"A SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION"
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
2003 RECOGNITION DINNER
HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS & AWARD WINNING UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2003
6:00 P.M.

1) WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS – DR. GARY RANSDELL

REGENTS: CHAIR, LOIS GRAY
VICE CHAIR, CORNELIUS MARTIN (GAIL)
STAFF REGENT, HOWARD BAILEY (KAYLA)
KRISTEN BALE (PHILLIP)
FACULTY REGENT ROBERT DIETLE (FERREL ROSE)
EARL FISHER (SALLY)
LADONNA ROGERS (JOHN)
JIM TENNIL
BOARD SECRETARY, LIZ ESTERS (FAY)

TOM LAYZELL, PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. TOM BEGAN HIS JOB IN KENTUCKY JUST A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO, AND WE ARE GLAD THAT HE HAS TAKEN THE TIME TO VISIT WESTERN AND MEET WITH OUR REGENTS, WHICH HE DID THIS AFTERNOON. TOM WILL ALSO GIVE SOME REMARKS AT OUR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY TOMORROW. TOM WE HAVE A SMALL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR YOU IF YOU WILL COME FORWARD AT THIS TIME.
ALSO WITH US TONIGHT ARE CPE BOARD MEMBERS WALTER BAKER (WIFE JANE) AND BART DARRELL.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS: RAYMOND PRESTON AND HIS WIFE HATTIE. THE PRESTONS HAVE SOME GUESTS WITH THEM AS WELL, WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE STAND.

EDDIE PENNINGTON AND HIS WIFE PENNY. AND WOULD THEIR GUESTS PLEASE STAND AS WELL.

YOU WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT THESE INDIVIDUALS AFTER DINNER.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (STAND AS A GROUP)

DEANS (STAND AS A GROUP)

FREIDA EGGLETON (COMMENCEMENT TOMORROW)

CALL ON DR. JOE SURVANT TO GIVE THE INVOCATION

2) INVOCATION – DR. JOE SURVANT

3.) DINNER

4.) PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS – DR. RANSDELL TO CALL ON DR. BARBARA BURCH TO PRESENT

MR. RAYMOND B. PRESTON & MR. EDDIE PENNINGTON
BOTH WILL MAKE REMARKS; MR. PENNINGTON WILL PLAY A SAMPLE OF HIS MUSIC; WHEN MR. PENNINGTON IS FINISHED, DR. RANSDELL IS TO COME BACK TO THE PODIUM.

5.) RECOGNITION OF AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS – DR. GARY RANSDELL

JOURNALISM:


- THE HEARST COMPETITION JUDGES WRITING, BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY, AND PRESENTS INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AS WELL THE OVERALL AWARDS.

- THIS YEAR NORTHWESTERN FINISHED FIRST, NORTH CAROLINA FINISHED SECOND, WESTERN THIRD, AND Rounding out the top ten were some other schools you may have heard of: PENN STATE, SYRACUSE, ARIZONA STATE, MONTANA, FLORIDA, SAN JOSE STATE AND MISSOURI.
• IN THE INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES, WESTERN WON THE INTERCOLLEGIATE PHOTOJOURNALISM COMPETITION, PLACED SEVENTH IN THE INTERCOLLEGIATE WRITING COMPETITION, AND FINISHED EIGHTH IN THE INTERCOLLEGIATE BROADCAST NEWS COMPETITION.

• FIVE OF OUR PHOTOJOURNALISM STUDENTS ARE AMONG THE TWELVE NATIONAL SEMIFINALISTS IN THE HEARST PHOTOJOURNALISM COMPETITION, AND ALL FIVE ARE HERE. AS I CALL YOUR NAME PLEASE STAND AND REMAIN STANDING, AND WE'LL GIVE THEM APPLAUSE AFTER THEY HAVE ALL BEEN INTRODUCED: LAUREN CLEETON, BRETT FLASHNICK, SHANNON GUTHRIE, AMANDA ODESKI, AND BRETT FLASHER. THESE STUDENTS WILL SUBMIT THEIR FINAL PORTFOLIOS ON MAY 16 FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SIX FINALISTS WHO WILL COMPETE IN SAN FRANCISCO IN JUNE. THESE ARE VERY TALENTED STUDENTS. LET'S APPLAUD THEM FOR AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

