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WKU University Relations

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Commencement honors top three faculty

At May 8 Commencement exercises, the three faculty members honored for distinguished service were: Dr. Joseph Bilotta, assistant professor of psychology, who received the University's Distinguished Award for Teaching; Dr. Nancy Minix, associate professor of teacher education, who received the Award for Public Service, and Dr. Marion Lucas, professor of history, who received the Award for Research and Creativity.

More than 1,600 students walked through the line and received a personal greeting from President Thomas C. Meredith during Western Kentucky University's 136th Commencement. The class of 1993, made up of more than 2,600 degree recipients, included four non-traditional students who were the top scholars in their colleges.

Dr. Meredith praised the graduates, many of who are the first in their families to receive a college degree, for their commitment to obtaining a higher education.

He also gave the graduates three charges: always see farther by not being limited to what is easily obtained; always give more than is expected, and be humane and caring.

"If you do all three of these, what a wonderful world we would live in," Dr. Meredith said.

During the ceremonies, seven students were recognized as the outstanding scholars of their colleges. Four of them are considered non-traditional, meaning they are older than 25 or married.

They are: Lenora Gusler, a management major from Albany, Ore., Bowling Green College of Business Administration; Sharon Woodward, a middle grades education major from Scottsville, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; and two Bowling Green Students, Sherry Herman, a nursing major, and Lauralee Wilson, a biology major, both in the Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

Continued on page two
Graduation 1993: Reaching newer heights

Also scholars were Jennifer Mize, a corporate and organizational communication major from Cerulean, in the Potter College of Arts and Humanities; Staci Kitchens, a mathematics major from Franklin, in Ogden College, and Jennifer Thompson, a chemistry major from Paducah, also in Ogden College.

Dr. Meredith also recognized Rowland Tharaldson, 82, of Glasgow, who finished his master's degree in history in December, 1992.

Western presented one degree for another institution. Kathlene Wilson of Waynesville, N.C., received her degree from Western Carolina University while going through commencement with her son, Kirk, a photojournalism major. Commencement at both schools was set for the same day and the special arrangements were made so that Mrs. Wilson could attend her son's graduation.

The Office of University Relations regularly solicits news tips regarding faculty activities, achievements and awards. To submit news items for external media consideration, contact Bob Skipper (4295).
Meet Joe Bilotta, WKU’s top teacher

The 1993 winner of the University’s Excellence Award for Teaching says he’s honored by the award because when he was in school his instructors “were responsible for igniting the spark in me.”

“We as educators can literally change the course of a student’s life,” says Dr. Joseph Bilotta, assistant professor of psychology, who said his teachers “exuded enthusiasm about what they were teaching...and it was difficult not to have it rub off on the students. I owe a great deal to those individuals, and I vowed to carry their enthusiasm and love of education to others.”

Also, WKU’s top teacher says he can identify with many Western students.

“President Meredith pointed out during graduation many Western students are first generation college graduates. I am a first generation college graduate and I come from a working class family. I had to work part-time to support my education and my guidance came from faculty members who were willing to spend the time and effort to help me in ways that were beyond their ‘usual duties,’” said Bilotta, who’s been a member of Western’s faculty since 1991.

With degrees from the State Universities of New York, the City of New York and post-doctoral work from Vanderbilt University, Bilotta has 13 years of college teaching experience.

“I always have believed that the goal of teaching is to help students reach their potential,” he says.

During May 8 Commencement, Dr. Robert Haynes, vice president for Academic Affairs, presented this year’s top awards, and here’s what he had to say about Dr. Joe Bilotta:

“I always have believed that the goal of teaching is to help students reach their potential.”

“He has quickly established himself as one of our outstanding professors. He displays an infectious enthusiasm for his subject, a strong commitment to learning, and a respect for students and their abilities.

“While a demanding professor who expects the best of his students, he nevertheless is always available and eager to assist them.”

The week before graduation, Bilotta wasn’t available for an on campus interview because he and a student were making a presentation at a meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Sarasota, Fla.

