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# UA77/1 A Century of Spirit - Integration

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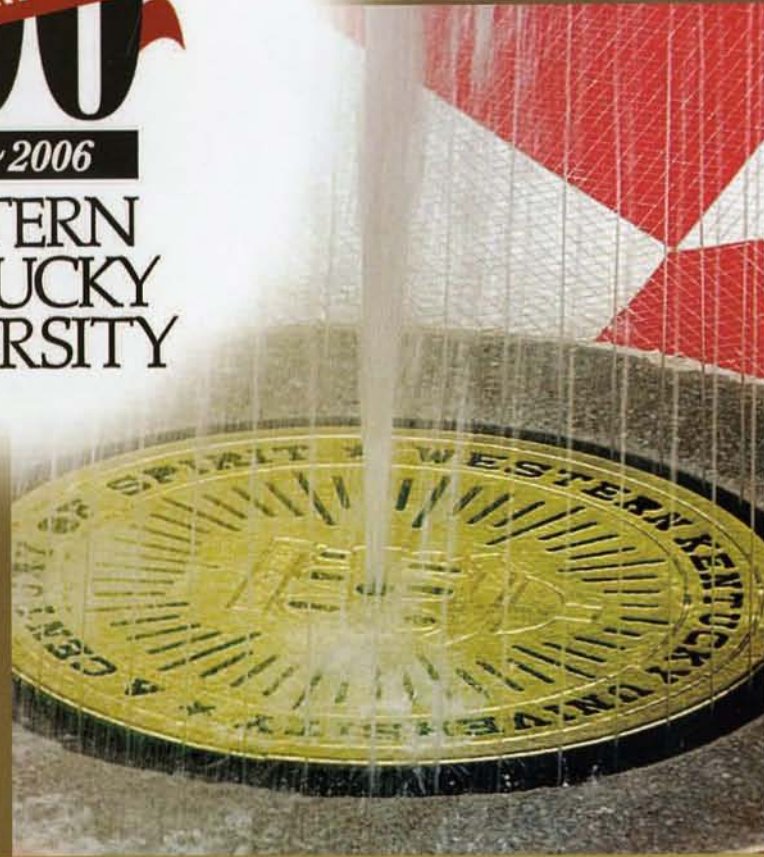
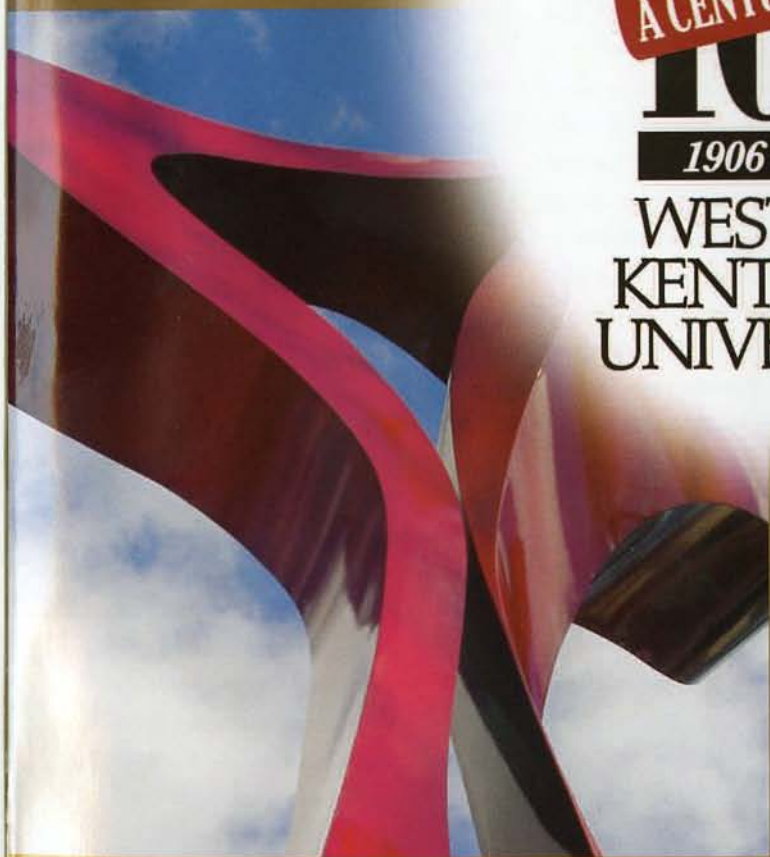
