The Meredith Years: 1988-1997

By Stelia Comaskey Ervin

"The fact that this campus and the Board of Regents adopted a new direction for Western" is Thomas C. Meredith's most satisfying achievement as chief executive officer of the University, he says.

Before his departure from Western to become Chancellor of the University of Alabama system in June, Western's eighth president sat down in his office with On Campus for a final, brief interview to reflect upon his tenure at Western.

The new direction he refers to is the institution of a process, in keeping with the vision of Western's founders, that began in 1994 when Dr. Meredith authored and circulated among the University's faculty and staff a discussion paper "to stimulate discussion pertaining to a new Western Kentucky University," he said.

Since then, Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions has been refined through involvement of a number of task forces and university-wide forums into a 31 action-item plan, many items unprecedented, which will allow Western Kentucky University to be more responsive to the demand for greater quality, accountability and change in higher education in Kentucky.

Tm confident this new direction will set us apart as an extraordinary institution.

Thomas C. Meredith

The number one item is to increase academic qualifications of new students. Second is to increase campus diversity to better reflect Kentucky's population. Other major items include enhancing the campus intellectual atmosphere, improve faculty and staff evaluat ing systems, involving the entire campus in recruiting and retaining excellent students and increasing technology instruction.

"I'm confident this new direction will set us apart as an extraordinary institution," Dr. Meredith said.

Second on his list of top achievements is "the fact that we've been positioned so well technologically," he said.

"We have moved from being an institution operating on the edge financially to one that has a healthy reserve, and one that is able to continue to move forward in salaries and instructional support without adequate state dollars," he said.

Third, "I am also pleased that we have helped Western become financially sound. We have moved from being an institution operating on the edge financially to one that has a healthy reserve, and one that is able to continue to move forward in salaries and instructional support without adequate state dollars," he said.

A fourth accomplishment includes Western's "progress with our facilities and our infrastructure," WKU's President said.

"We built the Preston Center [the Raymond Preston Health & Activities Center] and two new residence halls," he said.

"We bought the facility for and created the Institute for Economic Development [the Bowling Green Shopping Center on Nashville Road and former Kroger build ing], and we have renovated Tate Page, Science and Technology and Potter Halls. "We were actually able to restore and revitalize Potter Hall," Dr. Meredith said, referring to the former residence hall across from Wetherby Administration which was renovated to include campus student service offices.

Dr. Meredith said he is also pleased with the creation of Diddle Park at the corner of Alumni Drive and State Street on the site of former WKU Basketball Coach E.A. Diddle's home.

"Also regarding infrastructure, we were able to redo a large part of the campus electrical distribution system, streamlining it and replacing numerous air conditioning systems across campus," he said.

Meredith added.

A fifth and final accomplishment Meredith said regards fund raising.

"We have been able to make dramatic progress in our fund raising efforts," he said.

"Although I am disappointed we have not been able to be farther along at this point, we are finally establishing endowments. And the number of $25,000 gifts or more has moved from four in 1988 to 64 at present. Almost every department now has a development account.

"Most important, the structure is in place for a major gifts campaign in the not-too-distant future," he said.

Meredith was named president of Western Aug. 5, 1988, and will complete his tenure at Western just three months shy of nine years in Bowling Green.

He says he and his wife, Susan, were attracted to the position in Alabama for both personal and professional reasons.

Things seem to be going extremely well at Western.

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith

"We were not looking when this call came," he said.

"Things seem to be going extremely well at Western," he said.

"We were not looking when this call came. I said no at first, but the more we talked, the more we felt this position seemed to match well with my skills," he said.

"An added bonus is that we'll be closer to our boys and Susan's family.

The Merediths' sons are both in school at the University of Mississippi.

Regrets? Things he didn't get do as president of Western?

Western's outgoing president named several, including:

"not seeing New Level to completion; "moving the Community College into their new home at the Institute for Economic Development; "completion of an intramural fields complex; "construction of a family student housing complex; "reworking of the track at Smith Stadium; "establishment of a television tutoring program; "initiation of a regional performing arts center.

Dr. Meredith will preside over the University's 141st Commencement Sunday, May 11 at 2 p.m. in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Commencement Schedule

The University's 141st Commencement will be held Sunday, May 11 at 2 p.m. in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Approximately 950 degree candidates will attend to be individually recognized by their college deans and WKU President Thomas C. Meredith.