“I really like getting the students involved,” he explained, adding, “There often aren’t many opportunities for students to be involved, but not only do they help me, but they can learn a great deal from the experience as well.”

Bilotta’s research interest involves the physiology of the visual system, using goldfish, a well-established model for vision studies.

He delights in seeing students become interested in his research, not only for what they can learn, but also for what he can learn from them, he says.

One of the courses he says he particularly enjoys with his...
Profiles of Excellence

Dr. Marion B. Lucas, top researcher

His article in the October Filson Club History Quarterly in 1989 was judged the best for that year by the Filson Club, and his second book, A History of Blacks in Kentucky, has been given the distinction of "best overall history of blacks available for any state in the nation."

He’s Dr. Marion B. Lucas, WKU professor of history, and the 1993 winner of the University Excellence Award for Research.

At May 8 Commencement, Dr. Robert V. Haynes, vice president for academic affairs, said:

'Their always tried to combine teaching and doing research.'

"Dr. Lucas is not only a fine researcher, but he is also an excellent teacher, and his accomplishments once again emphasize the compatibility of teaching and research."

"I’ve always tried to combine teaching and doing research," said Lucas, upon hearing he’d be this year’s top winner on campus. As he sat in his office, surrounded by stacks of books, papers and boxes, which gave the appearance the entire contents had been shuffled by an enormous windstorm, Lucas talked about his teaching, and what it means to commit hours and hours to the process of research.

"The good thing about the history department is that everybody’s always willing to help each other. If somebody wants you to read his or her paper, we’ll do it, and these kinds of checks and balances are what make a department atmosphere good," said the 26-year veteran of WKU’s history faculty.

Lucas also gave special tribute to history professors Carlton Jackson and Lowell Harrison (who has retired), both former winners of the University Research Award.

"I have to make special mention of these guys because they have always been generous and very helpful to me, and in addition, my department head, Dick Troutman, was always willing to give reduced time when I needed it.

'I’ve been judged by my colleagues. They know what research is.'

"Western’s resources are good, and a particularly unappreciated treasure on this campus is the Kentucky Library," said Lucas, whose specialty is the Old South, and Civil War and the Reconstruction.

"Those people over there (at the Kentucky Library) do yeomen’s work, and they are understaffed, but they have great source materials. Also, Western’s inter-library loan people are very helpful," Lucas said, and he paid compliment to the University Faculty Research Fund which he said “is far better than most schools of this type have. Our younger faculty are surprised.”

He also praised WKU’s Summer Grants Program. "WKU does a good job," he said.

Lucas’s first book was published in 1976 by Texas A & M Press, Sherman and the Burning of Columbia in which he demonstrated that the fires which destroyed much of the city in 1864 were the result of blunders which could be attributed to both sides.

His History of Blacks in Kentucky, Vol. 1 From Slavery To Segregation, 1760-1891, published in 1992, was funded by the Kentucky General Assembly as the first of a four-volume study of the black experience in Kentucky.

"As far as writing style, this second one is better written," he says, an understatement when paired with this comment: "Highly acclaimed for its impressive research and excellent writing style, Lucas’s book will stand as a lasting monument to scholarship," said Vice President Haynes.

And Jason H. Silverman, in a review of the book scheduled to appear in the Winter 1993 issue of the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society says:

"Well-researched, well-reasoned and well-written, Lucas’s history of blacks in Kentucky to 1981 is a fine piece of scholarship. Never writing in a vacuum, Lucas is cognizant of the context in which black history in Kentucky must be placed, and his footnotes and bibliography clearly indicate that he readily employed the academic tools to accomplish that task. It is an excellent first volume of this series and is popular history at its finest."

When Lucas talks it is often so softly that one with even good hearing needs to lean forward to hear what he has to say.

"I’m a plodder. It takes me time to write. I try to do thorough research. I work steadily and diligently and I realize the importance of writing, I think it has made me a better one," he said. In describing his approach, Lucas said:

"I tried as best I could to let blacks tell their own stories; then sometimes you’d have a story told by a white and stories told by other people. Pulling it all together was not an easy job," he said.

