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WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University



THROUGH THE LENS

WKU's Assistant University Photographer Bryan Lemon captured this image of the Honors College/International Center, the newest of the 21 buildings erected during the last 20 years of campus transformation.

FALL 2016

WKU SPIRIT

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University Photographer Clinton Lewis recently captured this new portrait of Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell as they begin their 20th academic year at WKU.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As you've heard me say since announcing that I will retire next June, I'm "all-in" and working diligently to complete the transformation of the WKU campus that we began 19 years ago at the direction of the Board of Regents. This summer we announced two projects that will indeed complete much of that work: a \$120 million residence hall upgrade to be completed over the next 10 years and a \$22 million investment by The Medical Center of Bowling Green to construct a sports medicine complex on our campus.

Our Student Life Foundation was created and began renovating our campus residence halls 16 years ago. It has now been almost 10 years since those renovations were completed, and while those brought our campus housing from among the worst in the state to the best, we are now falling behind as other campuses embark on major housing upgrades. Our 10-year plan will begin with construction of a new 400-bed residence hall, to be called Hilltopper Hall, in the area you know best as "The Valley," in front of McCormack, Gilbert and Rodes-Harlin halls. That new facility will serve as swing space as we raze Barnes-Campbell and Bemis-Lawrence halls and rebuild two new 400-bed halls on that footprint. We will not add significantly to the number of overall beds available in on-campus housing with these three projects. Rather, our goal is to improve the quality and relevance of the 5,000 beds that we currently offer. In addition to these major building projects, we will also make additional improvements to Northeast and Southwest halls. Because of the business model and sound financial position of the Student Life Foundation, our residence hall rates will remain at or below the norm in Kentucky.

On Aug. 19, we announced that The Medical Center of Bowling Green will construct the Med Center Health Sports Medicine Complex on our campus to house their Orthopaedic/Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation group. The new building, to be built between Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium and the baseball complex, will house the WKU Doctor of Physical Therapy program and a new baseball fieldhouse. The current football practice field will be enclosed to allow for year-round use of the practice football field for various sports. The facility will become part of the Preston Center's venue options for campus use and intramural sports in addition to WKU Athletics. Our partnership with The Medical Center to relocate Physical Therapy from the current Health Science Complex on the hospital's campus will make room for the new University of Kentucky Medical School, which is scheduled to open Fall 2018, and this is a critical partnership between WKU, UK and The Medical Center to bring a full, four-year medical school to Bowling Green.

With these two major initiatives underway, much of the physical transformation we set out to achieve during my presidency will have been accomplished. Thanks to sound business practices and the support of a generous community of alumni, friends and corporate partners, my successor will inherit a vibrant, energetic and even more beautiful campus that is poised to meet the needs of the next generation of WKU students.

Thank you for your continued support, and Go Tops!




A Lasting TRANSFORMATION

20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP



Presidential SELFIE

Stacey Biggs, WKU's Chief Marketing Officer, captured these images of WKU President Gary A. Ransdell just a few years ago. He had enlisted the help of Dr. Corie Martin, WKU's Director of Web Services and Digital Marketing, to practice what he called "that whole selfie business" before students arrived on campus for the fall semester.

SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITE RANSELL PHOTO OR STORY!

In the past 20 years, Dr. Ransdell has taken thousands of photos with students and alumni. Do you have a photo and memory to share? Submit it today at alumni.wku.edu/ransdellstories! Your photo and memory might be selected for a future issue of WKU SPIRIT as we celebrate the final year of Dr. Ransdell's presidency.

WKU SPIRIT

Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Western Kentucky University

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EDITORIAL

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

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CAMPUS NEWS

WKU Regents pass 2016-2017 budget

WKU's Board of Regents has approved a \$402 million budget for 2016-2017. WKU President Gary A. Ransdell said the budget presented "significant revenue challenges," but the University was able to meet several goals, including a 3 percent salary increase over 12 months and minimal impact on campus employment.

"Throughout the budget process, we focused on maintaining and enhancing the quality of the learning environment for our students while not compromising safety, essential maintenance or our core strengths," President Ransdell said.

Ann Mead, Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs, said WKU had to incorporate a 4.5 percent decrease in state funding (\$3.36 million), fixed cost increases (including an increase in employer contribution to the Kentucky Employee Retirement System) and less-than-projected tuition income.

A balanced budget was achieved through internal reallocations; moving about 200 Facilities Management employees from WKU to SODEXO, which oversees facilities and maintenance; eliminating about 60 unfilled budgeted positions; and implementing a 4.5 percent (\$215) per semester tuition increase for resident undergraduate students.

Tuition and fees make up 50.9 percent of the budget. Undergraduate resident tuition will be \$4,956 per semester beginning with the fall 2016 semester.

State appropriations, including nearly \$5 million for the Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science and \$750,000 for the statewide weather monitoring network the Kentucky Mesonet, make up 17.9 percent. Restricted funds (grants, contracts and student financial aid), self-generated funds and auxiliary enterprises make up the rest of the budget.

Deeb named NATAS Ohio Valley Silver Circle Honoree

Barbara Deeb, News Producer/Reporter for WKU-PBS, has been named a Silver Circle Honoree by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Ohio Valley Chapter.

One of the highest honors given by NATAS, the Ohio Valley Silver Circle recognizes television professionals who have performed distinguished service within the television industry for 25 years or more, a significant part of which was done within the Chapter's

region of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. Silver and Gold Circle members are honored for more than their longevity — they are honored for making an enduring contribution to the vitality of the television industry and for setting standards of achievement others hope to emulate. These honorees also give back to the community as mentors, educators and volunteers.

There have only been 58 Silver or Gold Circle recipients in the 52-year



history of the Ohio Valley Chapter. Deeb is the first recipient from Bowling Green and will be only the 10th recipient from Kentucky.

WKU BOARD OF REGENTS

Two alumni named to WKU Board of Regents

Two WKU alumni have been appointed to the University's Board of Regents by Gov. Matt Bevin. Julie (Harris) Hinson ('90) of Prospect, Ky., and Jason McKinney ('01) of Scottsville, Ky., will serve on the Board until their terms expire on June 30, 2022.