Registrar Freida Eggleston says a reception honoring all graduates and their families and friends will be held in the Downing University Center immediately following the ceremony, and all faculty and staff are invited.

WKU's Public Television will provide live coverage of Spring Commencement 1997 starting at 2 p.m. central time on WKYT-TV, Channel 24.

In Bowling Green, it's on TKR Cable Channel 11 and throughout southeastern Kentucky on various cable systems.

For more information, contact Jerry Barnaby, 745-2400.
Congratulations, 1997 faculty award winners!

The University annually recognizes outstanding contributions by faculty members in the areas of teaching, research/creativity and public service. The following faculty members have been selected by each of the colleges for awards this year. They are also the finalists for the university-wide awards which will be announced at a later date.

"We are pleased to honor these distinguished faculty members," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Burch.

Award for Teaching:
Dr. Felicia Lassak, Department of Economics and Marketing; Dr. Kathleen Matthew, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education; Dr. David Coffey, Agriculture; Dr. Lawrence Snyder, Philosophy and Religion and Jennie Brown, Community College.

Award for Research/Creativity:
Dr. Janet L. Colbert, Accounting and Finance; Dr. Aaron Hughey, Educational Leadership; Dr. Randall Swift, Mathematics; Dr. Michael Seidler, Philosophy and Religion and Cynthia Eakin, Library Public Services.

Award for Public Service:
Dr. Steven White, Accounting and Finance; Dr. Vernon Sheele, Educational Leadership; Dr. Patricia Minors, Public Health; Dr. Erika Brady, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies and Dr. Sally Ann Strickler, Library Public Services.

M.A.S.T.E.R Plan means people helping people

The M.A.S.T.E.R Plan program (Making Academic and Social Transitions Educationally Rewarding) for first-year students opens Aug. 12-16 and is looking for faculty and staff mentors.

The bikes are also used in crime prevention and safety by the Western Kentucky University Police Department. "The bikes are used by the police department to give the public a visible presence on campus," Turner said.

Since the patrol was started in 1992, two WKU officers, Turner and Robert M. Waldrop, have become nationally-certified bike patrol instructors. Thanks, Nat!

Thanks, Nat, for our safety!

Nat’s Outdoor Sports of Bowling Green is helping make Western Kentucky University safer.
Owner Nat Love, right, has given WKU Police a TREC police mountain bike. The bike, worth more than $800, has been added to the three already used in the bike patrol, said WKU Police Officer Gordon Turner, left.

"The students are not as intimidated by the bikes as they are a patrol car," he said.

The bikes are also used in crime prevention and safety programs, such as bicycle rodeos for children, Turner said.

"It keeps us in shape, too," he said.

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Feminist before feminism was cool

By Cara Van Winkle

Mary Ellen Miller has been a feminist since she was born.

"It was natural for me and my sister to be interested in all the inequities that visited our gender," Miller said. "And the ones that still visit."

And on April 3, Miller was presented with WKU's Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award for 1997 for her service of improving conditions for women. Catherine Ward, the award's namesake, was the first person to receive the feminist action award to honor persons in the Western Kentucky University community who have worked to improve the quality of life for women.

Miller said receiving the award was "very humbling." She maintains that she doesn't know what she has done to receive it, but will continue working for women's rights as she has done before.

"I just want to try harder and live up to what the award stands for," she said.

Miller said her mother, "a feminist before that even was a word," was a positive feminist role model for her. She organized the first Parent Teacher Association in her area and served as its first president. She sought to elect Senator George McGovern for President of the United States and campaigned all over the county for others to see her views.

"My grandmother was born into a world where she couldn't vote... My mother could. I was born into a world where there were jobs considered inappropriate for women. My daughter was born into a world where she could do anything."

-Mary Ellen Miller

She was a very spunky woman," Miller said.

And she taught her daughters that they, too, had the same rights as men.

Miller, currently a professor of English and a member of the steering committee for Woman Studies program at Western Kentucky University, has carried that lesson with her throughout her life, and her New Year's resolution this year proves it.

"I wanted to try and say at least one feminist thing every day in my classes," Miller said with a smile.

She said she has done just that and has been getting surprising results. At first she said

she used to get strange looks, but that no longer happens.

Miller said since her mother was born, the fight for women's equalit has been an uphill battle.

"My grandmother was born into a world where she couldn't vote," Miller said. "My mother could. I was born into a world where there were jobs considered inappropriate for a woman. My daughter was born into a world where she could do anything."