• THE HEARST AWARDS ARE PRESTIGIOUS, AND IT IS THAT COMPETITION THAT SETS THE PACE, BUT OUR PROGRAMS AND OUR STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING RECOGNITION ON OTHER FRONTS AS WELL.
• IN BROADCASTING, BRANDON BRATCHER HAS WON THREE KENTUCKY ASSOCIATED PRESS STUDENT BROADCAST AWARDS AND ALSO RECEIVED A RADIO-TV NEWS DIRECTOR'S FOUNDATION NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP. BRANDON HAS SERVED AS THE NEWS DIRECTOR AT WWHR-FM, THE STUDENT RUN RADIO STATION, AND WAS A HEARST BROADCASTING ENTRANT THIS YEAR. BRANDON, CONGRATULATIONS.

• I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE THREE OTHER BROADCASTING STUDENTS WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT: KATIE BRIDGE, JOSHUA NIEDWICK, AND AARON PRYOR. THESE STUDENTS ARE GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT NEWSCHANNEL 12 AND AT CHANNEL 24 AND ARE INVOLVED IN DIRECTING AND PRODUCING NEWS CASTS AND VIDEO. THESE ARE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WHO ARE ACHIEVING NATIONAL PROMINENCE FOR WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. THANK YOU ALL FOR WHAT YOU DO TO BRING PRESTIGE TO THIS INSTITUTION.

• I WANT TO ASK ADVERTISING STUDENTS ANN GREEN, SARAH MOORE AND MATT ROUNTREE TO STAND.
• THESE ARE MEMBERS OF OUR ADVERTISING TEAM WHICH PLACED SECOND IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION FOR DISTRICT FIVE, WHICH INCLUDES SCHOOLS FROM KENTUCKY, OHIO AND WEST VIRGINIA. CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS.

• TWO OTHER OUTSTANDING STUDENTS ARE WITH US TONIGHT: MASS COMMUNICATION MAJOR BRITTANY LONG, WHO WON THE KAPPA TAU ALPHA SCHOLARS AWARD; AND KACIE POWELL, A PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT WHO IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE KELLY THOMPSON PRSSA SCHOLARSHIP AND COORDINATED THE MOUNTAIN WORKSHOPS THE PAST TWO YEARS.

• THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD IS ALSO NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FOR EXCELLENCE. THIS YEAR THE HERALD RECEIVED THE PACEMAKER AWARD – IT'S NINTH TIME TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD -- FROM THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS AND THE GOLD CROWN AWARD – IT'S FIFTH IN FIVE YEARS -- FROM THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION. THESE ARE CONSIDERED THE PULITZER PRIZES FOR COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS, WHICH ARE JUDGED IN THESE COMPETITIONS ON WRITING AND EDITING, DESIGN, CONTENT, CONCEPT, PHOTOGRAPHY, ART AND GRAPHICS.
• BRIAN MOORE SERVED AS EDITOR OF THE HERALD IN THE SPRING OF 2002 AND WAS EDITOR DURING THE PERIOD JUDGED, AND BRIAN WAS ALSO A RUNNER-UP IN THE ROY W. HOWARD NATIONAL REPORTING COMPETITION AND RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR NEWS WRITING FROM THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION. I UNDERSTAND THAT BRIAN HAS ACCEPTED A POSITION WITH THE COURIER JOURNAL UPON GRADUATION. BRIAN, WE WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS.

• WE’RE ALSO PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE ERICA WALSH, WHO IS THE CURRENT EDITOR OF THE HERALD. ERICA WON HONORABLE MENTION IN THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS/LOS ANGELES TIMES FEATURES COMPETITION.

• BEFORE THESE TWO SIT DOWN I WANT TO MENTION TOO THAT THE HERALD ADVERTISING STAFF WON BEST IN CATEGORY FOR THE BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION AT THE 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COLLEGE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS AND ADVERTISING MANAGERS. THE HERALD CAME IN SECOND FOR BEST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PAPERS WITH A CIRCULATION OF UNDER 40,000 AND THIRD FOR BEST BANNER/HOUSE AD.
• MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE HERALD IS A SELF-SUSTAINING NEWSPAPER. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF BOB ADAMS, THE HERALD IS FULLY MANAGED AND STAFFED BY STUDENTS, AND THE PAPER IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON ITS ADVERTISING REVENUE. BOB WAS UNABLE TO BE WITH US THIS EVENING BUT IS REPRESENTED BY JOANN THOMPSON. THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER STUDENTS WHO WERE RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR WHO WERE UNABLE TO BE HERE TONIGHT, BUT WHO ARE GAINING TREMENDOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SHINING A NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON WESTERN.