Lucas has numerous articles, some popular, encyclopedia entries and a variety of writings in his repertoire of research, and he’s currently working on a biography of John G. Fee, the founder of Berea College in Berea, Ky. Berea was integrated during the years 1866 to 1904, about 50 percent black, but in 1890 it underwent a change in policy. Fee was Kentucky’s greatest abolitionist," Lucas said.

Continued on the next page
Profiles of Excellence

Dr. Nancy Minix and public service

Two students, engaged in animated conversation with her, helped her be a few minutes late for an interview about her latest award, but it was a typical scene of a day in the life of Dr. Nancy A. Minix.

Dr. Minix, associate professor of teacher education, is this year's recipient of the University Award for Excellence in Public Service.

A listing of her accomplishments shows a career of giving of herself to others, not only in her profession, but personally as well.

Mentoring for students who want to be teachers is just one of her many talents.

"A specialist in middle level education with an emphasis in mathematics, Professor Minix has been continuously involved in service at the national, state, public school and university levels," said Dr. Robert Haynes, vice president for academic affairs, during May 8 Commencement, where Minix received a silver bowl and $500 cash gift.

Mentoring for students who want to be teachers is just one of her many talents.

Although her work is involved with teaching and in teaching teachers, the public service aspect of Nancy Minix shines significantly through.

"Dr. Minix has been particularly active in providing outstanding leadership and continuous service to middle school students, teachers, administrators and parents," Haynes said, adding, "In recognition of her leadership, she recently received the President's Award from the Kentucky Middle School Association. Equally important is her vital role in promoting the Kentucky Education Reform Act."

Nancy Minix's entire career has included work with public schools, providing in-service for teachers and being heavily involved in curriculum development and interdisciplinary programs of studies for students.

Post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins University enhanced her work on research-based teaching strategies and cooperative learning.

And she does a great deal of work in teaching math instruction with a manipulative-based approach.

"I really take my teaching seriously," she says. Her students' enthusiasm is a mirror of her own. She seems to have boundless energy. A normal conversation is filled with excitement.

"I'm more of a big-picture person, not detail-oriented," she says, having trouble remembering the sequences of years she's been involved with WKU.

"And I don't know how much money I make," she says in an off-hand way, which is no surprise, because the important things to Nancy Minix are her teaching, her family and dedication to a cause related to drug and alcohol education.

She had a first cousin killed by a drunk driver, and attributes a great deal of work devoted to drug and alcohol prevention due to her private need to cope with her cousin's death.

She has worked for U.S. Department of Education in drug and alcohol prevention, "But I would do it for free," she says, adding: "This is a mission for me."

She has worked with Indian reservations in North Carolina as well as with inner city schools in the areas of violence and drug and alcohol education.

"I feel personally enriched by the opportunity to serve," she says.

As a mentor for many students, she's faculty adviser for the WKU Middle School Association, a group she and students who want to be middle level teachers organized in 1989.

Minix also reinstituted a student teaching abroad program for WKU.

"It's just something I do," she says. "Students just seem to need and appreciate it," she adds, saying that while the program isn't of interest to everyone, there is the occasional student for whom the program is just right.

The 1993 Award for Public Service, she says, "Makes me feel good. Appreciated. Humble, a little bit, because I feel that any success I have had is due to the help of others."

She then named many names of administrators in the University's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, becoming distressed that she would accidentally leave someone out, ("something a non-detail-oriented person would tend to do") she said with a chuckle, and when assured she could give a universal attribution to the college, that those who knew her would understand, her happy manner returned, and she acknowledged "teachers and administrators in the public schools who have supported me and requested me for their in-service programs too."

"Her advice for junior faculty included this: "Be down to earth. Go slowly, and be with someone else your first time out," meaning take advantage of a mentor. And finally:

"I try to never answer the phone. 'This is Dr. Minix.' I tell myself, 'don't forget that you're just Nancy.'"