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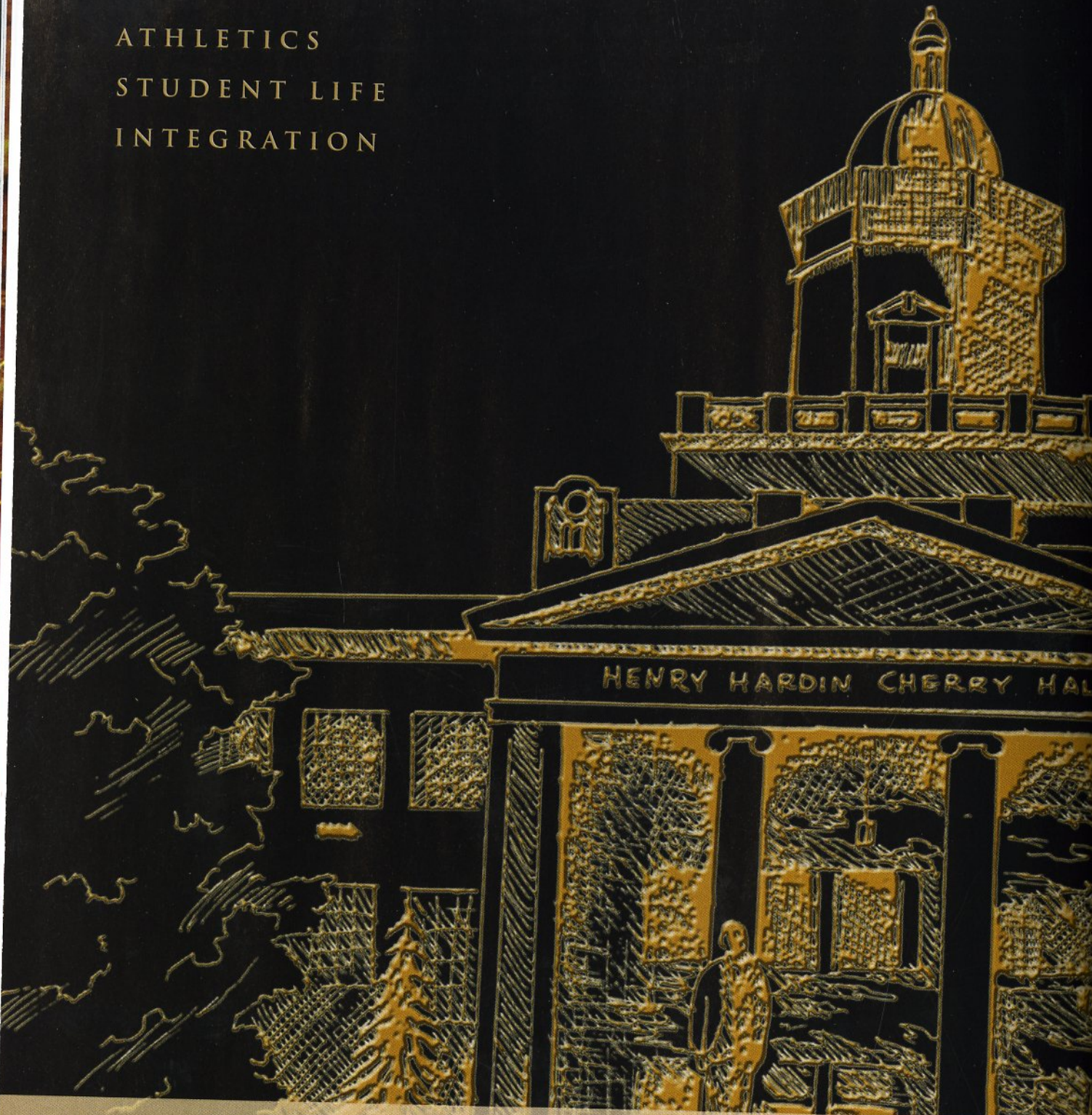
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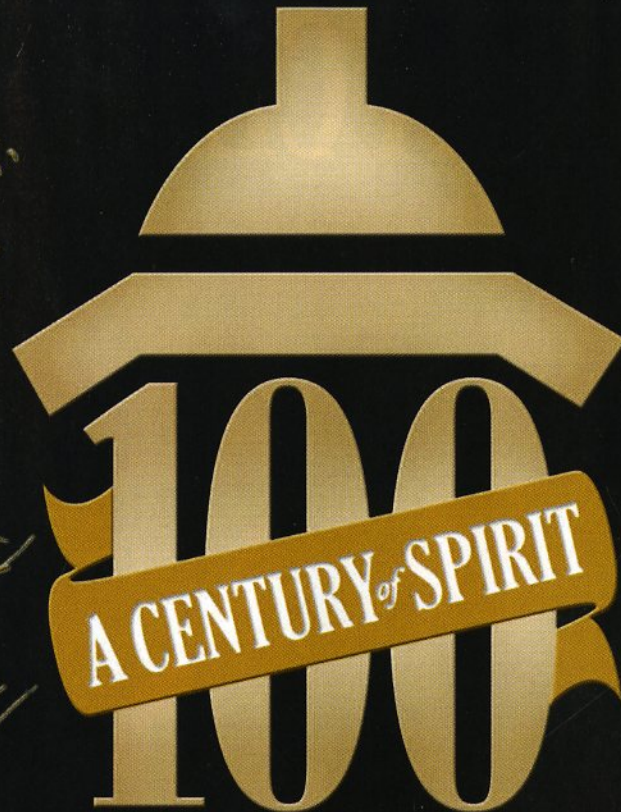
A CENTURY OF SPIRIT

