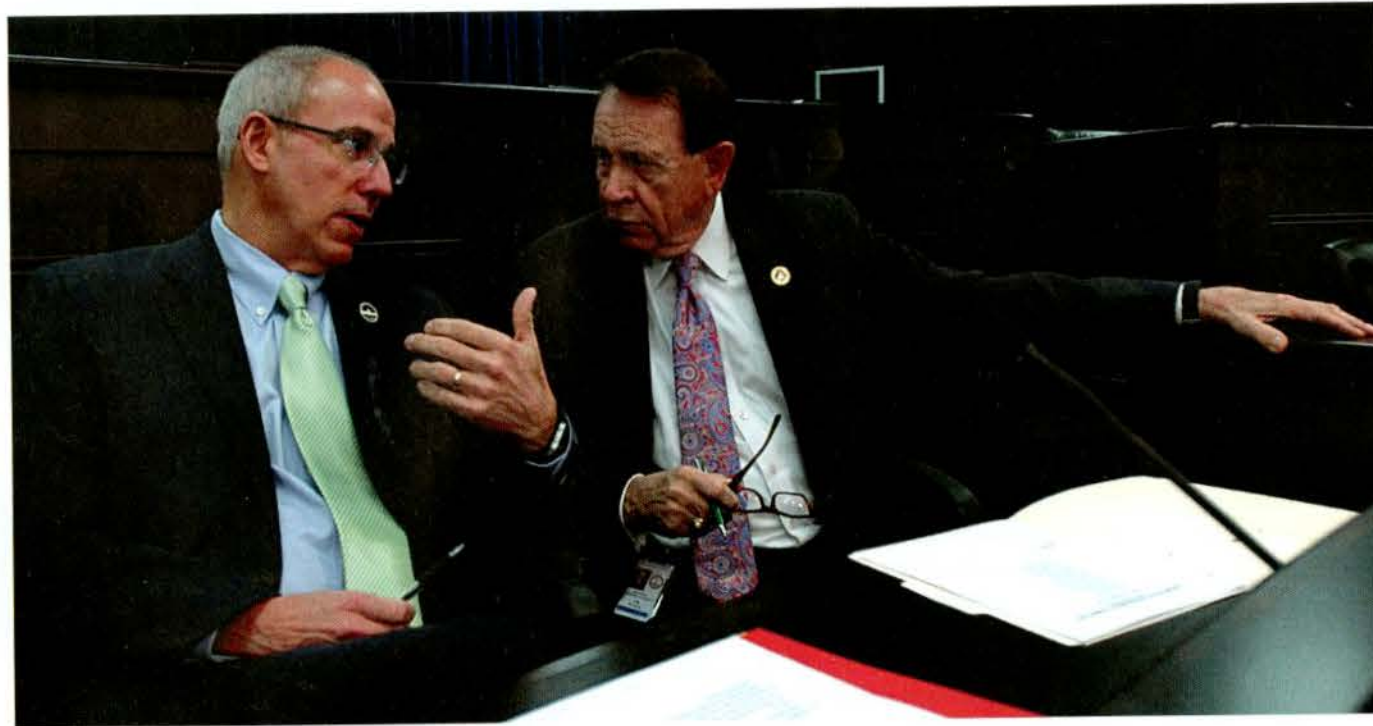
"I often have people tell me that they don't think they could do our kind of volunteer work because they would get too attached to the children," noted Sublett. "I do understand where they're coming from when they say that. However, I try to relate to them that our relationship with the children has 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 end 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 Badgett ('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 1,000 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 casaofscck.org. ■ ROSE REMENTER



Rep. Jody Richards and Rep. Jim DeCesare

Two of Western Kentucky University's biggest advocates in the Kentucky General Assembly will retire at the end of 2018. Rep. Jody Richards (D-20) and Rep. Jim DeCesare (R-17) 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 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 "Bucks 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.

"Not 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 Reserves 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, L)** created the *WKU Alumni Magazine* in 1970. Richards left WKU to run for State Representative and opened his own business, Superior Books, 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 countless 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 were signed into law in the first week of the General Assembly."

He also helped to pass legislation that authorized advanced practice doctoral programs at Kentucky's public comprehensive universities.

DeCesare began working on unemployment insurance reform during his last session in the Legislature. He is pleased that some parts of the legislation passed but would have liked to have seen full reform.

"There is still work to be done on unemployment insurance reform," he stated. "I hope whoever succeeds me will continue working on this initiative. It is important legislation that will help more Kentuckians get back to work and help with our workforce participation and underemployment rates."

Like Rep. Richards, DeCesare worked his way up in House leadership. He served as Minority Whip for two years before being appointed Chair of the House Economic Development and Workforce Investment committee for one year. He fondly reflects on his time as a legislator, which offered him myriad opportunities he would not otherwise have had.

"I've been able to meet Presidents, Vice Presidents, other elected leaders and business icons and represent Kentucky across the United States and Canada. What an incredible and humbling experience it has been to represent my district," he shared.

DeCesare serves as Vice President of Operation for the Stewart-Richey Service Group in Bowling Green. He is also a semi-professional musician playing the drums with his band Dizzorderly Conduct. He recently completed a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis on Business from WKU and is continuing to work on a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

DeCesare and his wife, **Amy (Bingham) DeCesare ('89, L)**, have been married for 26 years and have two children: daughter, Brooke, who will graduate from WKU in December 2018, and son, Justin, who is a freshman at WKU. He is a Mason and Shriner and serves on the Mammoth Cave Biosphere Advisory Committee. He is also a member of State Street United Methodist Church.

"WKU has been fortunate to have great representatives in Frankfort," said **WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94)**. "Without Jody and Jim, WKU would not have seen the tremendous growth and progress over the years. I'm grateful to them for their service to Kentucky and especially for all they have done and will continue to do in support of WKU." ■ **JENNIFER BREIWA SMITH ('03, '17)**



REP. JODY RICHARDS (D-20)



REP. JIM DECESARE (R-19)

"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 AND THEODORE NIXON WITH JOCKEY MIKE SMITH (CENTER) | Louisville, Ky.

"It fulfills a childhood dream I never really had, as I just didn't see it as a possibility."
 Mary Nixon ('77, L)



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 hate 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 21 years as Finance Executive at Yum! Brands, Inc., in Louisville. She put horses on hold while pursuing her career, but she served 24 years hosting 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 in 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.