Even still, Miller said the fight isn't over, but instead it has just begun.

Although she feels she has been lucky during her tenure at Western to have several department head and colleagues to understand the value of Women's Studies, there have been others at the University who have not been so supportive.

"Some ideas are so deep seated..." she said. "There are some people on campus who don't care for Women's Studies and its cause. The same people who see value in African American studies don't see anything in Women's Studies. We still hear incredibly old fashioned things like 'Open your own door if you want equal pay.'"

Miller has spent her life trying to make such ignorant comments no longer a reality for women today, and is quick to recognize the advancements she has seen at Western for women.

"I find it very encouraging to see an academic vice president on this campus [speaking of Dr. Barbara Burch, Vice President for Academic Affairs]," she said. "I already have two women bosses, one department head, and one vice president."

She said she would like to expand that number to three, referring to Western getting a new President when Dr. Meredith leaves for his position as Chancellor of the Alabama system in June.

Miller also applauded the works of the Lesbian, Bisexual, Straight, Gay Alliance. She referred to its recent conference held in Bowling Green and its cause.

"I went and I thought, 'This is a good thing. Twenty years ago this never would have happened,'" she said. "But more needs to be done. Women, all women, need to be equal."

That should be no problem for Miller, according to the people who supported her nomination.

Catherine Coogan Ward has said that Miller "is a very valued colleague and dedicated to improving the status of women in every area. She is honest. And no matter how busy she is, no matter how many committees she serves on, she has never turned down a request to assist the Women's Studies Program and women in general."

Potter College Dean David Lee said that Miller's most important contribution to women has come from her time in the classroom.

"She has spent three decades empowering women through the life of the mind," he said.

English Department Head Mary Ellen Pitts said Miller is "a voice of reason that is always firm and committed— and supportive of the needs of women."

Ronald Veenker, Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, said "She has raised the consciousness of all her colleagues to [women's] issues. And she has done it in the most effective and gentle manner."

Miller responds to this by saying, "There is much to feel good about, but we can't forget that there is still work to be done."

And Miller plans to keep on working, just as she has been. Miller has been a member of the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission, a co-founder of the Bowling Green-Warren County Women's Political Caucus. She has served as the first and only female faculty Regent for Western and a member of the Committee for the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western.

Miller has served as a chair person for the International Education Committee and vice chair for the WKU Robert Penn Warren Center Committee. She has also been a book reviewer for the Park City Daily News and the Lexington Herald Leader and has published several of her own poems.

Currently she is concentrating on several projects: preparing the manuscripts of her late husband, poet Jim Wayne Miller, for donation to the Kentucky Library, working with the Robert Penn Warren Center, helping Women's Studies and teaching classes.

And continuing the fight for women's equality.
Government Assistant Professor Steve Boaillard presented a paper on Russian nationalism on a panel chaired by Michael Novak at the American Enterprise Institute in February.

Lisa Dix, part-time Instructor for Consumer and Family Sciences, was awarded the Western Kentucky University Young Dietitian for 1996-97 by the Kentucky Dietetic Association. She also received the Kentucky Recognized Young Dietitian Award for 1996-97 by the Kentucky Dietetic Association.

Dr. Larry Elliott, Biology, is serving as a member of the statewide Biodiversity Council under Commissioner Bill Martin.

Dr. Douglas Fugate and Dawn Bolton of Economics and Marketing had accepted for presentation at the 1997 Atlantic Marketing Association annual conference, The Use of Humor to Advertise Services: An Exploratory Study Using Students and Student Consumer Samples.


Dr. Brian Goff, Economics and Marketing, presented The Political Economy of U.S. Federal Deficits at the Public Choice Society Meetings in March in San Francisco, Cal. Dr. Goff presented, co-authored with Dr. Melvin Boland, Human Capital and the Efficiency of Cash V. In-Kind Transfers at the Microeconomics Workshop at the University of Kentucky in April.

Dr. Michael Kallstrom, Music, received performances of his composition, AROUND THE CLOCK, at Ohio University and the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference at Youngstown University in March. Dr. Todd kerstetter and Dr. Janet Bass Smith, of the WKU Department of Music played the composition for the Kentucky Music Teachers Association Composers Concert at Kent State University in April.