"I feel personally enriched by the opportunity to serve. I sometimes think I profit more from the opportunity to work with folks than they do."

Closed for inventory

The College Heights Bookstore will be closed Friday, June 25 for physical inventory.

Paul McDougall, Bookstore director, says 1992-93 departmental purchase orders need to be placed and picked up before that date for the current fiscal year charges.

Summer hours for the College Heights Bookstore will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bookstore will be closed July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

The annual WKU Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament will be held Friday, July 9 at Hobson Grove Golf Course.

Tee times are 8 a.m. and noon.

Registration fees of $2 need to be paid by Wednesday, June 30.

Green fee is $10 and cart fee is $8.50, paid at the Hobson Grove Golf Course.

Call Chris English, Preston Center, 6060, or mail entries to 210 Preston Center.
The Personnel File

Service Anniversaries

January through June

30 YEARS

Nada Durham - Social Services
Catalog Librarian, Library
Auto & Tech Services

Curtis Logsdon - Director, Computer
& Informational Services

Ronnie Sutton - Dean, Academic Services

25 YEARS

James Baker - Professor, History
Franklin Conley - Assistant Dean, Ogden College of Science and Technology

Geneva Durham - Senior Payroll
Clerk, Accounts & Fiscal Services

Doris Hardcastle - Catalog Assistant III, Library
Auto & Tech Services

Linda Holder - Senior Typesetter, Print Shop

Peggy Keck - Professor, Finance and CIS

George Niva - Associate Professor,
Public Health

Euline Pierce - Building Services
Attendant, Facilities Management

Max Robinson - Electronics Engineer, Dean's Office, Ogden College of Science and Technology

Joe Uveges - Professor, Government

20 YEARS

Wilma Adcock - Principal Accounts Clerk, University Libraries

Cheryl Chambless - Director, Admissions

Whit Combs - Professor, Theatre

and Dance

Rose Davis - TOPCAT Coordinator/Science Catalog Librarian

Dorsey Grice - Associate Professor, Psychology

Joe Nelson - Light Equipment Operator, Facilities Management

Nelson Minyard - Senior Mechanic, Facilities Management

Al Smith - Operations Manager, Computer & Informational Services

John Smith - Instrument Shop Operations Supervisor, Dean's Office, Ogden College of Science and Technology

15 YEARS

Dwayne Alford - Maintenance Plumber, Facilities Management

Loretta Breakfield - Staff Nurse (RN), Student Health Service

Dianne Casey - Building Services Attendant, Facilities Management

James Cox - Building Services
Attendant, Facilities Management

Landon Dalton - Master Plumber/Plumbing Supervisor, Facilities Management

Tom Lancaster - Building Services Group Leader, Facilities Management

Deborah Gabbard - Departmental Secretary, Agriculture

Ralph Gilliam - Maintenance Plumber, Facilities Management

David Goad - Senior Electrician, Facilities Management

Joy Gramling - Assistant Painting Supervisor, Facilities Management

John Holder - Assistant Director, Student Financial Assistance

Mary Ann McGhee - Principal Personnel Specialist, Human Resources

Avta McIntyre - Building Services
Attendant, Facilities Management

Bette Nichols - Library Assistant III, Library Public Services

Janice Osborne - Operations Manager, Academic Computing & Research Services

Jimmie Penderley - Light Equipment Operator, Facilities Management

Georgia Powell - Principal Payroll Clerk, Accounts & Fiscal Services

10 YEARS

David Beckley - Supervisor of Data Communications, Computer & Informational Services