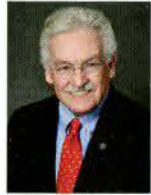
"After all three races, my husband and I kept looking at each other and saying, 'Is this really happening?' Just to be a contender, it was surreal and still doesn't seem real. That said, it has been a thrilling adventure," said Nixon.

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." ■ ROSE REMENTER

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

1960s



Dr. Robert Slaton ('63, '66, A) of Georgetown, Ky., was recently awarded the annual Russell E. Teague Award by the Kentucky Public Health Association in honor of his meritorious achievement and well-recognized contributions in the field of public health.

Joe Bugel ('64, '65) of Scottsdale, Ariz., received the 2018 Paul "Dr. 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 class. Dr. Meredith is a former President of WKU.

1970s



Sister Ann Patrice Cecil ('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 Cecil worked as a teacher in Owensboro, 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.



Sister Vivian Marie Bowles ('74) of Maple Mount, Ky., is celebrating 60 years of religious life as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

During her career, she taught in Owensboro, Leitchfield and Paducah. Sister Bowles' tenure at Brescia University began in 1973 and included roles as Professor of Psychology, Counseling Center Director and President from 1995-2007, during which the college became a university. Since 2012, she has served as Director of Faith Formation at St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph.

Dr. John Asriel ('75) of Ellensburg, Wash., was named the 2018 Family Physician of the Year by the Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) in recognition of his compassionate commitment to improving the health and well-being of people and communities throughout Washington. Dr. Asriel is a family physician at Community Health of Central Washington.

David Preece ('75) of Manchester, N.H., was presented with the prestigious Jeffrey H. Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award at the New Hampshire Planners Association in Nashua, N.H. Preece recently retired as the Executive Director of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) and is now a full-time writer and artist.

Deborah Bruce ('77) of Northampton, Mass., received the National Transportation Safety Board's highest honor, the Chairman's Award. The award recognizes Bruce's more than two decades of service in transportation safety during which she has investigated and made recommendations on high-profile aviation, marine and highway crashes.

David Provow ('77, L) of Alpharetta, Ga., was promoted to Chief Operating Officer at BluTech, LLC.

William Dorris ('78) of San Diego, Calif., was appointed President of DJO's Bracing and Supports.

Retired Col. Nathan Huggins ('78, '00) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was named Superintendent for Caldwell County Schools.



Sister Rose Karen Johnson ('78) of Maple Mount, Ky., is celebrating 60 years of religious life as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

During her career, Sister Johnson worked as a teacher and principal in Kentucky and Missouri. She ministered as a Pastoral Associate and Healing Touch Therapist at St. Joseph Catholic Center in Greenville from 1995 to 2015.

1980s



Sister Marie Bosco Wathen ('80) of Maple Mount, Ky., is celebrating 75 years of religious life as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

She was involved in educational ministry in Kentucky and Missouri for 59 years, which included teaching in Owensboro, Louisville, New Haven and in Afton, Mo. She was a Professor of Education at Brescia College from 1974 to 1997, and Institutional Research Assistant from 1997 to 2005.



Dr. Richard Knarr ('57), Dr. Shirley Gray ('57, L) and Dr. Harry Gray ('57, L)

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Dr. Richard Knarr ('57) of Tyler, Texas, and Drs. Shirley ('57, L) and Harry Gray ('57, L) recently reunited after 61 years for a wonderful exchange of stories of life after WKU in the 1950s.

Both Knarr and Harry Gray are still working, and Shirley Gray retired as Professor of Mathematics at California State University, Los Angeles, in 2017. Knarr practices medicine in Tyler, Texas, and Harry Gray is the Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Beckman Institute at the California Institute of Technology. The Grays were in Texas where he received the Cotton Medal at Texas A & M. The following day, the Grays traveled to Harvard University where he received the Westheimer Medal.



Debbie (Gibson) Dadey ('81, '86) of Sevierville, Tenn., published her newest book *Fairy Chase*, the 18th book in the STEM-friendly series.

Lisa Grider ('81, L) of Essex Fells, N.J., was appointed Assistant Head of the School for External Affairs at Newark Academy in Livingston, N.J. Previously, she was the Director of Institutional Advancement.



Melanie (Allbright) Lliontop ('82, '98) of Bowling Green, Ky., received the 2017-2018 Administrator of the Year award from the Third District Kentucky Music Educator Association.

Lliontop is the Assistant Principal at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green.

Dr. Christopher Groves ('84, '87) of Bowling Green, Ky., has returned from Paris, France, where he reported on activities of the Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve (MCABR) at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Groves is a Professor of Hydrogeology at WKU.

Rod Hutcheson ('84, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been named Financial Officer for Farm Credit Mid-America.

Dale Royse ('84, L) of Thompson's Station, Tenn., was appointed Senior Vice President, Commercial Banker at Franklin Synergy Bank.

Susan Sweeney Crum ('85, A) of Louisville, Ky., retired from 89.3 WFPL News after 32 years in the news business.

Teresa Carlson ('86, '87, L) of Washington, D.C., was appointed to the LMI Board of Directors. She is the Vice President of the Worldwide Public Sector of Amazon Web Services.

Brent Holsclaw ('86, '90) of Bardstown, Ky., retired as Superintendent of Bardstown City Schools after 13 years in the role and 34 years in education.

Brock Peterson ('86, '12) of Owensboro, Ky., was named head of the Criminal Justice Program at Owensboro Community and Technical College. Peterson retired from the Owensboro Police Department in December after more than two decades of service.

Shari Meghreblian ('87) of Franklin, Tenn., was named the Tennessee Environment and Conservation Commissioner.

Mark Rich ('87) of Mammoth Cave, Ky., retired after 35 years with Mammoth Cave National Park.

Cynthia (Williams) Resor ('88, '90) of Lancaster, Ky., published two books for teachers, *Exploring Vacation and Etiquette Themes in Social Studies*, *Primary Source Inquiry for Middle and High School* and *Investigating Family, Food, and Housing Themes in Social Studies*. She is a Professor of Social Studies and History Education at Eastern Kentucky University.



Mark Alcott ('89, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently named to Heritage Bank's HopFed Bancorp Board of Directors.

He is a Partner at Harlin Parker Attorneys at Law in Bowling Green.



Dr. Cindy (Meyers) Gnadinger ('89) of Waukesha, Wis., was selected as President of Carroll University and was recently named to the Waukesha State Bank Board of Directors.