Dr. H.L.Y. Kim, Economics and Marketing, presented two papers and served as a panel discussant at the 23rd annual meetings of the Eastern Economic Association, April 3-6 in Crystal City, Va. Interim Production and Substitution, and, with John Wassom, Second Best and Social Choices: An Illustrated Discussion. Wassom also discussed papers dealing with Business Economics, Efficiency and Productivity.

Mathematics faculty hosted the annual meeting of the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America in March. Talks by WKU math faculty included:

A Cursory Exploration of the Polar Function by James Barksdale Jr.;
Group Projects in College Algebra and Trigonometry by Dr. Claus Ernst;
Ways to Encourage Student Reading in Math Courses by Dr. Lyn Miller;
Interchange of Limits for Random Walk Areas by Dr. David Neal;
Matrix Spaces in Which All Triangles are Degenerate by Bettina Richmond;
How to Recognize a Power Function by Dr. Tom Richmond;
Multistable Newton’s Method: Theory and Practice by Dr. Mark Robinson;
Continuous Almost Everywhere...Well, Almost! by Dr. John Spraker and
When Should a Second Checkout Counter Be Opened? by Dr. Randall Swift.

Dr. Cassandra Pinnick, Philosophy and Religion, was keynote speaker at this spring’s National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Greenwood High School April 10.

Dr. Rick Shannon, Marketing and Economics, presented Marketing Your Product of Business to the Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Development Week program in April. He presented Restructuring The Marketing Communication Mix for the 21st Century at the national conference of the Academy of Business Administration in April in Cancun, Mexico. He also served as a discussant for a paper, The FTC’s Corrective Action On Deceptive Advertising: Is It Punitive?

Dr. Robyn Swanston, Music, has been invited by the Arts with the Disabled Association of Hong Kong, an affiliate of Very Special Arts International and a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, to conduct a three-day workshop about teaching music to children with mental handicaps May 21-23. Workshop participants will be special education teachers, artists and others interested in working with special needs students. Sunday, May 25 she will work with the Hong Kong Integrated Children’s Choir. Participants of the choir are children Dr. Swanston taught during a session she presented at the International Very Special Artists Festival in Brussels, Belgium in 1994.

Dr. Michael Stokes of biology was awarded a grant from the Kentucky Nature preserves Commission to work on the restoration of the Raymond Athey Barrens State Nature Park.

Mary E. Wolinski, Music, presented The Study of Pigments in Medieval Manuscripts at the American Musicological Society South-Central Chapter Annual meeting in April at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. She also has published a review of Le Magnus liber organi de Notre-Dame de Paris, vol. 5 in the journal Notes (March 1997):973-6.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Myers, Phillip. Allied Health and Human Services. $7,451 from KY Cabinet for Workforce Development for Perkins Vocational Education Dental Hygiene.

Doerner, Kinchel. Biology. 15,000 from Kentucky/National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research for Phylogenetic and Genetic Studies of Bile Acid 7-Dehydroxylation Bacteria.

Jack, Jeff. Biology. $4,883 from Kentucky State Nature Preserves for Water Quality Assessment on a panel chaired by Dr. Melvin Boland, Human Capital and the Efficiency of Cash V. In-Kind Transfers at the Microeconomics Workshop at the University of Kentucky in April.

Kentucky/National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research for Molecular and morphological investigation of Spinosa Virginia Britton.

Conte, Eric. Chemistry. $15,000 from Kentucky/National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research for A Cloud-Point Extraction Technology For High Performance.

Myers, Phil. Center for Training and Development. $12,176 from Bluegrass State Skills Commission for 2NFL Magnet Wire—Stat. & Workplace Training.


WKU Libraries Summer Workshops

7 p.m.
Helm Library, InfoLab (Room 106)
Join us for the following Electronic Sessions

June 12 Consumer Health
June 26 Baseball
July 10 Crafts
July 24 Antiques & Collectibles

Pre-registration Necessary
Call (502) 745-4115

Action On Deceptive Advertising: Is It Punitive?

Roenker, Daniel. Psychology. $69,275 from University of Alabama at Birmingham for Improvement of Visual Processing in Older Adults.
Libraries honor Michael L. Morse

Michael L. Morse, professor of journalism and co-founder and coordinator of Western Kentucky University’s photojournalism program, received Libraries’ Faculty Library Award at the Western Authors Reception April 15, at the Kentucky Building.

The award, given annually to a WKU faculty member "who has contributed consistently and notably to the use and development of University Libraries, was presented by Michael Binder, dean of libraries and the museum.