Julie Hinson is President and CEO of Advanced Lifeline Services, headquartered in Louisville, Ky. An active WKU volunteer, she is Past-President of both the Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter (GLAC) and the WKU Alumni Association National Board of Directors. In addition, she is Chair of the Lee Robertson/Gary Sundmacker Golf Scramble, which benefits GLAC's scholarship fund. She is a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood and a member of the WKU Foundation Board of Trustees, the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Advisory Council, and the 2016-2017 Presidential Search Committee. In 2015, she was named the WKU Alumna of the Year, and she was inducted into the CHHS Hall of Fame in 2016. A Life Loyal member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, Hinson was also active in the 50th Anniversary Committee for the celebration of 50 years of AOII/Alpha Chi on WKU's campus in 2015.

"I am honored to have been appointed by Gov. Bevin to the WKU Board of Regents," Hinson said. "I am willing to help 'my WKU' with my expertise, experience and knowledge. Being a Regent, I fully understand that my role will involve me voicing my opinion and making important decisions with my fellow Board members. It will be a pleasure to serve on the Board of Regents. Go Tops!"

Jason McKinney, originally from Bowling Green, Ky., now resides in Scottsville, Ky. A Certified Public Accountant, he is



Julie (Harris) Hinson ('90)



Jason McKinney ('01)

partial owner of McKinney Woosley, LLP, and he is a member of both the Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants. As an active community member, McKinney currently serves as Treasurer for both Lifeskills, Inc. and YMCA of Scottsville/Allen County, and he is on the board for Heart of Scottsville. As a student at WKU, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity.

"Being appointed to the WKU Board of Regents is one of the biggest honors that I have experienced," McKinney said. "WKU provided a wonderful education and the basis for me to succeed in my chosen profession. I hope to be able to use my experiences and financial expertise to give back to the University that has given me so much."

WKU steel bridge team finishes 1st in nation for best looking bridge, 37th overall

WKU Civil Engineering students competed in the 2016 National Student Steel Bridge Competition May 27-28 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

WKU finished 37th overall in the competition, but finished first in the nation for the best-looking bridge, which was an amazing red curved arch truss bridge. WKU was the only school at the national competition to utilize curved steel members in the bridge to form a large arch.

In addition, WKU won the Student Choice Award, chosen by the students who attend the national competition.



WKU faculty member wasn't expecting record-breaking run on ABC's 500 Questions

WKU faculty member Guy Jordan never expected that he'd make an unprecedented, record-breaking run on ABC's *500 Questions* — or become a hit on social media in the process.

"I've been following everything on Facebook and everything on Twitter. It's wild," Jordan said. "I'm glad everybody watched."

Jordan, an Associate Professor of Art History in WKU's Art Department and Coach of WKU's Academic Quiz Bowl Team, entered *500 Questions* as a challenger on the May 28 show and began his run as a contestant on May 31. By the time Season 2 of *500 Questions* ended the next day, Jordan had reached a record 241 questions, survived multiple battles from several challengers and earned \$169,000.

"I never even dreamed this would blow up the way it did," he said of his experience on the show.

While his family (wife Carol, a WKU Theatre faculty member, and son Ben) watched the finale in Bowling Green, Jordan was in the Philadelphia, Pa., suburb of Haddon Heights, N.J., watching with his mother, Joanne, and sharing in her excitement as he continued his run.

"It's always surreal to see yourself on TV, but we had a great time watching," he said.

Jordan also enjoyed interacting with host Dan Harris and with the audience, which gave him a standing ovation when the show concluded.

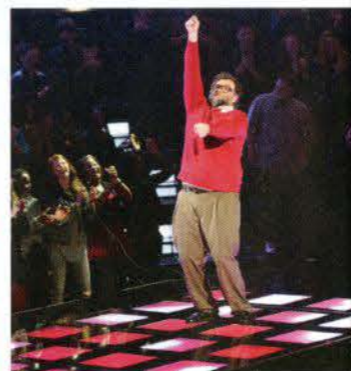
"The game itself is absolutely fun to play. It's really fun to see how long you can survive without blowing three in a row," he said.

As he completed the various 30-question rounds, Jordan showed his excitement with his happy dance. "My 8-year-old came up with that. He does that dance when he's excited so we've made that our dance," Jordan said.

The happy dance and a standing ovation weren't on Jordan's mind when he entered the game as a challenger. "In my course of thinking, the biggest accomplishment is getting on the show at all," said Jordan, who has participated in trivia competitions for about 25 years. "As a challenger, you just don't know. You're really depending on the questions to go your way.

"When I got to be a contestant, I felt like I knew enough to get 18 to 20 a round. I've been doing this a long time. I know what I know and what I don't know."

Jordan's strategy to avoid missing three in a row involved trying to clear the board of his worst categories (things like country music or celebrity fashion) and keeping his safe/rescue categories (things like philosophy, the Renaissance or the Supreme Court). And he wanted to avoid any battles when he had two misses.



"Battling is really hard when you've been standing up there a long time," he said. "I hunted for battles that would be with nothing on the line."

Even when he faced elimination, Jordan was able to come up with a correct answer to clear his misses.

"It's not what you know, but how well you know yourself," he said.

Jordan also was relieved when a few Kentucky questions, including one about the Corvette, appeared on the board. "I would have gotten those anyway and I knew the Corvette clue from my college days. But it was really cool to see that one come up and it was like Bowling Green was saying hello."

As he mentioned during the show, Jordan plans to use some of his winnings for an art history study abroad trip this fall. "We're going to help students go to Venice," he said.

Jordan said he was worn down and exhausted when his 241-question run on the show ended. "It really is grueling but I'm not complaining about it. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

WKU Student Life Foundation outlines 10-year housing master plan

WKU's Student Life Foundation is embarking on 10-year plan to provide housing that is more in line with the style students prefer.

Brian Kuster, WKU's Vice President for Student Affairs and Executive Director of the Student Life Foundation, said the plan was developed after an extensive survey of students' preferences.

"We are not looking to increase the number of beds we offer, but plan to build to address the demand," Kuster said. "Students are more interested in suite-style rooms and rooms with private baths over the more traditional community-style housing."

The Student Life Foundation is a non-profit organization that owns and

operates WKU's residence halls. The Foundation's strong financial position will allow it to implement the plan with no impact to the University's budget, he said, adding "providing the style of housing students prefer makes WKU even more attractive to them."