Anne Balcom of Louisville, Ky., recently published a book titled *The Blue Velvet Drape: Dealing with Dementia*, which recounts the trials and small victories with her mother's dementia.

1990s

David Dickerson ('90, L) of Frankfort, Ky., was appointed Acting Secretary of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet.

Randall Gooch ('90) of Mexico, Mo., was named the Chief Operating Officer for Columbia Public Schools.

Michelle Clark Heard ('90) of Cincinnati, Ohio, was named the Head Women's Basketball Coach at the University of Cincinnati. At WKU, Heard went 154-48 in six seasons, including a 30-5 season in 2014-15. Her teams won four conference championships during her tenure.

John Swack ('90, '95) of Bowling Green, Ky., retired as Guidance Counselor from Simpson County Schools after 17 years.

Thomas (Bo) Matthews ('91, '97) of Cave City, Ky., was appointed to the T.J. Samson Community Hospital Board of Directors. Matthews is the Superintendent of Barren County Schools.

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

Dr. A. Dexter Samuels ('93) of Nashville, Tenn., was named Chair of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority.

Laurie Offutt ('94) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was named Principal of Winfree Bryant Middle School.

Regina Murphy ('95, '98) of Cave City, Ky., was named Principal of Glasgow Middle School.



Brenda Meredith ('71, '72) and Romanza Johnson ('60, '68, L)

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Brenda (Murphy) Meredith ('71, '72) (left) and Romanza Johnson ('60, '68, L) (right) both of Bowling Green, Ky., had the opportunity to be reacquainted 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*.

Melonie (Mann) Jones ('97, '01) of Southern Pines, N.C., was named Principal of Cain's Creek Middle School.



Jim Regnier ('97) of Nashville, Tenn., was promoted to Managing Partner of BKD's Nashville, Tenn., and Bowling Green, Ky., offices.

Matthew Shirley ('97, '07) of Edmonton, Ky., was named Metcalfe County Athletic Director. Shirley has worked for Metcalfe County Schools for the past 12 years.

Ann Taylor Elkins ('98) of Madisonville, Ky., was named Director of Human Resources at Hopkins County Schools. She previously served as Principal of Grapevine Elementary in Madisonville.



Leslee Mitchell ('98) of Nashville, Tenn., left her career as an attorney to become a photographer. She specializes in interior design, landscape architecture, product and environmental photography.

Jason Neagle ('98, '02) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was named the 2018 Robotics Education Competition Foundation's Teacher of the Year during the Vex World championships in Louisville.

Melissa Taylor ('98) of Springfield, Ky., was named Principal of Bardstown Middle School.

Anne Cox ('99) of Paducah, Ky., was named Principal of Reidland Elementary. She has worked with McCracken County Schools since 2005.

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 *ReFocus: The Films of Kelly Reichardt* through Edinburgh University Press. She is a tenured Professor in the WKU English Department.

2000s

Chris Conlee ('00) of Franklin, Tenn., and his wife, Carissa Conlee, are set to bring PROSE to Tennessee. Chris Conlee is an Area Developer for PROSE, an innovative nail boutique focused on the health and wellness of its customers.

Nathan Isenberg ('00) of Henderson, Ky., was named the Head Baseball Coach at Bowling Green High School. He will also teach Social Studies and History.



Darren Mexic ('00) of Bowling Green, Ky., received the 2018 Pro Bono Publico Award in

recognition of his work with Lawyers Care Volunteer Attorney Program of Warren County. Mexic is a Partner at Debra L. Broz, Attorneys at Law, PLC, leading the bankruptcy and litigations sections.

Jeremy Camron ('01, '06) of Owensboro, Ky., was named the Head Teacher at Owensboro Day Treatment.

Jeremy Kees ('01) of Bryn Mawr, Pa., was recently recognized as one of "40 Most Outstanding Business School Profs Under 40 in the World" for his excellence in teaching and research. He is the Richard J. and Barbara Naclerio Endowed Chair in Business and Professor of Marketing at Villanova University.

Jeremy Sharfe ('02) of Louisville, Ky., has spent the last 16 years as the "Buddy Bat" mascot for the Louisville Bats baseball team. During his time on the Hill, Sharfe was Big Red. He spends his days working as a Counselor at Doss High School in Louisville.



Lindsay Jenkins ('03) of Morganfield, Ky., was hired as the Assistant Vice President of Old

National Bank in Morganfield, Ky.



Candice Johnson ('03, L) of Louisville, Ky., recently received a Doctor of Education degree from Spalding University.

Holly Lewis ('03, L) of Arlington, Va., has been named Director of Scheduling for U.S. Sen. John Boozman.

Brent Stinnett ('03, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been elected Chairman of the Bankruptcy Section of the Kentucky Bar Association. Stinnett practices in the areas of bankruptcy, banking and business law, and he is the immediate Past President of the Bowling Green-Warren County Bar Association.

Matt Rogers ('05, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named President of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers. Rogers is the Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Services Manager at DDS ENGINEERING, PLLC in Bowling Green.

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

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

Carry Brown ('07, '09) of Temple Terrace, Fla., has been named the Head Volleyball Coach at Florida College.

Brian Courtney ('07) of Coxs Creek, Ky., has been named Principal of Bardstown Elementary.

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 Stamm ('07) of Knoxville, Tenn., is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee in the Communication and Information program. He recently presented one of his research papers at the Broadcasters Educational Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. Stamm also works part time for Rivals.com as the site editor of *BearcatReport.com* covering Cincinnati athletics.

Caleb Cook ('08) of Cross Plains, Tenn., was named the Head Boys' Basketball Coach at White House High School.

2010s

Daniel Houghton ('10, A) of Nashville, Tenn., has been named CEO of Pyxl, a digital marketing firm with locations in Nashville and Knoxville, Tenn., as well as Scottsdale, Ariz.

Dr. Amera Almusharrf ('11) of Monroe County, Mich., was named Associate Professor of Mathematics at Monroe County Community College.

Lindsay Medley ('11, '17) of Springfield, Ky., joined the staff at Ephraim McDowell Family and Internal Medicine as an Advanced Practice Provider.

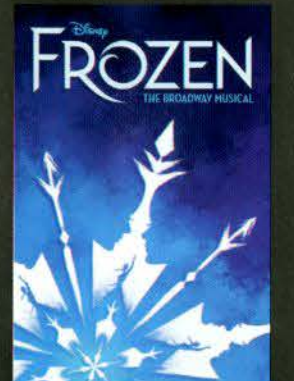
Joseph Hildesheim ('12) of Elizabethtown, Ky., graduated basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.