• LET'S CONGRATULATE ALL THESE STUDENTS FROM THE HERALD FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS.

• WHEN WESTERN'S JOURNALISM AND BROADCASTING STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM HERE, THEY ARE WIDELY SOUGHT AFTER AND ARE ABLE TO BEGIN WORK IN THE REAL WORLD BECAUSE OF THE LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE THEY HAVE GAINED IN OUR PROGRAMS. I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A COUPLE OF RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WESTERN GRADUATES: RICK LOOMIS, A 1994 GRADUATE, WAS RECENTLY NAMED NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR BY THE NATIONAL PRESS
PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION. RICK HAS BEEN COVERING THE WAR IN IRAQ FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.


- I WAS PLEASED THIS WEEK TO OPEN UP THE COURIER JOURNAL AND READ AN EDITORIAL BY DAVID HAWPE IN WHICH HE CITED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WESTERN’ S JOURNALISM AND BROADCASTING PROGRAMS AS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM IS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR KENTUCKIANS AND FOR KENTUCKY INSTITUTIONS TO COMPETE WITH THE BEST IN THE NATION.
• JOURNALISM, PHOTOJOURNALISM, BROADCASTING, ADVERTISING, MASS COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS – ALL THESE ARE WONDERFUL SUCCESS STORIES FOR WESTERN.

• BUT OF COURSE GREATNESS IS NOT ACHIEVED BY ACCIDENT. LEADERSHIP IS HOW GREATNESS IS ATTAINED, AND I WANT TO TAKE TIME NOW TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT JOANN HUFF ALBERS, THE DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR JOURNALISM AND BROADCASTING.

• JOANN SERVES ON THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST INTERCOLLEGIATE JOURNALISM COMPETITION.

• IN 2000 SHE WAS NAMED JOURNALISM ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR BY THE FREEDOM FORUM, AND IN 2002 SHE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE KENTUCKY JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME.

• JOANN HAS OPTED TO RETIRE THIS YEAR, BUT SHE WILL REMAIN BUSY. I UNDERSTAND THAT SHE LEAVES LATER THIS MONTH TO TRAVEL ABROAD AS A MEMBER OF THE JOURNALISM ACCREDITATION TEAM FOR THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. JOANN, THANK YOU, AND WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.
JOE SURVANT

- In 1991 the Kentucky General Assembly established criteria for the Poet Laureate's position, and in 1995 Governor Patton appointed the first Poet Laureate of Kentucky. On April 24 – Kentucky Writer's Day, which is held in honor of Todd County native Robert Penn Warren, who was the first Poet Laureate for the United States – Western's own Dr. Joe Survant was installed as Kentucky Poet Laureate.

- Joe has a two-year appointment with a mandate to promote and encourage participation in the literary arts across the Commonwealth.

- Joe teaches creative writing and has been at Western since 1970. He also taught at the University of Kentucky, his alma mater, and was a Fulbright scholar at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia, from 1983-84. Joe's poetry has appeared in magazines in the United States, England, and Singapore.

FORENSICS:

• THIS NEXT GROUP IS NO STRANGER TO NATIONAL COMPETITION. THE WILLIAM E. BIVIN FORENSIC SOCIETY HAS BROUGHT HOME 13 KENTUCKY FORENSICS ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, ONE AMERICAN FORENSIC ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP, FIVE DELTA SIGMA RHO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FOUR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

• THIS YEAR THE TEAM MADE HISTORY BY SWEEPING ALL FOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS – THE DSR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, THE AFA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, NFA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE IFA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. WESTERN'S IS THE ONLY TEAM IN THE HISTORY OF FORENSICS TO WIN ALL FOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE SAME YEAR, AND IS ONE OF ONLY TWO SCHOOLS TO WIN BOTH THE AFA AND NFA COMPETITIONS IN THE SAME YEAR. (THAT OTHER SCHOOL IS BRADLEY.)
• EARLIER THIS WEEK JULIE AND I HOSTED A CELEBRATION FOR THE FORENSICS TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHES, AND WE, ALONG WITH MANY FACULTY MEMBERS AND OTHERS, WERE TREATED TO A SHOWCASE OF THESE CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCES.