Letters supporting Morse’s nomination said he had served as his department’s liaison with the library for a number of years and had done an excellent job coordinating collection development for other departmental areas—advertising, journalism, public relations—as well as photojournalism.

"I have enjoyed being the WKU Department of Journalism library representative for many years," said this year's award recipient.

It was also noted that Morse routinely assigns students projects that require library research and he encourages colleagues to make use of University Libraries resources, also.

Nominations mentioned specifically Morse's involvement with The Kentucky Museum to develop the highly acclaimed exhibit, "Politics and Presidents: George Tames—Four Decades of Washington Photojournalism," which included about 100 photographs and a dozen New York Times Magazine covers by George Tames, perhaps the most famous political photojournalist of all time. The exhibit was well received throughout the community and region, and it brought national attention to the University after it was featured on National Public Radio.

Photos in the exhibit belong to the Photojournalism Foundation Inc., a nonprofit organization established at Western in 1984 to support documentary photojournalism education. Morse is the foundation’s president.

He says he also enjoys building the book and periodical holdings of the Department of Journalism.

"For the photojournalism major, our collection is an important resource as a source of ideas and inspiration for students who are working, not only on their technical and journalistic skills, but also on their artistic understanding of the medium.

"The library provides a means to develop a mental inventory of the ideas and styles of contemporary and historic role models in the profession," says Morse.

"It is especially an honor to be chosen as recipient of the Faculty Library Award because of the excellent experiences I have had working with the staff and leadership of the WKU library system. I look forward to our future programs and projects.

Morse received both a B.A. in journalism and a teaching certificate from Western in 1972, and earned an M.A. in intercultural studies in 1975.

He began his career working in the photographic section of the FBI crime lab and as a U. S. Air Force photographer, and has a number of years experience in several technical photographic areas such as color labs and photo repair.

Morse has authored or co-authored books in diverse fields such as photography, folklore, folk architecture and history; he edited a 187-page book in The Electronic Revolution in News Photography for the National Press Photographers Association’s national report series; and he contributes frequently to News Photographer and other publications on topics such as ethics and electronics.

He has been highly involved in many national organizations and photojournalism education groups, serving as NPPA president and has chaired many committees in that organization.

Morse’s interest in photojournalism education in evidenced by his involvement with the Mountain People’s Workshop, the Ball State Journalism Workshop and most recently his founding of the Latin American Photojournalism Conference.

He has received numerous awards including NPPA President’s Medal in 1990, the William F. Garland Outstanding Educator Award in 1988, and an NPPA citation for outstanding contributions to the organization.

Morse is credited with the establishing and maintaining one of the best photojournalism programs in the nation. The highly touted program produces outstanding students who have shared Pulitzer Prizes, won national and regional NPPA awards, and the Hearst Intercollégiate Championship with its accompanying $10,000 prize each of the seven years it has been offered.

Congratulations, 1996-97 WKU retirees!

At the annual banquet in their honor, 1996-97 retirees were honored by the University last month.

This year’s retirees include:

Dorothy Allen, Facilities Management
Virginia Adkins, Consumer and Family Sciences
Robert Baum, Public Health
Carol Belcher, Business Services
Charlotte Burchett, Administrative Computing
Edgar Busch, Management
Carol Cary, Agriculture
Carl Cheif, Government
Frank Conley, Ogden College of Science, Technology & Health
Ann Cravens, English
Thomas Dunn, Sociology
Delphine Hagan, Facilities Management
Cari Hall, Consumer and Family Sciences
James Heldman, English
Clifton Hogue, Facilities Management
Anna Jo Johnson, Community College
Ray Johnson, Agriculture
Oscar Joiner, Public Safety
Pauline Jones, English
Ruby Lashley, Facilities Management
Virginia Lehmenkuler, Nursing
Bertie Lindsey, Facilities Management
Maggie Manley, Facilities Management
Zella Martin, Business Services
Douglas McCoy, Facilities Management
Nancy McGinn, Business Services
Nelson Minyard, Facilities Management
Robert Parson, Facilities Management
Betty Pike, Facilities Management
Shirley Schoen, Student Health Service and Wellness Center
Fred Siddens, Print Shop
Douglas R. Smith, Extended Campus-Fort Knox
Nelda Steen, Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Judy Sublett, Accounts and Fiscal Services
Nellie Taylor, Correspondence Study
Judy Thornton, Purchasing
Donald Tuck, Philosophy and Religion
Paul Underhill, Facilities Management
Dorothy Underhill, Facilities Management
Jo Ann Verner, Physical Education and Recreation
Mildred Wallace, School of Integrative Studies
James Worthington, Agriculture
Maxine Worthington, Mathematics
Former President Zacharias attends hall dedication

As a crowd of more than 200 looked on in the bright sunshine, Western Kentucky University today officially dedicated one of its newest residence halls in honor of its sixth president, Dr. Donald W. Zacharias.