Brendan Bowen - Director of Administrative Services, Facilities Management

Oma Brindley - Building Services
Attendant, Facilities Management

Bobby Gene Daugherty - Farm Worker, University Farm

Cecile Garmon - Assistant Vice President, Finance and Administration

Alice Jones - Acquisitions Assistant III, Library Auto & Tech Services

Mike Lasater - Director, Educational Television Service

Cindy Lee - Principal Executive Secretary, Office of the President

Bob Parson - Senior Locksmith, Facilities Management

Saundra Starks - Instructor, Social Work

Edmund Zibart - Building Services Supervisor, Facilities Management

5 YEARS

Finley Baird - Admissions Counselor, Admissions

Carol Barksdale - Senior Administrative Secretary, University Relations

Kevin Charles - Director, Student Health Service

Phyllis Finch - Administrative Secretary, Athletics

Melody Gravel - Senior Secretary, Kentucky Bank Management Institute

Patricia Harper - Administrative Secretary, Coal Science Center

Judith Hoover - Associate Professor, Communication & Broadcasting

Pat Jewell - Building Services Attendant, Facilities Management

Maggie Manley - Building Services
Attendant, Facilities Management

Linda Neagle - Administrative Secretary, Small Business Development Center

Paula Lynn Owens - Library Assistant IV, Library Auto & Tech Services

Darell Roberts - Packer Truck Driver, Facilities Management

Myra Lynette Saling - Admissions Counselor, Admissions

Audrey Spies - Police Officer (Grade A), Public Safety

Sandra Staebell - Museum Registrar & Collections Curator,

Kentucky Museum

Robyn Swanson - Associate Professor, Music

Samanta Thapa - Assistant Professor, Finance & CIS

Kenneth Whitley - Assistant Director, Public Health

New Faculty and Staff

Jerry Barnaby - Senior Producer/Manager, Educational Television Service

Mike Brey - Development Officer, University Libraries

Lori Forshee - Accounts Clerk, Student Health Service

David Hannum - Exercise Physiology Coordinator/Fitness Trainer, Wellness Programs

Mark Hardaway - Head Volleyball Coach, Athletics

Susan Johnstad - Adult Education Specialist, Veterans Upward Bound

Elizabeth Longton - Logan Aluminum Wellness Manager, Wellness Programs

Susan Morris - Special Populations Assistant, Community College

Michelle Prochaska - Senior Level Training Aide, Continuing Education

Connie Sawatzky - Departmental Secretary, Nursing

Position Changes

Johnalma Barnett - from Mailroom Supervisor to Acting Manager, Postal Services

Jimmie Combs - from Senior Electrician to Energy Management Technician, Facilities Management

Mark Faxon - from Bookstore Clerk, College Heights Bookstore to Boiler Operator Trainee, Facilities Management

Mary Hudson - from Shuttle Bus Operator to Shuttle Supervisor, Facilities Management

Pat Jordan - from Administrative Secretary, Center for Excellence to Senior Departmental Secretary, Marketing

Linda Vaughn - from Senior Departmental Secretary, Accounting to Senior Secretary, Educational Television Service
THE PERSONNEL FILE

Retirements

Robby Anderson - Professor, P.E. & Recreation
Helen Brown - Assistant Professor, Nursing
Margaret Bryson - Receptionist, Computer & Informational Services
William Buckman - Professor, Physics & Astronomy
Kent Campbell - Professor, Music
Stan Cooke - Professor, Teacher Education
Virgil Hale - Professor, Music
Edmund Hegen - Professor, Geography & Geology
Larry Howard - Assistant to the Vice President for Finance and Administration
Jeff Jenkins - Professor, Biology
Jack McGregor - Professor, Geography & Geology
Jim Wayne Miller - Professor, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies
Matt Monroe - Senior Shipping & Receiving Clerk, Purchasing
Lynwood Montell - Professor, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies
Kenneth Nicely - Professor, Biology
Frank Neuber - Professor, Government
Robert Panchyshyn - Professor, Teacher Education
Stanley Renas - Professor, Management
Betty Rich - Principal Billings- Receivables Clerk, Accounts and Fiscal Services
Donald Ritter - Professor, Teacher Education
Marvin Russell - Professor, Physics & Astronomy
Norma Jean Schira - Associate Professor, Public Health
Gene Whalen - Safety Coordinator, Public Safety
Dallas Wheat - Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Granted Tenure