• I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE STUDENTS FROM THE FORENSIC TEAM WHO ARE WITH US THIS EVENING: COREY ALDERDICE, EVELIO SILVERA, AND REBECCA SIMS.

• I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE FORENSICS COACH JUDY WOODRING. JUDY HAS DEDICATED HER LIFE'S WORK TO THIS FORENSICS TEAM, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM.

• JUDY HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF RECOGNITIONS HERSELF. SHE WAS VOTED COACH OF THE YEAR AND RECEIVED THE NORTON AWARD, WHICH WAS GIVEN BY BRADLEY UNIVERSITY;

• SHE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE HALL OF FAME IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR;
• SHE WAS CHOSEN BY NFA MEMBER SCHOOLS TO SERVE AS ONE OF THREE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE;

• AND SHE WAS AWARDED THE 2003 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD BY DSR-TKA. JUDY, THANK YOU AND ALL THE FORENSIC TEAM COACHES FOR AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

• I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR COMMUNICATIONS, DR. SALLY RAY.

• ALL THESE PROGRAMS ARE A PART OF THE POTTER COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK POTTER COLLEGE DEAN DAVID LEE FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND FOR CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT FOSTERS THIS KIND OF EXCELLENCE.

DAIRY:
• WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURE STUDENTS FINISHED SECOND IN THE 2003 NORTH AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE DAIRY CHALLENGE HELD AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO.
I WOULD LIKE THE MEMBERS OF THE WKU TEAM TO STAND – CHAD BISHOP, BRANDON DAVIS, BRENT MAYS, AND ANDY PIKE. THERE WERE 24 TEAMS IN THE COMPETITION, AND THESE STUDENTS PLACED SECOND BEHIND VERMONT TECH. THEY FINISHED AHEAD OF TEAMS FROM SOME SCHOOLS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE: OHIO STATE, MICHIGAN STATE, PENN STATE, PURDUE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, AND TEXAS A&M JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE STUDENTS EVALUATE THE MANAGEMENT OF DAIRY FARMS, AND ARE JUDGED ON THEIR PRESENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF A FARM OPERATION'S FACILITIES, FINANCES, CROP PRODUCTION, FEEDING PROGRAM, MILK PRODUCTION, EFFICIENCY AND OTHER INFORMATION.

THE FARMS THEY INSPECTED WERE MUCH LARGER THAN THE TYPICAL KENTUCKY DAIRY OPERATION – THESE WERE FARMS WITH SALES IN EXCESS OF $3 TO $4 MILLION ANNUALLY, COMPARED TO $200,000 ANNUAL SALES AT THE AVERAGE KENTUCKY DAIRY FARM.
• THE TEAM COACH IS DR. JENKS BRITT, HEAD OF WKU'S AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT. JENKS, PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU AS WELL. CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

ENGINEERING:

• WESTERN'S NEW PROGRAMS IN CIVIL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ARE OFF TO A GREAT START. WE HAVE OVER 300 STUDENTS ENROLLED THIS YEAR.

• AS YOU CAME INTO THE KNICELY CENTER THIS EVENING YOU SAW THE CONCRETE CANOE, THE MINI BAJA CAR AND THE STEEL BRIDGE. YOU MAY ALSO HAVE NOTICED A ROBOT – ALL OF THESE WERE BUILT BY WESTERN STUDENTS AND USED IN COMPETITIVE EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH OTHER ENGINEERING SCHOOLS.

• THESE COMPETITIONS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALLOW OUR STUDENTS TO MEASURE THEMSELVES AGAINST OTHER SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS, AND THEIR LEVEL OF SUCCESS PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF THE QUALITY OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR PREPARATION.
• A CONSISTENT SUCCESS STORY FOR WESTERN IS OUR CONCRETE CANOE TEAM. EACH YEAR, THE NATIONAL CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION BRINGS THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENTS FROM THE NATION’S TOP ENGINEERING SCHOOLS TOGETHER IN A UNIQUE COMPETITION THAT SHOWCASES ENGINEERING SKILLS, PROBLEM SOLVING, TEAMWORK AND ATHLETICISM.

• THE COMPETITION REQUIRES THE STUDENTS TO DESIGN, BUILD, AND RACE A CANOE MADE ENTIRELY OF CONCRETE.