Tyler Jury ('12) and Clay Simpson ('12) of Louisville, Ky., were recognized by *StyleBlueprint* in an article titled "3 Southern Men's Brands We're Smitten With" for their company, Clayton & Crume.

Blake Crabtree ('13) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named the Head Baseball Coach for Barren County High School.

THUMBS-UP!

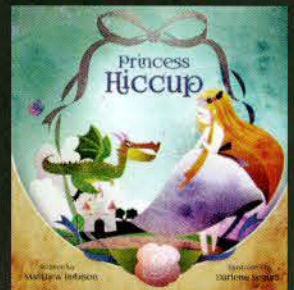
Adam Perry ('04)



Adam Perry ('04) of New York, N.Y., is performing in the ensemble of the original Broadway production of *Frozen*. Perry has appeared in various Broadway shows including *Rocky*, *Anything Goes* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

THUMBS-UP!

Matt Robison ('04)



Matt Robison ('04) of Louisville, Ky., published a children's book through Three Fold Word titled *Princess Hiccup*. The book illustrates the story of a princess who protects and heals her kingdom through her laughter, but an evil dragon curses her with the hiccups. A young lad's bravery to slay the dragon is the only way to reverse the curse.



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 conundrum with JW came down to this: do I send him to a camp for kids on the spectrum where the staff will be prepared, but he may not be challenged to integrate as well? Or do I send him to a neuro-typical camp where he will be immersed and encouraged to play with typically developing campers, but the staff may not be as trained for special needs?"

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 are so lucky to be surrounded by neighbors who love our boy for who he is, encourage their 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!"

THUMBS-UP! Faith McQuinn ('01)

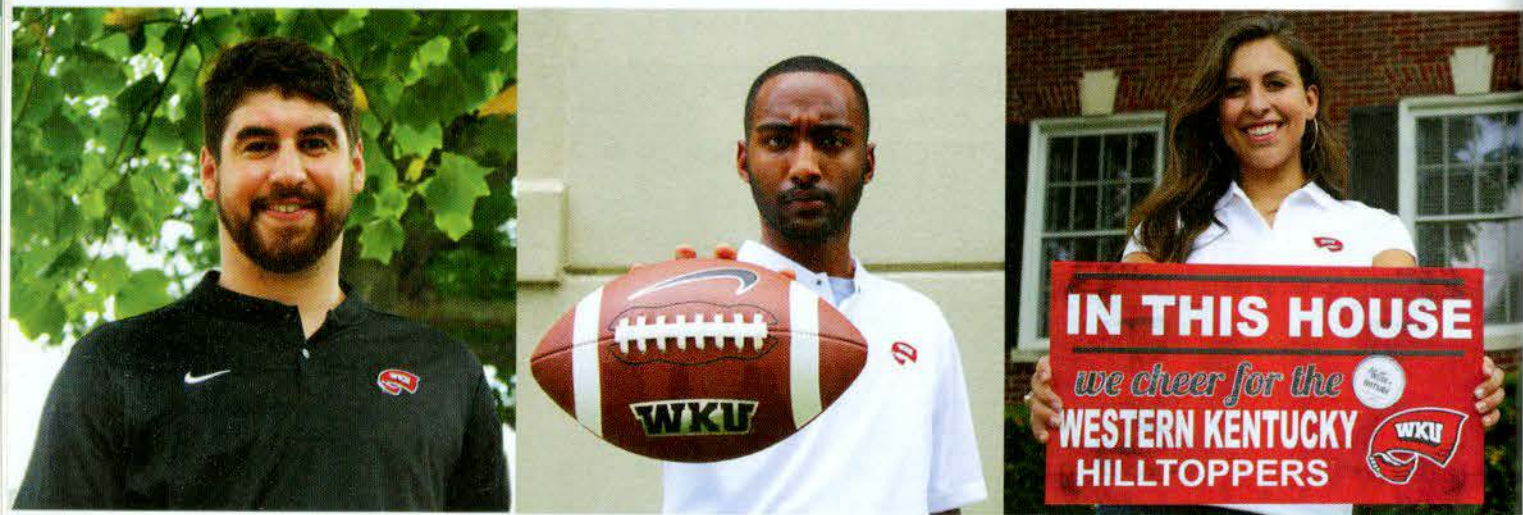
Faith McQuinn ('01) of Antioch, Tenn., premiered her short film, *Ashes*, at the Nashville Film Festival as part of the Actor's Challenge. This first-time event was open to all actors 18 years or older who auditioned to work with one of three directors, including McQuinn. Each director worked with five actors and had approximately three weeks to complete the short film before it showcased at the festival. McQuinn's film won Best Actor and Audience Favorite. *Ashes* tells the story of a young woman named Odessa who returns home for a funeral and has a not-so-happy reunion with family. McQuinn's career includes post-production work at various production houses in Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif., including *Magical Elves*, the company behind *Top Chef*. She currently works as a freelance video editor and writer as well as a part-time film instructor at The Art Institute of Tennessee and MTSU. She is the owner of the production company Observer Pictures.





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WKU FOOTBALL

THE WKU Store
 wkustore.com *A Hilltopper Tradition*



WKU Alumni Association Members receive 10% OFF WKU Gear in store and online
 Go to: alumni.wku.edu/shop

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, Charlie. 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 Roll." 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.



Alex Embry ('13) of Beaver Dam, Ky., was named the Head Basketball Coach at McLean County High School. Embry will also teach Social Studies.

Brandon Carter ('16) of Silver Spring, Md., was named Social Media Production Assistant for the politics desk at NPR in Washington, D.C.

Falon Keith ('16) of Nashville, Tenn., joined the Country Music Association as a Grants Associate.

Nolan Miles ('16) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Project and Design Manager at Barbara Stewart's Corner Studio.

Marcus Ward ('16, '17) of Birmingham, Ala., was named a 2018 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society member.

Patrick Thurston ('17) of Madison, Ind., signed to play baseball with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Tashia Brown ('18) of Lake Park, Ga., signed a contract to play basketball for the A.S. Ramat Hasharon of the Israeli First Division.

Steven Kraft ('18) of Gainesville, Va., signed a contract to play baseball with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

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 (Blair) Ward ('14, '17) and Dylan Ward ('13, '18) of Owensboro, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Lindleigh Nicole, on March 24, 2018.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

We loved **Lee (Humphrey) Whalen's ('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.