WKU SPIRIT COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

ATHLETICS  
STUDENT LIFE  
INTEGRATION



CENT



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ENNIAL

Illustration by Charles "Chuck" Crume, Jr. '71, '80



# Fifty Years of *Integration:*

Charting Our Past,  
Present, and Future

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C E N T E N N I A L

The desegregation of Western Kentucky University reflects both the unique circumstances of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the hilltop college campus in Bowling Green. When Western opened in 1906 as a state-supported normal school, it observed the Day Law and admitted whites only. The entry of the first black students at Western came several years after blacks were admitted to the University of Kentucky (1949), Bellarmine, Nazareth, and Ursuline Colleges, University of Louisville (1950), and Paducah Junior College (1953). Western was not the leader in early desegregation efforts although its presidents privately expressed their wishes for improved postsecondary opportunities for Kentucky blacks. In the 1920s, President Henry Hardin Cherry worked to improve rela-



**1974** Greg McKinney, first African American to be selected as a student regent.

tions between the all-white Kentucky Education Association and the all-black Kentucky Negro Education Association. Western President Paul L. Garrett served on Governor Keen Johnson's

Committee on Equalizing Educational Opportunity in 1939. Also, President Garrett privately expressed to President Donovan of



**1956** Frank Moxley was admitted to the graduate school.

Eastern Kentucky State College "that the Negroes of the state are due one first class college, and I hope that we may live to see them get it."

Confronted by the Kentucky legal mandate of the Day Law, the actual desegregation of Western occurred discretely in the late 1950s



**1970** Harry Jones becomes the first African American to integrate the baseball team.

when several black residents took up Dr. Kelly Thompson's support for desegregation. Rev. John E. Jones and Margaret Munday were admitted as undergraduates in 1956. Frank O. Moxley, a black Bowling Green school teacher and coach with a bachelor's degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio, drove to Indiana University in Bloomington on the weekends for his graduate courses until he was admitted to the Western graduate program in psychology and counseling. Moxley received his master's degree in 1958, Jones his master's degree in education in 1959 and Munday her bachelor's degree in music in 1960.

All too often, racial desegrega-



**1978** Sigma Gamma Rho was founded. (Eta Phi)

tion was measured by the appearance of blacks on athletic teams. The timeline accompanying this text addresses these very visible mileposts at Western. Significantly, the campus social environment for the growing numbers of African American students on Western's campus was also improved with the establishment of chapters of histori-

cally black but racially integrated fraternities and sororities. Of the nine major historically black social fraternities and sororities, seven had established chapters as of 2005. By the late 1980s, blacks were also being accepted in the historically white fraternities and sororities, as well as service organizations, such as



1976 United Black Greeks is formed.

Gamma Sigma Sigma, and academic honor society. In 1976, non-Greek black students formed the United Black Students (known today as the Black Student Alliance). In 1971, the Amazing Tones of Joy was formed by black students at Western interested in gospel music.

In summary, the desegregation

1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

# WESTERN'S

1956  
thru Present

# Integration t i m e l i n e



**1956**  
John E. Jones and Margaret Munday were admitted as undergraduates. Frank O. Moxley was admitted to the graduate school.

**1958**

Frank O. Moxley receives his master's degree.

**1959**

John E. Jones receives his master's degree.

**1960**

Margaret Munday graduates from Western. Western's black enrollment consisted of 96 black students.

**1963**

Vincent Shelby was the first African-American to earn a varsity letter at WKU when he earned the first of his



three letters in football in 1963. Clem Haskins and Dwight Smith were the first African-Americans to play basketball on The Hill (1963-64 freshman team).

**1964**

Jim Malone becomes the first African American member of Western's tennis team. He won 2 single conference championships and four doubles titles.

Roy Turner becomes the first African American on the track team. He won numerous conference titles for two years in a row.

**1965**

The first African American employed at Western in a non-custodial capacity was Susan Crabtree (1965-92), who worked as a secretary in Extension & Field Services.