The naming of Zacharias Hall "will change this dormitory for ever," said Joe Bill Campbell, a Bowling Green attorney and former chair of Western's Board of Regents during Zacharias' presidency. "It is no longer simply a dormitory housing students, but rather it is a monument to all that is good and all that is right in higher education and in life."

WKU President Thomas C. Munch, said he has been awaiting the official dedication with anticipation ever since regents approved the naming in January. He said it is fitting that a man known for his leadership in higher education be given a prominent honor on the campus.

Dr. Zacharias, president of Mississippi State University since 1985, was accompanied by many family, fellow administrators, friends and the governor of Mississippi.

"When I look about this space, I'm reminded about the happiest and best people I've ever known, and I notice that they possess one characteristic, they know how to enjoy life," Dr. Zacharias said. "They watch for the chance to have fun, bring fun to others or create a place for others to discover the special joys of life."

"Western has long been known for the way it cares for its students and their development. It's a pleasure to see my family name join with that effort. You've given us a joy that we celebrate with you. It's a place for me where the experiences of a lifetime will mild and mingle. I could receive no richer honor."

In addition to the dedication, Dr. Zacharias was presented a plaque, framed photograph of the building, framed copy of the naming resolution and a t-shirt bearing the name "Zach Shack," as the students have already begun calling the hall.

Dr. Zacharias was president of Western from 1979 to 1985. During his tenure, he helped raise academic standards, developed the university's strategic plan and established the first comprehensive development program.

Zacharias Hall is one of two halls opened in the fall of 1992. It is a three-story structure with suite-style rooms for 212 students and a hall director. It features a lounge/recreation room, a computer room and a laundry room. Each floor has a study room and a kitchen.

Food services will be provided by ARAMARK

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents today awarded ARAMARK Corporation of Philadelphia a five-year contract to provide food and dining services to the campus.

ARAMARK will take over the food services operation on May 16. ARAMARK Campus Services serves more than 205 million meals annually to college and university students at 375 institutions in the U.S. and abroad in addition to providing dining services, catering, food court, convenience store and facility services.

Dr. James Ramsey, vice president for Finance and Administration, said Western decided to rebid the contract because of the changing needs of the campus.

"Students have told us they wanted a national hamburger franchise, including a possible national hamburger franchise, Chick-Fil-A, Freshens Yogurt, Starbucks Coffee and an a-la-carte salad bar concept. These will join Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Subway, which are currently on campus."

"Convenience stores in West Hall and Pearce Ford Tower."

"Renovation of Downing University Center cafeterias."

"Non-exclusive catering program to allow competition on campus."

"Guaranteed 90-day trial period of current food services employees with matching wages and comparable benefits."

"Extended operating hours, including weekends."

"Discounted declining balance and board plan option."

"With the change to ARAMARK, our new emphasis will be on increasing sales by providing expanded services to the WKU community as well as a high-quality program for our resident students," said Gary Meszaros, director of Business Services and chair of the Food Services Committee.

ARAMARK was one of four companies submitting proposals. The others were Marriott Corp., PFM and Sodexo. The proposals were evaluated by a committee of faculty, staff and students and each company came to campus to tour the facilities and make a presentation, Meszaros said.

Western privatized its food services in 1992 when it awarded a contract to Marriott. The move proved to be a profitable one for the University, Dr. Ramsey said.

ARAMARK is a $6 billion world leader in providing managed services—food, clothing, recreation and facility services—to the business, government, education and healthcare markets. ARAMARK has more than 150,000 employees serving 15 million employees at 500,000 locations in 11 countries daily.
Regents will correct open meetings error

The WKU Board of Regents will correct an error made in a closed-session discussion that was not covered by the Kentucky Open Meetings law.

Following a closed-session discussion April 29 of hiring an interim president, Regents also discussed hiring a consultant to conduct an institutional review. When the board returned to open session, it voted to allow the Executive Committee to investigate the matter further and gave it the authority to award a contract if it determined that was desired.