The first phase of the plan begins this fall when construction on a new hall begins along College Heights Boulevard, near Gilbert and Rodes Harlin halls. Kuster said the building, which will include 400 beds in suite-style rooms, will also include a dining facility and will open in the fall of 2018. The beds will be needed as Barnes-Campbell and Bemis-Lawrence halls are demolished and replaced.

Also this fall, work will begin on

Northeast and Southwest halls to expand the lobbies from one to four stories, providing additional common space for studying and meetings.

Kuster said the plan will group housing in districts, with freshman concentrated in the southern end of campus, upperclassmen in the Valley, and Northeast and Southwest halls designated as the Global Learning area for international students and students in the Honors College.

"Housing at WKU remains in high demand, which allows the Student Life Foundation to more than cover our debt service and reinvest in our housing portfolio to meet students' needs," Kuster said.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WKU students 1st in photo, 2nd in multimedia in 2016 Hearst national championships

WKU student Brittany Greeson has been named the national photojournalism champion in the 2016 Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Greeson, a senior from Owensboro, Ky., won the championship and received a \$5,000 award June 2 in San Francisco, Calif. She also received a \$1,000 award for Best Portfolio.

Alyse Young, a senior from Redmond, Wash., finished second in the national multimedia championship and received a \$4,000 award.

WKU students have won 15 Hearst individual national championships since 1985 — photojournalism in 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2016; multimedia in 2015; writing in 1985; and radio news in 2006.

Nick Wagner, a senior from Ada, Minn., also was among the six finalists in the national photojournalism championship and received a \$1,500 award.

Often called "The Pulitzers of college journalism," the Hearst program holds yearlong competitions in writing, photojournalism, broadcast news and multimedia for journalism undergraduates. Schools accumulating the most points earned by their students in each category are designated the winners of the Intercollegiate Competitions.

WKU's School of Journalism & Broadcasting placed third overall in the 2015-2016 Hearst program after winning the Intercollegiate Multimedia Competition and finishing second in



Brittany Greeson



Alyse Young

the Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition.

WKU has finished in the top five nationally in the Hearst overall competition for the past seven years and won the national championship in 2000, 2001 and 2005. WKU has won the multimedia competition for five consecutive years, has won the photojournalism competition 22 times in the past 27 years and has finished in the top eight overall for 23 straight years.

Commercial flights now available in Bowling Green, Ky.



The long-anticipated commercial flight service in Bowling Green, Ky., is now available through Contour Airlines. Non-stop service is available seven days a week from Bowling Green Warren County Regional Airport to Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport and two days a week to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. Flights can be booked at www.countourairlines.com or by calling 1-888-33CONTOUR. The Contour Airlines planes seat 29 passengers per flight.

In addition to affordable pricing on flights, Bowling Green passengers can take advantage of the ability to drive across town, park for free and enjoy a TSA security line with no more than 28 people in front of them. These flights will be an excellent resource for local businesses and for WKU students, faculty, staff and alumni.

For more information, contact Susan Harmon at 270-842-1101 or susanh@bgwairport.org. You can also visit the Bowling Green Warren County Regional Airport Facebook page.



Concrete canoe team finishes 4th in national competition

WKU Civil Engineering students finished fourth overall in the 2016 Concrete Canoe National Competition. The finish equaled the concrete canoe team's best ever in the national competition.

WKU's Bar-B-Qrete finished third in oral presentation, third in design paper, fifth in final product and ninth in race points during the June 9-11 competition at the University of Texas at Tyler.

The overall top five finishers were École de technologie supérieure, Montreal; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Nevada, Reno; WKU; and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"At the national competition we had to be our absolute best to achieve our goal of a top-10 finish," said Professor Matthew Dettman, faculty advisor. "The oral presentation team delivered an amazing presentation. The design paper was as fine a technical document as we could produce, and our paddlers did an outstanding job to get us some points on the water. Exceeding all expectations, they delivered an amazing fourth-place finish overall. I cannot say enough about this team. Not only did we build an outstanding canoe this year, we built a group of fine young engineers that WKU can be proud of."



SPIRIT OF GIVING



WKU announces record \$23.1 million in annual gift receipts

Western Kentucky University recently announced that it raised \$23.1 million in private gifts during fiscal year 2015-2016—the highest annual total in the University's history.

Marc Archambault, WKU's Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, said the \$23.1 million total is a 22 percent increase over the University's previous record of \$18.9 million, and it includes gifts from more than 14,000 donors who made more than 29,000 individual gifts.

"Additional all-time high totals for giving in select categories included \$9.7 million received for endowment and \$7.9 million received for student scholarships,"

Archambault said. "Endowment gifts are particularly important to WKU's future success, as they allow the principal of the gift to be invested with a portion of the interest income funding the gift designation in perpetuity."

In addition to these annual highlights, deferred gift expectancies, representing donors who have reported the inclusion of the University in their estate plans, eclipsed nine figures for the first time in school history with a total of more than \$106 million.

President Gary A. Ransdell said, "At no time in WKU's history has private support been more important than right now. State support is in

decline, tuition has its limits and the federal government is backing away from research support. Our alumni and friends are coming through in significant ways to assure high value in a WKU degree. We need that support, and we are exceedingly grateful for it."

"These new records are important milestones in the University's history," Archambault said. "We appreciate the many donors who continue to express their confidence in WKU by investing in its future, and we anticipate another excellent year ahead in 2016-2017 as we celebrate the final year under President Ransdell's outstanding leadership."

The Alexander Xavier Harkins Memorial Scholarship

Thanks to an endowed scholarship fund, the memory of a loving young man will leave a lasting legacy at Western Kentucky University.

Alexander "Alex" Xavier Harkins of Alvaton, Ky., had what his mother, Deanese, called "eyes as blue as the sky." He loved art, writing and spending time with his younger brother, Hunter. He entertained his friends with stories he created and carried a journal so he could jot down plot ideas and map out characters. The 18-year-old recent graduate of Greenwood High School planned to study computers at WKU and hoped to one day become an analyst with the U.S. Navy so he could help protect the United States from potential terrorist attacks.

But on June 25, 2014, Alex passed away when his motorcycle was struck by a drunk driver. Struggling to bring meaning out of tragedy, Deanese Harkins created the Alexander Xavier Harkins Memorial Scholarship to help future students and to further Alex's desire to help other people.