Saundra Ardrey - Government
Mary Bricker-Jenkins - Social Work
Joe Brooks - Music
John Bruni - Psychology
Darwin Dahl - Chemistry
Lesa Dill - English
Stephen Groce - Sociology, Anthropology
Martha Houchin - Nursing
Nezam Iraniparast - Mathematics
Herman Manakyan - Finance and Computer Information Systems
Chris Norton - Music
Kay Payne - Communication and Broadcasting
Bettina Richmond - Mathematics
John Spraker - Mathematics
Joe Stites - Music
Samanta Thapa - Finance and Computer Information Systems
Louis Turley - Marketing
Joyce Wilder - Psychology

Promoted in Rank

FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:

Saundra Ardrey - Government
Joe Brooks - Music
John Bruni - Psychology
Ann Crouther - English
Lesa Dill - English
Claudia Ernst - Mathematics
Stuart Foster - Geography and Geology
Stephen Groce - Sociology, Anthropology

FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:

Ruby Meador - Allied Health
Thomas Nicholson - Public Health
Loren Ruff - Theatre and Dance
Robert Smith - Teacher Education
Robyn Swanson - Music
Michael Trappasso - Geography and Geology

June is Libraries' Membership Month

- Join colleagues who support the libraries' academic and public service mission
- Receive Invitations to University Libraries special events and programs
  Special recognition -
  $40 or more, designated name placed inside a book
  $500 or more, donor's name inscribed on a plaque
  in main Library lobby
  Personal satisfaction of supporting and enjoying these incredible resources
- Choose from a variety of membership levels, beginning at only $25
- Support a specific component:
  General Collection
  Science Library
  Law Library
  Educational Resources Center
  Kentucky Library
  Glasgow Campus Library
COMING UP

June

19
4 p.m. American Business Women's Cat Show, Ag Expo Center. Diane Carver 5704.
6 p.m. Country Jamboree Saddlebred Horse Show, Ag Expo Center. Mary Sadler 781-1797.

21
Art in the Afternoon at the Kentucky Museum. Earlene Chelf 5263.

23
8 a.m. Social Work Conference, Faculty House.
9 a.m. Mammoth Cave Area 4-H Horse Show, Ag Expo Center. John Swack 842-1681.
4 p.m. Environmental Law Seminar, DUC Room 305.
6:30 p.m. Hilltopper Dinner Theatre Opens with Holiday Snap in the Garrett Center Ballroom. For ticket information and a complete schedule, call the WKU Ticket Office at 5222.

24
Institute for Future Agriculture Leaders. Dr. David Coffey 3151.
Horse Show, Ag Expo Center.
8 a.m. Environmental Law Seminar, DUC Room 305.
Social Work Conference. Dr. Mary Bricker Jenkins 2692.

25

26
8 a.m. College of Ed Comp Exam, Tate Page.

27
8:30 a.m. Advanced Placement Summer Institute Workshop, DUC. Dr. Julia Roberts 6323.
Lady Topper Basketball Team Camp. Through June 30. David Graves 2133.

28
9 a.m. Kentucky Angus Preview Show, Ag Expo Center Through tomorrow.
Advanced Placement Workshop. Carolyn Hagaman 6305.

9
Faculty-Staff Golf Tournament. Hobson Grove. Chris English or Debby Cherwak 6060.

11

12

13
Universal Cheerleaders Association Camp. Martha Burge 800-238-0286.


30
International BB Gun Championships. Rick Williams 782-0903.

July

3
Ky. Museum Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration. Larry Scott 6095. Tomorrow is the rain date.

5
Summer Program Orientation. Dr. Julia Roberts 6323.
National CEDA Debate Workshop begins. Office of Housing 2100.
Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth. Dr. Julia Roberts 6323.

9
Next On Campus
Wednesday, July 14
Deadline: Tuesday, July 6
Send to: Sheila Eison, Editor
Office of University Relations
Weatherby Administration Building 119

Kathleen and son Kirk Wilson and President Meredith. Mom's Commencement was also May 8 at Western Carolina University. WKU presented her degree on behalf of Western Carolina so Wilson could be with her son, a photojournalism major.