University Counsel Deborah Wilkins, who was not present during the closed session, said the discussion was based on an erroneous assumption that it was permissible because a specific consultant was discussed, and added it "was not an unreasonable assumption considering [the Board's] understanding of the law as it regarded two previous discussions surrounding an 'award of a contract.'"

In order to comply with the confidentiality provisions of Kentucky's Model Procurement Code, Regents have met in closed session twice recently to discuss proposals from firms to assist with the University's search for a new president and to handle the campus dining services.

The Board is committed to compliance with all provisions of Kentucky law," said Chair Peggy Lostman of bowling Green. She added that the Board will correct the action by discussing the institutional review in open session at its next meeting June 5.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE 1997**

**SUMMER INTERIM I**

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<td>May 12 - 30</td>
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<td>Weekends (May 17 - 18, 24-25)</td>
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**SUMMER TERMS I & II**

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**SUMMER INTERIM II**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 8</td>
<td>8:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 11 - 15</td>
<td>8:00am-4:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 18 - 19</td>
<td>8:00am-4:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekends (Aug. 9-10, 16-17)</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMING UP**

**May**

5 Final exams. Through May 9.

11 Commencement. 2 p.m. E.A. Diddle Arena. Registrar's Office. 502-745-3351.

13 Final grades due in Registrar's Office.


19 Proposals due in the offices of the deans.

23 Proposals due in Academic Affairs.

**June**

2 First Summer Session begins. 5 weeks. Registrar. 502-745-3351.

15 Institute for Future Agriculture Leaders. Dr. David Coffey. 745-3151.


18 OAR. Freshmen and Science (with chemistry placement test and Community College). Sharon Dysren. 502-745-4242.

20 OAR. Freshmen and Science without chemistry placement test, and General Undeclared majors.

22 Advanced placement summer institute. Julia Roberts. 745-6323.

27 OAR. Transfer and Readmissions. All Colleges. Sharon Dysren. 502-745-4242.

**Infotrac available**

Thanks to Administrative Computing Services, WKU faculty, staff, students and Friends of the Libraries now can access the InfoTrac SearchBank Web databases from home or dorm with an Internet connection. Graphics and full text articles from more than 1,000 journals are available via the Expanded Academic and Business Index databases. To access InfoTrac SearchBank via the Web from off-campus, point your browser to:

http://www.searchbank.com/searchbank/wku

You will then be asked for your first and last initials and the last four digits of your Big Red ID to gain access.

For more information, contact Elaine Moore, Ext. 6122.
Dr. Barbara Burch is Interim President

Western Kentucky University’s Board of Regents at its April 30 meeting appointed Dr. Barbara Burch, Vice President for Academic Affairs, as interim president during the search process to replace President Thomas C. Meredith, who leaves this month to become Chancellor of the University of Alabama System.

Dr. Burch will assume her duties May 12.

Dr. Burch became vice president for Academic Affairs in July 1996 after serving as dean of the School of Education and Human Development at California State University, Fresno. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Western.

“Indeed I am honored to be named interim president,” Dr. Burch said, adding: “There are some tremendous things moving forward at Western; the directions in which the University is moving need to continue, and I hope to be able to help the University not have to sit back and wait to get things done.”

In other business, the Board:

*Approved the purchase of property at the corner of University Boulevard and U.S. 31-W for $55,000.

*Gave the Board’s Executive Committee the authority to investigate hiring a consultant to conduct an institutional review. Leafman said the review, which would likely cost $50,000–$55,000, would give the new president a report on the University’s strengths and weaknesses.

*Gave preliminary approval to the 1997-98 budget. The budget includes a $25 per semester increase (to $35) in the student computing fee to be used to upgrade student access to computing technology. The final budget will be presented in June.

*Appointed Dr. Gary Dillard and Dr. Robert Hoyt as University Distinguished Professors. Both are professors of biology. They will receive an annual stipend of $2,000 and an annual travel allowance of $1,000. The appointment is for five years.

Dr. Dillard has been at Western for 29 years and specializes in botany. His publications include an internationally-recognized seven volume reference work on freshwater algae.

Dr. Hoyt has been at Western for 28 years and specializes in the early life of fishes. He is responsible for preparing students for success in medical, dental and veterinarian school or in graduate classes.

*Awarded a five-year contract to ARAMARK for campus dining services. (See story, page six).