Jackie Butler earned a varsity letter in basketball (1965 & 1966). Clem Haskins and Dwight Smith also earned three varsity letters for the Hilltoppers (1965, 1966 and 1967).

**1967**

The Kappa Q club, a service organization, was formed following the denial of a request to form historically black fraternities on campus.



George Taylor, a pitcher for the WKU baseball team, was the first African American to earn varsity letters in baseball.

**1968**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was chartered with Dr. Mable Anderson, one of the two black faculty members, as the advisor. (Epsilon Zeta)

Harry Jones, a member of the baseball team, earned varsity letters in 1968, 1969, and 1970.

**1969**

Black student enrollment is 3.9%.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was chartered (May 10th). (Epsilon Rho)



Hugh Heater (Lt.) becomes the first African American police officer at Western Kentucky University on October 20th.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was chartered (October 26th). (Gamma Theta)

**1970**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was char-

of Western was not as smooth or as flawless as everyone had wished, but African American faculty, staff and students worked together to create the best possible learning experience on a campus that had been legally prohibited from having students of color and black employees outside of custodial roles. The vari-



**1970** First African American cheerleader at Western

ous paths to continuing success for Western's black students, alumni, faculty and staff have been challenging and will, in all likelihood, remain so. However, the achievement of success by all of the Western family is the ultimate measure of the Western motto:

"The Spirit Makes the Master."

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006

tered (March 14th). (Eta Zeta)  
Harry Jones becomes the first African American to integrate the baseball team.

**1971**  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was chartered at Western (October 31st). (Eta Rho)

Reginald Glass was elected vice president of Associated Students (predecessor of SGA).

The Amazing Tones of Joy was established.

First Miss Black Western Pageant. The first winner was Carolyn Brown, who was also a member of the WKU Cheerleader Squad.

**1972**  
Alice Gatewood (Waddell) was elected as the first African American homecoming queen.



Phi Beta Sigma was chartered during the spring. (Epsilon Theta)

The first black student sit-in occurred on September 10th. Blacks staged a peaceful sit-in in the lobby of the administration building to demand that a second black be added to the cheerleading squad.

**1973**  
Cecilia Dixon becomes the first African American female to play for the Lady Hilltoppers Basketball team.



**1974**  
Black student enrollment is 6.2%.

Greg McKinney was the first African American to be elected as a student regent.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was chartered (January 10th).

**1976**  
United Black Greeks is formed.

Black student enrollment is 7.3%

**1978**  
The WKU Branch of the NAACP was established on March 9th.

Sigma Gamma Rho was chartered. (Eta Phi)

**1980**  
Clem Haskins becomes the head basketball coach at Western.

**1986**  
Minority Student Support Services (now known as the Office of Diversity Programs) was created with Phyllis Gatewood as director.

Howard Bailey is appointed Dean of Student Life.



**1987**  
All-American Lillie Mason led the Lady Toppers to the Final Four in 1985 and 1986.

**1995**  
The Society of African American Alumni was granted status by a unanimous vote of the National Alumni Association Board of Directors at their January meeting.



**1998**  
Six black Spirit Masters were selected. (Ebony Lincoln, Chandra Poole, Duan Wright

(chair), Sane Smith, Toby McCraw, Danielle Wharton.)

An Ethnic Relations Task Force was established to develop recommendations to address issues of inequality at Western.

**2001**  
The President's Award for Diversity began.

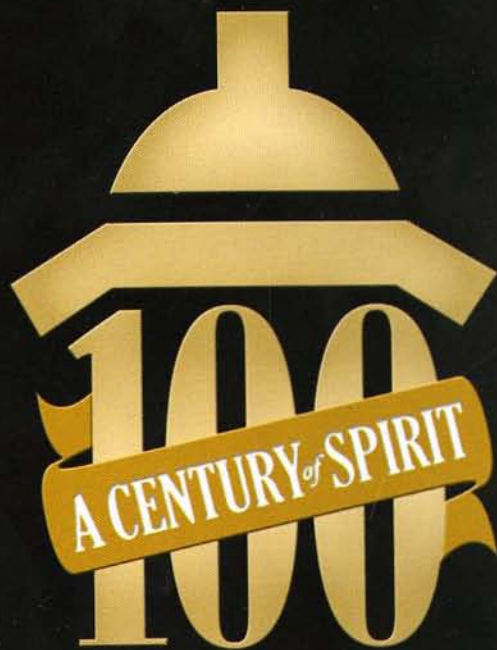
Minority Student Support Services changes its name to the Office of Diversity Programs.

The University Diversity Advisory Council began, which was charged with promoting diversity at Western

**2002**  
The Black Student Alliance was established.

**2005**  
Clarence Glover is elected as the first African American president of the WKU National Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors.





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