"Alex was an old soul in a young man's body," Deanese said. "He was always one of those children who could look at something, analyze it and then nail it. He was very perceptive."

He was also mature for his age. After his father, Michael Harkins, passed away when Alex was 6 and Hunter was 2, Alex took it upon himself to be an example and served as a protector, teacher and encourager to his younger brother. He also protected his mother, as was evidenced when he took her boyfriend out on the porch and asked what his intentions were. After the talk, he gave

his blessing. Deanese, who plans to marry later this year, is thankful that her new relationship had her son's approval.

"He was a great big brother," Deanese said. "Hunter was picked on in middle school, and Alex promised him that no one would pick on him in high school. So, when Hunter started at Greenwood High School as a freshman, Alex had lunch every day with his baby brother. Alex and his friends sat with Hunter and made sure nobody else could ever pick on him. I work at Greenwood, and every day I would see them sitting and goofing off together."

Deanese said she raised Alex to be a leader and not a follower. "He didn't do alcohol or drugs, and he made sure his friends didn't do anything stupid," she said. "He was the level-headed one."

Letting his own personality shine through, Alex also started a trend of wearing Hawaiian shirts to school, even though it wasn't particularly cool. "By the time Alex was a senior, lots of people were wearing Hawaiian shirts to school every Thursday," she said with a laugh. "They had 'Hawaiian shirt Thursday.' He had so many Hawaiian shirts that we would bring them to school on coat hangers to share with his friends."

At Alex's funeral, many of those friends showed up in Hawaiian shirts.

In the months following her son's death, Deanese decided she wanted to create a scholarship in his memory. "I didn't want Alex to be forgotten," she explained. "He wanted to help people. I didn't want to think that his kind spirit had to die with him. Now, even though Alex isn't around, he can still help people."



Deanese is a WKU graduate, as is her twin sister and two of her brothers-in-law. Hunter Harkins, a senior at Greenwood High School this year, plans to study Psychology and Criminology at WKU and hopes to one day become a police officer, so he can pay forward the kindness that was given to him and his family by law enforcement personnel after his brother's death.

The Alexander Xavier Harkins Memorial Scholarship was seeded with an initial \$30,000, and Deanese hopes to be able to add to it over time. "I had to work my way through college, and it's hard to focus on your grades when you have so many other responsibilities," she said. "I want to grow the endowment so that it can eventually provide a full ride. Young people are coming out of college now with astronomical student loan debts. It's hard to have the American dream when you can't save for a down payment on a house. I hope it will help students with their future."

"My parents moved around a lot when I was growing up," she continued, "and I never had a place to call home. When I came to WKU, it truly became my home. I'm happy now to know that Alex is helping people through this scholarship at WKU."

Deanese also gave another lasting gift after her son's death. She donated his "beautiful eyes," and now two people in Radcliff and Louisville can see because of that gift.



WKU dedicates new State Farm Courtyard at Augenstein Alumni Center

Western Kentucky University recently dedicated the State Farm Courtyard, located adjacent to the Augenstein Alumni Center.

According to Marc Archambault, WKU's Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, the State Farm Courtyard is a part of the overall Alumni Square Plaza, which is supported by the WKU Foundation and includes the new Chili's Grill & Bar. The State Farm Courtyard offers an intimate outdoor venue for special events.

"A total of 17 State Farm employees, as well as the State Farm Foundation, contributed a total of \$165,000 in gifts, pledges and matching contributions to construct this area," Archambault said. "These State Farm employees represent a dozen different communities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. In addition, 16 of the 17 donors are WKU alumni. We truly appreciate their important support for this project."

Craig Browning, U.S. Bank Regional President for South Central Kentucky and WKU Foundation Board Chair, said, "I have enjoyed seeing many State Farm

employees invest their philanthropy to blend a strong corporate brand with WKU's in a mutually beneficial way. The State Farm Courtyard creates a unique gathering place for friends and alumni for generations to come. We thank the State Farm family for this significant gift."

Ralph Dillihay, State Farm Agency Field Executive in Bowling Green, Ky., personally supported the project. "I grew up in Drakesboro, Ky., and went to WKU, as did my wife and several other members of my family," he said. "I played basketball at WKU for a year, and I was always excited to connect with the University. It's good for business, and it's an entity we should all support."

WKU President Gary A. Ransdell noted that WKU alumni make up a larger percentage of State Farm employees than any other school in Kentucky. "It is truly meaningful for WKU to have long-term corporate partners like State Farm," he said. "We truly value their support of this courtyard, WKU Athletics, the Gordon Ford College of Business and many other areas."



LEGACY of SPIRIT

SOCIETY OF 1906

President Gary A. ('73, '74)
and Julie ('75) Ransdell



Visit the WKU Gift Planning website
at www.wku.edu/plannedgiving

PASSION

"We have been completely and intrinsically linked to WKU throughout our adult lives, since we were students, so our 20-year service to the University has been an emotional and passionate experience for us. Therefore, the opportunity to make a provision for WKU in our estate is equally important to us. It is a tangible way that we can allow our passions to be manifested into something that will have a permanent place at WKU."

— President Gary A. ('73, '74) and Julie ('75) Ransdell

WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

To learn more about planned gifts or other ways to support your favorite WKU program, contact the Gift Planning Office at 270-745-6993.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Hall of DISTINGUISHED Alumni

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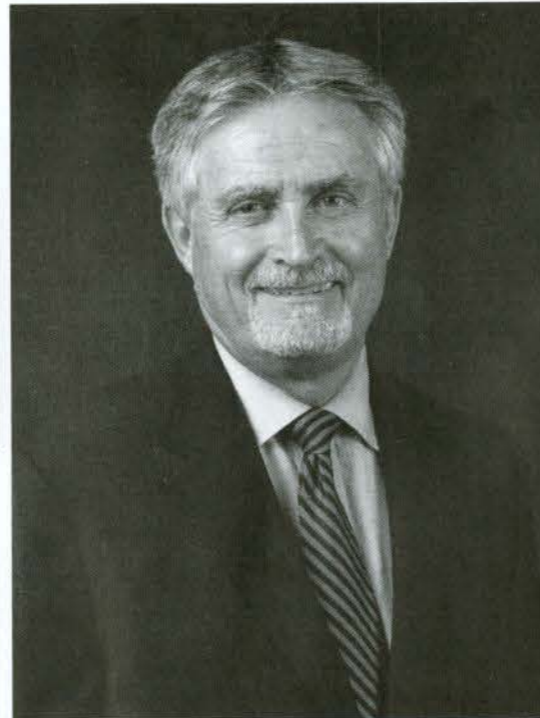
A BELOVED WKU ATHLETIC TRAINER AND MENTOR, A RETIRED CHIEF JUDGE OF THE KENTUCKY COURT OF APPEALS AND A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EDUCATOR WILL JOIN WKU'S HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI THIS FALL.