• THE WKU CONCRETE CANOE TEAM HAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AMONG THE ELITE SCHOOLS IN THE NATION WITH 8 STRAIGHT APPEARANCES AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 3 STRAIGHT TOP 10 FINISHES.

• THE 2003 NATIONAL CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20-22 AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY IN PHILADELPHIA.

• JOINING US TONIGHT IS MATT DETMAN WHO DIRECTS THIS PROGRAM AND WORKS WITH THE CONCRETE CANOE TEAM. MATT WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND, ALONG WITH YOUR STUDENTS WHO ARE HERE THIS EVENING: JONATHON KEMP AND MATT SHOCKLEY.

• THE STUDENT STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION IS AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR STUDENT CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS AND IS SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION. UNIVERSITIES COMPETE AT A REGIONAL LEVEL WITH THE TOP TWO SCHOOLS FROM EACH REGION ADVANCING TO THE NATIONALS.

• THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS’ REGIONAL MEETING HOSTS A STUDENT COMPETITION EACH YEAR, AND THIS YEAR OUR TEAM, MADE UP OF MOSTLY FRESHMAN STUDENTS, DESIGNED AND BUILT A SYSTEM FOR MOVING MATERIAL UP A RAMP IN A COMPETITION THAT WAS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE ENERGY CONSERVATION.

• THE MINI-BAJA COMPETITION IS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND IS AN INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING COMPETITION FOCUSED ON THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND DOCUMENTATION OF AN OFF-ROAD RACING VEHICLE.

• THE COMPETITION CONSIDERS NOT ONLY THE VEHICLE’S DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE AND RACING ENDURANCE, BUT ALSO THE ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ANALYSIS.

• WITH OVER 125 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING EACH YEAR, COMPETITION IS INTENSE. LAST YEAR WKU’S FIRST ENTRY PLACED IN THE TOP 25% ON ENGINEERING DESIGN. THE TEAM WILL COMPETE IN EARLY JUNE WITH AN ALL NEW VEHICLE, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT EVENT.
• MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS JOINING US TONIGHT ARE CHRIS AUD, CHRIS MOORE, AND ADAM VICHECKER.

• LAST MONTH OUR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS COMPETED IN THE AUTONOMOUS ROBOT COMPETITION IN RIO OCHOS, JAMAICA. THEY PLACED 19TH OF 29 SCHOOLS WITH THEIR ROBOT WHICH WAS REQUIRED TO NAVIGATE THROUGH A MODEL HOUSE, WITHOUT RUNNING INTO THE WALLS, TO LOCATE AND EXTINGUISH A BURNING "CANDLE." (YOU MIGHT MENTION THE ROBOT THE STUDENTS BUILT FOR THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE COMPLEX FOR ENGINEERING AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES.)

• ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS JOINING US TONIGHT ARE: JESSICA LASSARAY, AND STEPHEN MILLER.

• I CAN’T TALK ABOUT ENGINEERING AND NOT TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK RETIRING DEPARTMENT HEAD JOHN RUSSELL FOR HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO GET THESE THREE PROGRAMS IN PLACE.
• ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS, DAIRY AND ENGINEERING, ARE IN THE OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE DEAN BLAINE FERRELL. BLAINE, CONGRATULATIONS AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

FOOTBALL:

• THIS NIGHT IS ABOUT CELEBRATING HIGH LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT AND NATIONAL ACCLAIM. SO FAR IT HAS ALL BEEN ABOUT OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, WHICH OFTEN DON’T RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE. BUT IT IS FITTING TO RECOGNIZE ANOTHER NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT BY AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – OUR IAA NATIONAL CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM.

• HEAD COACH DAVID ELSON IS UNABLE TO BE WITH US TONIGHT (HE IS IN FLORIDA TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF TREY MCMILLER).

• BUT JOINING US FROM THE FOOTBALL TEAM THIS EVENING ARE DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR COACH DON MARTINDALE AND PLAYERS BRIAN LOWDER AND DANIAL WITHROW. (AT THIS POINT YOU PROBABLY WANT TO ADD SOME OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY ATHLETICS).

Vic Bubas Cup
6.) AT THIS TIME ASK ALL OF THE STUDENTS THE GATHER AROUND THE FRONT OF THE ROOM – NEXT TO THE PODIUM – AND ASK THE AUDIENCE TO GIVE THEM ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE. CLOSE THE PROGRAM WITH THE STUDENTS STANDING AROUND YOU.