"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)



Trenton Dunn ('11)

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

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

"I'm a prime example of the fact that it takes a village to raise a child," explained Dunn. "I came to WKU at a very tough time in 2007. My dad had just passed away. My mom and I, we really didn't know what was going to happen or how things were going to get taken care of after losing the patriarch and breadwinner. My situation could have gone so much differently, but coming to WKU and finding people who embraced me, fed me and made sure I had the things I needed made my outcome better."

Dunn says his personal experience on the Hill and his involvement with Project AIMS (Activating Interest in Minority Students) led him to a career of helping children.

"Project AIMS. It was there where this manifested in me," said Dunn. "I was in charge of volunteer management. Every Saturday I watched these kids come in and have something to do outside of their phones and Netflix, all while getting a leg up in school. Serving the community of students of color—students who don't have every resource at their fingertips—that's where my love for helping really began. WKU inspired in me the art of philanthropy and giving back."

After graduating from WKU in 2011, Dunn's career path took him to Florida where he worked at a university in student affairs and obtained his master's degree in Educational Leadership. He then made his way to Chicago to work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. It was there that Dunn learned about the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund (DMSF), a foundation started in 1989 by two Chicago brothers with the goal to provide high school scholarship assistance and educational support to Chicago students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Dunn now works for DMSF as an Education Manager.

"It's one thing to take students out of their neighborhood and element. 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 ease that transition. Sometimes it's making that student aware they come 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 a year by 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 serve are already rock stars, and they have an impact on me and inspire me," said Dunn. "In one interview recently, we visited with a 13-year-old girl with amazing 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 her 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 have amazing experiences and who feel they are in 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." ■ ROSE REMENTER

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Alicia May (Howerton) Adams, '40 | Mr. Jeffery Curtis Chilton, '95, Faculty | Retired Maj. Joe L. Digby, '79 | Ms. Mabel Louis Graves, '73 |
| Mrs. Cindy M. Alberhasky | Mr. Paul E. Chitwood Jr., '41, '66 | Mr. Roy Donald Dodson, '54 | Mr. Mike Gray, '67 |
| Mrs. Katina Nicole Allen, '14 | Mr. Charles D. Clark | Mrs. June F. Dolph | Mr. Paul E. Gray, '73 |
| Mrs. Deborah K. Anderson | Mr. Charles Jonathan Clark, '70, '72 | Mrs. Patricia A. (Crowley) Donahoo, '69 | Mrs. Maribeth J. Green, Staff |
| Mrs. Jackie M. Anderson, '92, '94 | Mr. Stephen Patrick Cleary | Ms. Marilyn Owen Dorsey, '72 | Lt. Col. (Ret.) James A. Grimshaw Jr. |
| Mr. Donald L. Armstrong, '71, Faculty | Mr. Bobby L. Cline | Mrs. Clara Ramona (Webb) Dukes, '88, '98 | Dr. Kenneth A. Hafendorfer |
| Mrs. Jolene Arris | Mrs. Anna S. Clouse | Ms. Cheryl Leigh DuVall, '73, '80 | Mrs. Patricia (Courtney) Hafers, '50 |
| Mr. Verlin Dale Ashley, '60, '62 | Mr. Jackie Martin Cobb Jr., '93 | Ms. Kathi Diane Elliott, '81 | Ms. Doris Jean Hardcastle, Staff |
| Mrs. Helen (Hines) Barry, '49 | Mr. Robert B. "Brad" Coffman | Mr. John J. Engbersen, '54 BU | Ms. Charlotte Ann Harrill |
| Mr. Richard A. Benningfield | Mrs. Florence Cole | Dr. Thomas G. England, '49 BU | Mr. Jerry Louis Harrison, '65 |
| Mr. John T. Blair Jr, '59 | Mr. Glendel Ray Coleman | Mr. John H. Evans | Mr. Kelley Lee Harrop, '11 |
| Mr. Justin Charles Blake, '13 | Mr. Frank J. Coll | Mr. Aubrey B. Everley, '47 | Mr. Phillip David Hatchett, '85, Staff |
| Mrs. Melanie Jones Blunk, '94, '04 | Ms. Annis K. Combs | Mr. Baun Everley | Mr. Gerald Witt Hayes |
| Mr. Harold D. Boleware, '48 BU | Dr. Franklin D. Conley, Faculty | Mrs. Betty Lee (McClellan) Everson, '49 | |
| Mr. W. Roy Bondurant Jr., '68 | Mrs. Annice Broughton Conner, '44, '61, '75 | Mrs. Georgia Ann Ferguson, '71 | |
| Mr. Eddie B. Booher, '75 | Mrs. Mary Jo (Roemer) Cook | Mr. Elbert Fields | |
| Mr. Raymond Bottom, '51 | Mr. Thomas J. Corum, '54 | Ms. Eloise Florence, '48 | |
| Mr. David Cleveland Bowman, '75 | Mr. Nicholas N. Courtney, '16 | Dr. John L. Foe, '60, Staff | |
| Mr. Mark Douglas Bradford, '78 | Mr. Karl N. Crandall | Mr. William D. "Bill" Foltz, '61 | |
| Mr. Spenser Grant-Elliott Bradley, '15 | Mr. Barend L. "Barry" Crawford, '77 | Ms. Lora Jane Foss, '86 | |
| Ms. Jean Pryor Branum, '62, '69 | Mr. Butch Keith Creek, '78 | Mr. Andrew Francis III, '74 | |
| Mr. James Don Brent, '58 | Mrs. Carolyn Crosley | Mr. Renee Franklin, '76 | |
| Ms. Darla J. Bressler, Staff | Ms. Wilma Murphy Crutcher, '72 | Mr. John Hershel "Jack" Frick | |
| Mr. Michael L. Bridgman, '75 | Mr. Richard P. Daugherty, '84 | Mr. Paul Frederick Fykes, '69 | |
| Mr. Emmett Lee Briggs, '75 | Mr. Kenneth "Alex" Davis, '17 | Dr. Rex Farmer Galloway, Faculty | |
| Dr. Jenks S. Britt, '66, Faculty | Mr. Paul Ford Davis | Mrs. Jessie Gill | |
| Mrs. Eddie Jean (Nichols) Buckner, '57, '62 BU | Ms. Sheila Gail Davis, Staff | Mrs. Anita Mae (Beiler) Gilmore, '48 | |
| Ms. Marsha Lynn Buffin, '85 | Mrs. Lucy B. Dawson | Mr. Paul Edward Givan Jr., '73 | |
| Mrs. Elaine Carroll Campbell, '57 | Mr. Marvin L. Dawson, '63 | Mr. Allan J. Goetz, '74 | |
| Mrs. Joanna Hudson Cann | Ms. Marguerite Ella Day, '46 | Mrs. Beverly T. Goodwin, '66 | |
| Ms. Mary Ellen Carpenter, '47 BU | Mr. Mark H. DeBandi, '85 | Dr. Jerry Bernard Gotlieb, Faculty | |
| | Mrs. Elsie (Rapier) Diachenko, '67, '69 | Mrs. Carrol Moats Gott, '63, '65 | |