Bill "Doc E" Edwards, the Hon. Tom Emberton Sr. and Dr. Chester C. Travelstead will be inducted during WKU's 2016 Homecoming celebration. The 25th class of noted alumni will be recognized during a luncheon at 11 a.m. on Oct. 21 at Sloan Convention Center.

The Hall of Distinguished Alumni is presented by Franklin Bank & Trust, a longtime supporter of WKU. For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at (270) 745-4395 or visit alumni.wku.edu/hoda16.

CLASS OF 2016

BILL "DOC E"
Edwards
('74, '76)



A veteran of Ohio Valley and Sun Belt conferences, and now Conference USA, Bill "Doc E" Edwards, was named Head Athletic Trainer at WKU in 1983, after six years of service as an Assistant Athletic Trainer. He was named an Associate Athletic Director-Director of Athletic Training and Sports Medicine in 2009. Countless student-athletes and student athletic trainers who have worked with him during his almost 40 years at WKU count him among their most significant influences during their time on the Hill.

Under Edwards' leadership, the program has grown from a staff of three to 12 Certified Athletic Trainers who provide health care for all 16 WKU sports teams. In addition to the athletic training staff, Edwards coordinates a large group of sports medicine specialists (team physicians and physical therapists) to ensure appropriate, timely and state-of-the-art health care for WKU student-athletes. Many of these professionals were attracted to WKU not only by the outstanding athletic programs, but by the exemplary reputation of Edwards and his staff. In addition to his daily athletic training duties, Edwards has served as a faculty member since 1977 and presently teaches in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport at WKU.

When he arrived on the Hill in 1970, Edwards began working with athletes as a Student Trainer. A Physical Education major and Health Education minor, as well as a

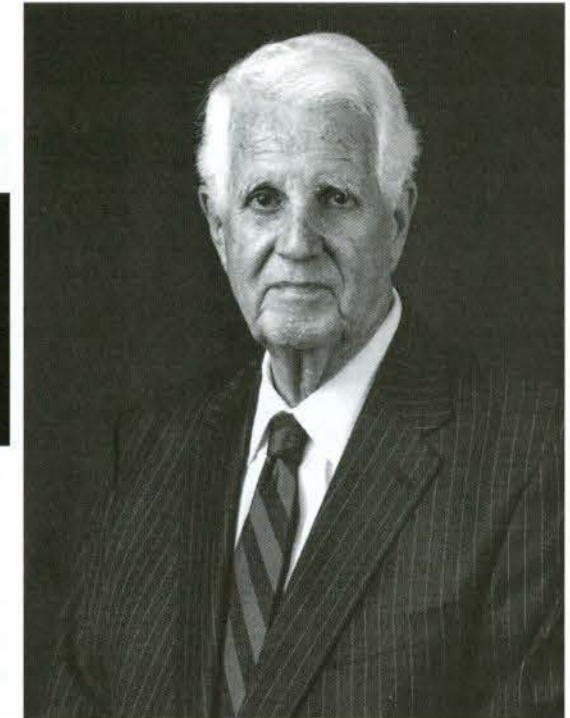
member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity serving as President in 1973-1974, he received his B.A. in 1974. He went on to receive his M.A. in Secondary Education and Health Education from WKU in 1976. He is certified as an Athletic Trainer with the National Athletic Trainers Association, a designation he has held since 1975. He is also a Licensed Athletic Trainer through the State of Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure.

In 2011, Edwards was inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society (KATS) Hall of Fame. He served as Treasurer of the KATS Board of Directors for many years. He is a member of the Alumni W-Club Board of Directors and has served as Treasurer since 1996. His many career accolades include serving as a member of the Hilltopper Halls of History Committee and being named Volunteer of the Year for the Alumni W-Club.

He is married to the former Jennie Willoughby, and they have two daughters, Faith and Rachel. Between them, the family has six WKU degrees. Including Faith's husband, Corey Johnson, and Rachel's fiancé, Will Conley, that degree number totals eight.

CLASS OF 2016

HONORABLE TOM
Emberton Sr.
('58)



The Hon. Tom Emberton Sr. is a retired Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

Following a four-year tour of duty with the United States Air Force, Emberton enrolled at Western Kentucky University. While at WKU, Emberton became active in a number of University activities. He was named Business Manager of the *College Heights Herald*, and was elected President of his sophomore and junior classes. He was also elected President of his fraternity, The Thirteeners, which through a change in University policy later became Delta Tau Delta.

Following his studies at WKU, Emberton was accepted to the University of Louisville School of Law in 1959. He continued his willingness to serve in leadership roles throughout law school, serving as President of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity and President of the Student Bar Association.

Upon admission to the Kentucky Bar in 1962, Emberton began the practice of law in Metcalfe County and was elected County Attorney in 1964, serving until 1967 when he was recruited by newly elected Gov. Louie B. Nunn to serve as Nunn's Executive Assistant. In 1971 Emberton was nominated as the Republican candidate for Governor of Kentucky, losing in the general election to then Lt. Governor Wendell Ford.