IN MEMORIAM



WKU's Men's Head Golf Coach **Phillip Hatchett ('85)** of Russellville, Ky., passed away in June 2018 at the age of 55. The four-year letterman for the Men's Golf program spent eight years as Head Coach of the program and led a resurgence in recent years since taking over the team in 2010. Under his leadership, the program recorded its highest conference finish since 2010 this past season, and his teams have had the highest team GPA among the school's men's teams three times since 2012. Coach Hatchett also created the Phillip Hatchett Junior Golf Camp, which has fostered the development of more than 200 young golfers since its inception.



Professor Mary Ellen Miller of Bowling Green, Ky., passed away in June at the age of 83. She was widely admired by her colleagues and students through her record 50-plus years as a teacher at WKU. When Professor Miller began teaching at WKU, Creative Writing was a one-hour elective course. Over the years she played a pivotal role in helping it evolve into a minor, then a major and then a graduate emphasis within the English Department offerings. In 2015, she became a founding member of WKU's MFA in Creative Writing faculty. She also supported incoming new programs during the 1970s and 1980s, like Women's Studies, and established the Winter Workshop, which brought in established writers from across the country to work with writers within the region. In addition, she was a co-founder of the Robert Penn Warren Center at WKU, which celebrates the work of the Kentucky native who became the nation's first Poet Laureate. Professor Miller served as Faculty Regent for two terms, once in the 1980s and once in the 1990s. In 1997 she created the Celebration of Writing in memory of her husband, poet and former WKU teacher Jim Wayne Miller. In May 2017, Professor Miller was designated as University Poet Laureate, a fitting honor that capped an illustrious career. Memorial gifts may be made to the Mary Ellen and Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing Fund in the WKU Foundation at Western Kentucky University, 292 Alumni Avenue, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

- Mr. Charles Darrell Henry, '77
- Dr. Charles Wayne Higgins, Faculty
- Mr. David P. Hildreth
- Mr. Thomas Eugene Hill, '51 BU
- Mr. Paul Hodges
- Dr. Gary A. Hogge
- Mr. Jan Alan Hopper, '62 BU
- Mr. John "Sam" Hosbach, '68
- Dr. Ray H. Houchin
- Mr. Lawrence J. Houston, '65, '71
- Mr. Clarence Harvey Howard, '56, '59
- Mr. James Mendel Howard, '64
- Ms. Lena Howard
- Mr. Edwin Harlan Howey, '63
- Mr. Michael Dale Hudspeth
- Ms. Pamela Jo Hughes, '80, '01
- Ms. Grace V. Hyde, '03
- Mrs. Christine Ingram
- Mr. Eli West Jacobs, '49 BU
- Mr. William R. Jagoe III
- Mr. Randall Eugene Jedele, '74
- Dr. Jeff Harlin Jenkins, '59, Faculty
- Mr. Paul G. Johnston, '54
- Col. Larry Jolly
- Ms. Maxine Jolly
- Mr. Gordon O. Jones, '58
- Mr. David Randall Keltner, '80, '85
- Mrs. Elizabeth Jean Curtis Kendell, '66, '70
- Mr. William Alfred Keyes Jr., '69
- Mrs. Marie Quisenberry Kidd, '41
- Mrs. Mary Frances McChesney Kindell, '34
- Dr. James C. King Jr., '57
- Mrs. Mildred P. Kirby, Staff

- Mr. Whitnell Clyde Knox Jr., '73
- Mrs. Dorothy (Bromley) Leach, '64, '66
- Mrs. Rebecca Shrewsbury Leavy, '67, '79
- Mr. Larry Ledbetter
- Mrs. Nancy C. Lee, '60
- Mr. Robert Farrell Lee, '92
- Dr. Wei Ming "Charles" Lee, Faculty
- Ms. Betty Lynn (Bryant) Lindsey, '72
- Mr. William B. "Bill" Liscomb
- Mrs. Vanessa Kaye Lopp, '00, '09
- Dr. Pearse Lyons
- Mrs. Patricia Ann Hawkins Mabry, '68, '74
- Ms. Marilyn Joan Mackin, '74, '79
- Ms. Jean Madison, '55
- Mrs. Carolyn (Cundliff) Main, '75
- Ms. Maggie E. Manley, Staff
- Mrs. Dorothy (Cline) Mann, '61, '62, '64 BU
- Ms. Mary Markham, Staff
- Ms. Sally Mayfield
- Ms. Freda L. Mays, '69, '85, '93, Faculty
- Sister Pauletta McCarty, '72
- Retired Lt. Col. Ronald O. McCown, '62
- Mr. Walter V. McCutchan, '71
- Mr. Walter D. "Dickie" McDonald
- Mrs. Alicia R. McFarland, '52, '78
- Mr. James E. Meador, '58, Staff
- Mr. Ralph C. Meador, '51
- Mr. Kenneth R. Metcalf
- Mr. James E. Meyer, '53
- Mr. Billy Joe Miles, '62
- Professor Mary Ellen Miller, Faculty
- Mrs. Sandra C. Milton, '63, '76
- Dr. Dennis O. Minix, '68