In 1987 Emberton was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson. He was re-elected twice and in 2002 was elected by his fellow judges to the office of

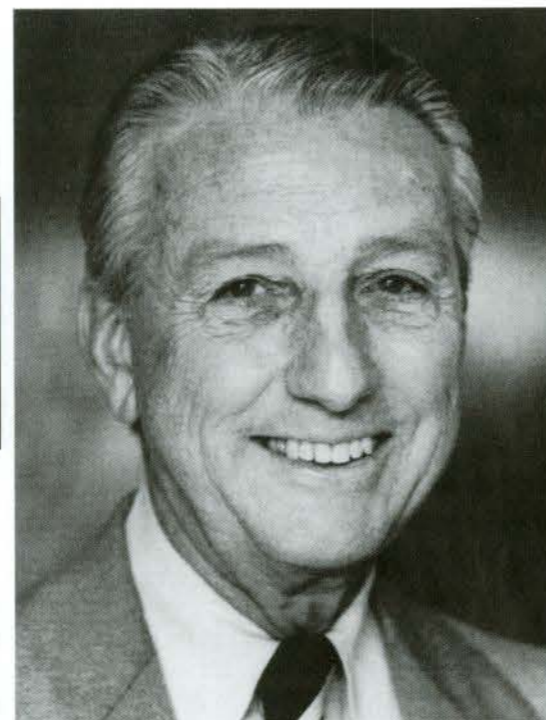
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, a position he held until his retirement. Following his retirement, he continued to serve as Senior Judge for a number of years.

He is also a former member of the WKU Board of Regents, a Past-President of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors, and recently retired from the College Heights Foundation Board of Directors after 22 years of service. Emberton is a recipient of the William H. Natcher Award for Distinguished Service in Government from the Barren River Area Development District, as well as the Jim C. Coleman Community Service Award from the Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce. In 2007 the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet named the Thomas D. Emberton Bridge in Metcalfe County in his honor.

He is married to the former Julia Lee Crutchfield, who has three degrees from WKU, and the couple lives in Edmonton, Ky. They have two children, Laura and Tom Jr., both of whom have degrees from WKU and have followed in their father's footsteps with service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CLASS OF 2016

DR. CHESTER COLEMAN
Travelstead
(’33)



Dr. Chester C. Travelstead was a nationally recognized educator. After his graduation from Bowling Green High School and the Kentucky Military Institute, Travelstead enrolled at what was then Western Kentucky State Teachers College. While at WKU, Travelstead served as a yell leader for the Topper Squad and was a member of the band. He graduated in 1933 with a major in French and minors in English and Music, and he later earned his M.A. in Music from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Kentucky. He met his wife, Marita (’34), at WKU, and they had two sons, Chester and Jimmie. His mother taught Music Education at WKU for 44 years.

Following several years as a professional jazz musician in New York and then several in public school administration, Travelstead was commissioned into the United States Navy in 1943 and was a communications officer on an attack transport in the Pacific.

He began his higher education career in 1951 at the University of Georgia, before becoming Dean of the School of Education at the University of South Carolina in 1953. After the 1954 Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision, Travelstead delivered an on-campus speech titled “Today’s Decisions for Tomorrow’s Schools” to South Carolina teachers attending a summer conference on teacher education. In it, he cited integration as one of the challenges facing public schools, and he stated, “We as educators of the South must begin to prepare for integration.” This talk led to Travelstead’s dismissal by the University’s Board of Trustees.

In 1956, he became Dean of the University of New Mexico’s College of Education. At the time of his hire, UNM President Tom Popejoy said Dr. Travelstead’s support of integration and dismissal at South Carolina was more of a recommendation than an indictment. Travelstead completed his career as UNM’s first Provost and retired as Provost Emeritus in 1977. During his career, he served on several national higher education accreditation boards.

In 2003, the flagship building of UNM’s seven-building College of Education complex was named for Travelstead. In 2005 a seminar room at the University of South Carolina was named for him, and the Travelstead Courage in Education Award was created. Following Travelstead’s retirement, he remained active in civic and cultural areas, serving in such diverse capacities as Chair of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and a member of the governor-appointed, state-wide Judicial Standards Board. He continued in leadership roles in New Mexico until his death in 2006.

DISTINGUISHED

PRESENTED BY FRANKLIN BANK & TRUST COMPANY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Barren County Alumni Chapter

WKU Alumni Chapters are the hands and feet of the WKU Alumni Association in promoting all aspects of WKU in their communities. The Barren County Alumni Chapter shares the WKU Spirit with the Glasgow-Barren County area through two important programs: Toys for Toppers and Topper Twenty.

“When I became President of the Barren County WKU Alumni Chapter in 1999, my top priority was, and remains to this day, to continually bring positive awareness to WKU, both at our regional and main campuses,” said Bryan Baysinger (’93). “Barren County has played such a vital role in WKU’s history. I want to weave those ties into a closer and tighter bond.”

The Toys for Toppers campaign was launched in 1999. Beginning each year on the day after Thanksgiving and running through the middle of December, local businesses and the WKU Glasgow Campus collect toys

that remain in the local community for children who are most in need. During the Iraq War, the Chapter was proud to assist children of deployed soldiers.

“I have always believed that you positively change the world by starting in your own backyard,” Baysinger said.

With the efforts of Wayne Davis, Ron Thomas and the entire Kiwanis Club of Glasgow, Toys for Toppers receives 150 to 250 toys each year. These items go to the local Salvation Army, where they are wrapped and given to children for Christmas. For 17 years, Chapter members have actively shared the WKU Spirit with the Glasgow-Barren County area through Toys for Toppers.

In 2014, the Barren County Alumni Chapter enhanced its goal to impact their local community and started Topper Twenty, which reflects the Chapter’s pride for the WKU Glasgow Campus.

“Our local businesses are receiving a great benefit by having a more educated

and better-trained workforce because of the WKU Glasgow Campus, which brings about a greater overall community and way of life,” Baysinger explained. “We set out to create an event—a wonderful evening of food and fellowship—to allow our local businesses to both show appreciation and to financially support the local WKU Glasgow Campus.”

Since its inception, Topper Twenty has raised more than \$6,000 for the WKU Glasgow Campus. At the event, current WKU students who have benefited from the Topper Twenty are given time to speak, and their grateful appreciation can be heard in every word and seen in the occasional tear. The Barren County Chapter recognizes that many students would not have an opportunity to pursue a college degree were it not for the WKU Glasgow Campus. Topper Twenty reflects the Barren County Chapter’s commitment to WKU and its local community.