- Ms. Ruby (Curry) Montgomery, '69
- Mrs. Della Ann (Hilton) Moore, '71
- Mrs. Ernestine (McMillian) Morgan, '53
- Mr. Ralph A. Morris
- Mr. Roger Keith Morris, '90
- Hon. Waymond O. Morris, '63
- Mrs. Diane Ishmael Fields Morrison, '81
- Mrs. Betty (Spradlyn) Morton, '58
- Mr. Lanny Ray Moutardier, '65
- Ms. Sarah Christine Myers
- Mr. Alan Neal, '73
- Mrs. Virginia (Dent) Neel, '44, '63 BU, Faculty
- Mr. Ray V. Neely, '54
- Mr. John W. Newman, '68
- Mr. Michael James Nickel, '92
- Mr. Rick Noffsinger, '77
- Mr. Larry Allen Norman Sr, '68
- Ms. Donna Sue (Read) Norton, '76, '78
- Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson Oakes, Faculty
- Mr. John Robert "J. O." Oldham, '76
- Mr. Roger D. Osborne
- Dr. Robert W. Otto, Faculty
- Mrs. Mary M. Pace, '56, '68
- Mr. Robert D. Parrish, '96, '00
- Mrs. Lisa Lynn (Douglas) Paschal, '87
- Mrs. Mary L. (Buckley) Payton, '67
- Mr. Michael F. Petty, '72
- Mr. Roger G. Phillips, '74
- Ms. Betty Jean Pike, Staff
- Mr. Richard Leo Pitt
- Mr. William Popplewell, '61, '65
- Dr. Eugenia Maria Porto, '79

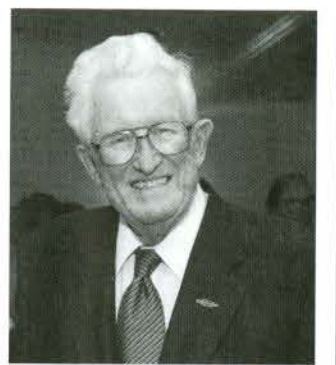


Eugene Steven "Gene" Rhodes ('52, '65, L) of Louisville, Ky., passed away in March at the age of 90. Rhodes starred for E.A. Diddle's Hilltoppers, which earned NIT Tournament appearances in 1949, 1950 and 1952. An outstanding scorer and play maker, he still stands third in assists for a season in the WKU record books. After graduation, he played one season of professional basketball with the Indianapolis Olympians and then spent seven years as a high school basketball coach followed by eight years as an Assistant Coach of the Hilltoppers with his friend and former teammate, John Oldham. He coached and recruited Hilltopper legends that included Clem Haskins, Dwight and Greg Smith, Jim McDaniels, Clarence Glover and many others. After his tenure at WKU, he coached the ABA Kentucky Colonels for five years and later became their manager. He was inducted into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

- Mrs. Mary Ann (Robinson) Price, '93
- Mr. William R. Pride, '70
- Mrs. Mary Lou (Utley) Ramsey, '60, '64
- Dr. Pamela L. (Swihart) Rasch, '76
- Mrs. Ora Jean Ray, '75, '78, '80
- Mr. Ralph W. Ray, '52 BU
- Mrs. Frances L. Raymer
- Mr. Jonathan Steve Redford, '91
- Mr. Louis Edward "Ed" Reinhart III, '92
- Mr. Eugene Steven "Gene" Rhodes, '52, '65
- Mr. Wallace H. Richey
- Mr. Francis M. Rink, '51 BU

- Mr. Robert E. Ritchie, '66
- Mrs. Mania Ritter, Faculty
- Mr. Troy Franklin Ross, '81
- Mr. Randy Rowland
- Mr. Kenneth Russell, '50
- Mrs. Laura Elizabeth Sadler, '46, '55
- Mrs. Betty C. Sandefur
- Dr. R. John Sanders
- Mr. Darrell W. Satterfield, '99
- Mr. Michael Gregory Sayre, '74
- Mr. Gerald Durand Scott, '77, '81
- Mr. Robert D. Searcy, '52
- Mr. Stephen Byrne "Steve" Sharp, '79
- Mr. Robert W. Shell
- Ms. Laura L. Shelton
- Mrs. Mary L. (LeMaster) Shortridge, '74
- Mrs. Patricia (Bandy) Simpson
- Mrs. Brenda Joyce (Saylor) Sinclair, '84
- Ms. Vicki Lynn (Stofer) Slocum, '83, '86
- Dr. John Sam Smith Jr., '66
- Mrs. Phyllis (Thompson) Smith, '61
- Mr. Robert W. Smith, '85
- Mr. James C. Snider Jr., '67
- Mr. R. Wright Spears
- Col. Robert E. Spiller, '49, '50, '84, Faculty
- Dr. James F. Steenbergen, '62
- Mrs. Lisa Stephens
- Mr. Marshall Ray Stephens, '51
- Dr. Julius M. Stephenson, '50
- Mr. Vaughn M. Stevens, '48
- Dr. William M. Stokes, '51
- Mr. James Charles Stone
- Mrs. Patricia Dianne Stotts, '91, '02, '10

- Mr. William W. Straub III, '63
- Mr. Donald L. Strenkowski
- Mr. Arthur A. "Art" Sullivan Jr., '64
- Mr. Marshall Summers
- Mr. James D. Sumner
- Mr. William "Bill" Swartz, '68
- Mr. Larry Taber
- Mrs. Amelia (Meador) Tate, '50
- Mr. L. Rhea Taylor Jr., '52
- Dr. Sara (Downing) Taylor, '52, '63, Faculty
- Mrs. Tyler Ann (Diemer) Taylor, '54
- Ms. Dina Sue Tharp, '72
- Mr. Joe H. Thomas Sr., '61
- Mrs. Jean H. Thomason
- Mrs. Dimple (Savage) Thompson, '50
- Mrs. Peggy Davis Thompson, Staff
- Mr. Steven Alfred Tindell, '84
- Mr. Raymond Jeffrey Tinker, '72
- Mr. William J. Tinsley
- Mr. Gary Wayne Tong, '78
- Mr. Ben Topmiller, Jr. '57, '64
- Mr. Tom Michael "Mike" Troutman, '93
- Mrs. Sanna Montienne (Dillard) Trouton, '64
- Mr. Lee C. Truman Jr.
- Mr. Ricky Allan Tuggle, '81
- Mr. John S. Vincelli, '68
- Mr. David Vincent Wade, '69
- Dr. Larry R. Wagers
- Dr. Robert "Bob" Wagoner, '76, '82
- Mrs. Jean M. Wakefield, '64
- Ms. Golda P. Walbert
- Mrs. Katherin Miller Walden, '53
- Mr. Robert Clifton "Cliff" Wallace, '54, '57



Retired Col. Robert E. Spiller ('49, '50, '84) passed away in January 2018 at the age of 89. He had an illustrious 30-year Army 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 of 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 Agricultural Exposition Center.