>>> For more information about the Barren County Alumni Chapter, contact Chapter President Bryan Baysinger at BBaysinger@hilliard.com. For general chapter information, visit alumni.wku.edu/chapters or contact Laura Smith at laura.smith@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

WKU HOMECOMING 2016

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

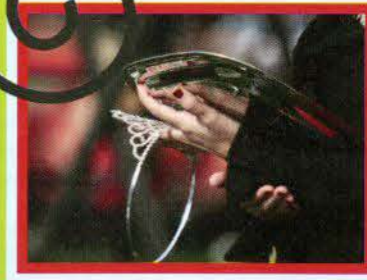
A Ransdell Story



CELEBRATE HOMECOMING 2016

Festivities begin Wednesday, October 19 and conclude on Sunday, October 23.

WKU Homecoming is coordinated by the WKU Alumni Association. For more information, contact Ginny Hensley at 270-745-4395 or visit us online at alumni.wku.edu/homecoming.



Wednesday, October 19

Women's Studies Open House

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Women's Studies Center, 1532 State Street

WKU Gender and Women's Studies Program welcomes alumni for a tour and light refreshments. Contact Kristi Branham at kristi.branham@wku.edu or 270-745-2943.

Thursday, October 20

Homecoming Chili and Cheese Luncheon and Pep Rally



Presented by Junior Achievement of South Central Kentucky and the WKU Alumni Association and sponsored by Jennings Perry Schmitt Financial Group.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

6-4-3 Sports Bar, 360 E. 8th Avenue

The official Homecoming kickoff rally begins in Downtown Bowling Green. WKU Football players, Pep Band, Cheerleaders and Topperettes will join Coach Jeff Brohm for an exciting afternoon that is sure to elevate the Hilltopper Spirit. Proceeds benefit Junior Achievement. Contact JA at 270-782-0280 or Allie Sharp at allie.sharp@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

2016 Summit Awards Dinner



Presented by Service One Credit Union

6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Program

Knically Conference Center, 654 Campbell Lane

WKU honors its outstanding volunteers at this recognition and awards ceremony. Contact Ginny Hensley at gabby.hensley@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

WKU Soccer vs UTSA

7:00 p.m. Kick-Off

WKU Soccer Complex, 1793 Creason Street

Contact Coach Jason Neidell at jason.neidell@wku.edu or 270-745-6563.



Friday, October 21

ALPHA TAU OMEGA
celebrates
50 years!
AT WKU Zeta Omega Chapter

For information on the ATO reunion weekend, visit online at alumni.wku.edu/ato50

1952 Refrigerator Bowl Team Reunion

The first football team in WKU's history to reach post-season play will hold its annual reunion during Homecoming weekend. Contact Laura Smith at laura.smith@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon and Induction Ceremony



Presented by Franklin Bank & Trust

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sloan Convention Center, 1021 Wilkinson Trace

The 2016 inductees are Bill "Doc E" Edwards, Dr. Chester C. Travelstead and the Hon. Tom Emberton Sr. Contact Tracy Morrison at tracy.morrison@wku.edu or 270-745-4395 or visit online at alumni.wku.edu/hoda16.

Cinderella Confidential

A production by the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance Children's Theatre

4:00 p.m.

Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre

Prince Charming has the shoe, but where's his princess? Two opposing news reporters, Jabber and Glamour, compete for the biggest news story of their lives. A hilarious new take on the classic fairy tale, full of big laughs and gentle truths. Suitable for all ages. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased online at wku.showare.com or by phone at 270-745-3121.

Society of African American Alumni Memorial Service

6:30 p.m.

Chandler Memorial Chapel

Contact Marshall Gray at marshall.gray@wku.edu.

2016 Homecoming Step Show

Sponsored by the WKU National Pan-Hellenic Council

8:00 p.m.

Van Meter Auditorium

Contact WKU NPHC at wkunphc@wku.edu.

Society of African American Alumni Homecoming Kickoff Party

10:00 p.m.

Par Makers Club

Contact Marshall Gray at marshall.gray@wku.edu.



Saturday, October 22 **HOME COMING DAY!**

WKU Student Publications 66th Annual Homecoming Breakfast

Talisman and College Heights Herald

9:00 a.m.

Downing Student Union, Third Floor

Contact Tracy Newton at tracy.newton@wku.edu or 270-745-2653.

BSU/BCM Students vs. Alumni Flag Football Game

Sponsored by Baptist Campus Ministry

10:00 a.m.

WKU Intramural Complex

Contact Tommy Johnson at thomas.johnson@wku.edu or 270-781-3185.

Department of Chemistry Homecoming Open House

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Snell Hall 4th Floor Balcony

Contact Matthew Nee at matthew.nee@wku.edu or 270-745-3457.

Society of African American Alumni Tailgate Party

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bates Runner Hall, Lawn

Contact Marshall Gray at marshall.gray@wku.edu.

Department of Agriculture Alumni Gathering

10:30 a.m.; Remarks at 11:30 a.m.

WKU Floral Design Training Center, 514 Regents Avenue

Contact DeAnna Durrant at deanna.durrant@wku.edu or 270-745-3151.

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

10:30 a.m.

E.A. Diddle Arena, John Oldham Court

Contact Paul Just at paul.just@wku.edu or 270-792-4247 or Bill Edwards at bill.edwards@wku.edu.



BSU/BCM Homecoming Tailgate

Noon

Baptist Student Center, 1574 Normal Drive

Contact Tommy Johnson at thomas.johnson@wku.edu or 270-781-3185.

IMREC Sports Alumni Homecoming Barbecue Tailgate

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

South Lawn in front of the Preston Center

Contact Steve Rey at steve.rey@wku.edu or 270-745-6060.

WKU ROTC Homecoming Tailgate

1:00 p.m.

McLean Hall, Front Lawn

Contact Maj. Mirella Gravitt at 270-745-4293.

Gordon Ford College of Business Open House and Ribbon Cutting

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Grise Hall 4th floor

Celebrate Homecoming and a ribbon cutting for the new Professional Selling Program classroom. Contact Kristina Harvey at kristina.harvey@wku.edu or 270-745-2279.

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Homecoming Open House

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Gary A. Ransdell Hall

Alumni and friends can tour the building and hear about the most recent accomplishments of students and faculty in all departments of the College. Contact Tammy Spinks at tammy.spinks@wku.edu or 270-745-4664.

Ogden College Homecoming Tailgate

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

South Lawn

Contact Monica Bean at monica.bean@wku.edu or 270-745-4448.