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

- Mr. Thomas G. Wallace, '54
- Mrs. Madonna Kay Warren, '83
- Mr. Gerald Zane Wells, '59
- Ms. Ellen Kay (Smith) White, '77
- Mr. David Edward Williams, Staff
- Mrs. Patricia (Pruitt) Williamson, '79, '81
- Mr. William Larry Willis, '84
- Mr. William Andrew "Billy" Wolf, '04
- Ms. Sheila LeeAnne Woodcock, '99
- Mr. Bobby Gene Wooton, '57
- Mrs. Elizabeth "Betsy" (Gentry) Wynn, '91
- Mr. Ray G. Young, '64, '67
- Mr. Charles Zettlemoyer

* Data for In Memoriam is gathered from a variety of sources and is deemed to be correct to the best of our knowledge. Records include deaths reported through June 30, 2018.

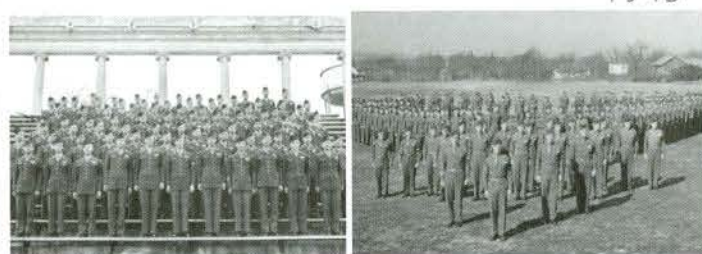
1993



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.

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

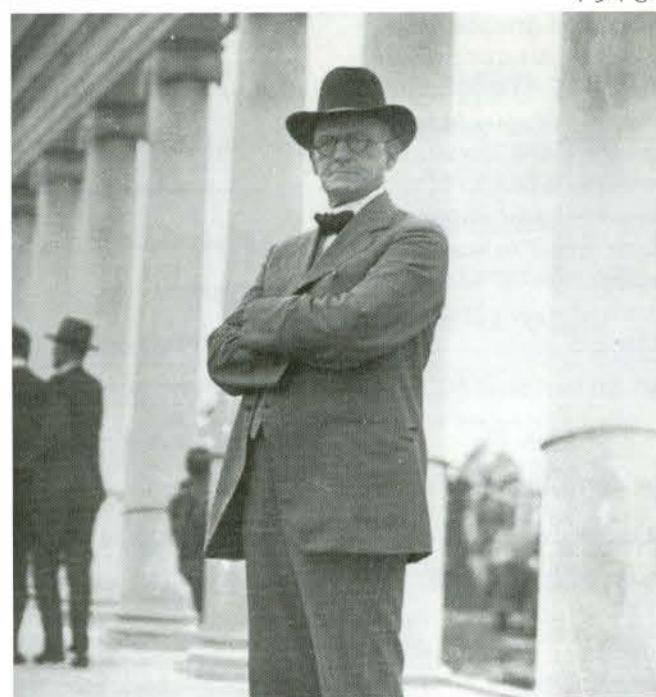
1968



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.

1918



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.

MEMBERSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN

Become a MEMBER of the WKU Alumni Association - 3 EASY Ways to Join TODAY!

1 Internet alumni.wku.edu/joinnow **2 Call** 888-WKU-ALUM (958-2586) **3 Mail** WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
alumni.wku.edu 19WA1

Name _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____
E-mail _____
Spouse's Name _____
Spouse Attend WKU? Yes No Year(s) _____

Method of Payment
order anytime online at alumni.wku.edu/joinnow

Check (payable to WKU Alumni Association)
 Credit Card / Debit Card
 VISA Discover
 MasterCard American Express
 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) (Please include a voided check)
Monthly gift \$ _____ Effective date ____ / 15 / ____
 My gift is eligible to be matched by my employer (Please include your company's matching gift form)

YES! I want to become the newest member of the WKU Alumni Association

Annual Member \$35 Joint Annual Member \$50
 Lifetime Member \$700 (one-time charge) Joint Lifetime Member \$1,000
 Lifetime Member payment plan (available only through credit/debit card OR EFT)

Single \$150 a year for 5 years or \$12.50 a month for 5 years
Joint \$220 a year for 5 years or \$18.50 a month for 5 years

My additional gift of \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

CARD# _____ V-CODE _____
SIGNATURE _____ EXP. DATE _____
Your gift to the WKU Alumni Association is tax deductible.



Members are at the heart of the WKU Alumni Association.

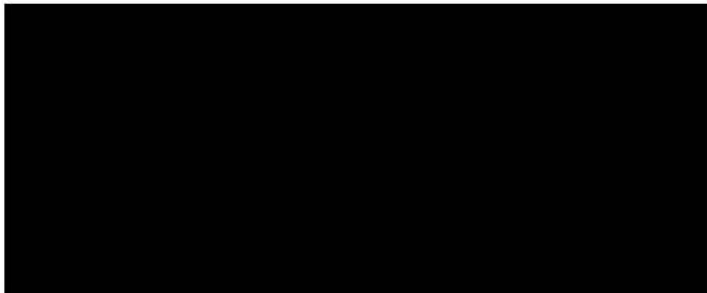
- In appreciation, members of the Alumni Association receive membership rewards and benefits that include:
- WKU Alumni Connection mobile app
 - Member-only access to the WKU Alumni Member Savings Program, offering discounts at 400+ locations nationwide
 - WKU SPIRIT Magazine
 - Discounted or free admission to Alumni Association events
 - Discounts at The WKU Store, online and in-store
 - Discounted annual membership at the Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center
 - 25% discount on subscriptions to ESPN The Magazine
 - Special member-only communications like TOPSCOOP, a bi-weekly member-only e-newsletter
 - Online Directory of Alumni
 - Member rewards at Alumni Association events
 - Alumni Association membership car window decal
 - WKU Library borrowing privileges

Plus, we are continuously adding new benefits exclusively for our WKU Alumni Association members.

Augenstein Alumni Center
292 Alumni Ave
Bowling Green, KY 42101

PRSR STD
NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WKU

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



@WKUALUMNI



#WKU2018 | NEW MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI FAMILY



2018 WKU ALUMNI COLLEGE



@JENJOHNSON2520 | JENNIFER JOHNSON ('09)



NEW YORK CITY FANS CHEER ON THE TOPS IN THE NIT



@DO.THE.DAN.THING | DAN COLLINS JR. ('14)



WKU YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

WE LOVE TO SHOWCASE OUR ALUMNI WHO SHOW THEIR WKU SPIRIT! USE #WKUALUMNI AND TAG US @WKUALUMNI.