Cinderella Confidential A production by the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance Children's Theatre

3:00 p.m.

Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre

Prince Charming has the shoe, but where's his princess? Two opposing news reporters, Jabber and Glamour, compete for the biggest news story of their lives. A hilarious new take on the classic fairy tale, full of big laughs and gentle truths. Suitable for all ages. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased online at wku.showare.com or by phone at 270-745-3121.

Society of African American Alumni Homecoming Party

10:00 p.m.

Knicely Conference Center, 654 Campbell Lane

Contact Marshall Gray at marshall.gray@wku.edu.

HOME COMING
FRIDAY NIGHT

Sponsored by:
Midtown
BY BROOKSIDE

Homecoming Parade "Oh the Places You'll Go: A Ransdell Story"

Sponsored by Midtown by Brookside | www.midtownbg.com

5:00 p.m. | WKU Campus to Downtown Bowling Green

From outstanding student floats, to Homecoming Queen candidates to the Hilltopper Football Team, the Homecoming Parade brings out the WKU Spirit in all Hilltopper fans! The Parade begins at the intersection of College Heights Boulevard and Avenue of Champions near Downing Student Union and ends at Fountain Square Park in Downtown Bowling Green.

Contact Ginny Hensley at ginny.hensley@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

Concert in the Park Featuring the Jordan English Band

Sponsored by Midtown by Brookside | www.midtownbg.com

5:00 to 6:30 p.m. | Fountain Square Park, Downtown Bowling Green

As the Parade makes its way to Downtown Bowling Green, enjoy music by WKU's own Jordan English. Bring your lawn chair, but be prepared to Stand Up and Cheer!

Contact Ginny Hensley at ginny.hensley@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

Big Red's Roar 2016

6:30 p.m.

Fountain Square Park, Downtown Bowling Green

Following the Parade and concert, be entertained by the Hilltoppers' biggest cheerleaders—The WKU Student Body! The annual Homecoming Pep Rally will get everyone geared up for Saturday's Homecoming victory! Contact Student Activities at 270-745-2459 or Ginny Hensley at ginny.hensley@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.



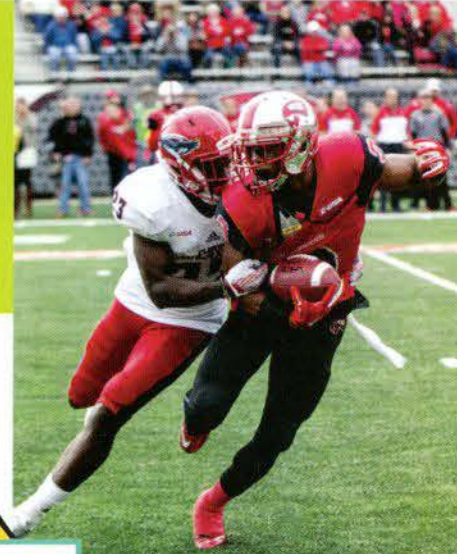
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Augenstein Alumni Center, 292 Alumni Avenue
The AAC will be open to all alumni and friends on Homecoming Day. Tour the facility, tailgate on the lawn, enjoy music outdoors with Jon Crosby, snap a selfie in the Homecoming-themed photo booth, purchase food and drink, and fellowship with friends from across the globe! Contact Tracy Morrison at tracy.morrison@wku.edu or 270-745-4395.

HOME COMING FOOTBALL GAME
WKU vs. Old Dominion

6:00 p.m.

Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium

After Tailgating, take your seat in Houchens-Smith Stadium as WKU welcomes Conference USA opponent Old Dominion on Homecoming Day! Cheer on the Toppers while celebrating Homecoming with the crowning of the Queen and other exciting Homecoming festivities. To reserve your game ticket, call the WKU Ticket Office at 1-800-5BIGRED.



Sunday, October 23

20th Annual Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing

2:00 p.m.

Kentucky Library and Museum, Kentucky Room

The event will feature a reading by Silas House. A reception and book signing will immediately follow the reading. Contact Mary Ellen Miller at mary.miller@wku.edu or 270-745-5721.

Cinderella Confidential A production by the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance Children's Theatre

3:00 p.m.

Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre

Prince Charming has the shoe, but where's his princess? Two opposing news reporters, Jabber and Glamour, compete for the biggest news story of their lives. A hilarious new take on the classic fairy tale, full of big laughs and gentle truths. Suitable for all ages. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased online at wku.showare.com or by phone at 270-745-3121.



For more information visit alumni.wku.edu/homecoming

ATHLETICS

Q & A with WKU Athletic Director Todd Stewart



What were your main goals for pursuing and ultimately moving WKU to Conference USA?

I felt being a member of Conference USA would elevate all of our programs. The league's television package has increased our national exposure, and last season all 14 of our football games were on national television, which is tremendous exposure not only for the football program but also the entire University. Conference USA also has an outstanding lineup of bowl tie-ins for football. We also are able to consistently compete with schools that our fans identify with while establishing good regional match ups against Middle Tennessee, UAB Marshall and Southern Miss.

How has that transition gone for WKU and do you think it has positively raised the profile of the University as a whole?

We have won 14 championships in just two seasons in Conference USA. So, I don't think it could have gone much better to this point. No other school in the league has won more than seven over that same span, so we have doubled the next closest school in championships. Our student-athletes have gotten more opportunities to compete on the biggest stage and have been recognized more for their efforts on and off the playing field than ever before. I believe the recognition our football program has been able to generate has been tremendous for the University at large and hopefully has helped open the country's eyes to what Western Kentucky University has to offer both athletically and academically.

What were some of your favorite moments in 2015-2016?

Without a doubt, hosting the Conference USA Football Championship at our football stadium and seeing our players celebrate a victory and our first FBS conference championship with our students and fans was a major highlight. You are known by the company you keep, and the fact that our volleyball and football teams finished their seasons ranked in the nation's top 25 validates their national legitimacy. I was also proud to see 109 student-athletes receive their degrees, which is really the most important part of our jobs in athletic administration—graduating student-athletes. Our overall student-athlete federal graduation rate is 75 percent, well above the University's general student population. We also celebrated success in other sports as well with a win at home over Louisville in women's basketball, a win at Kentucky in baseball, and conference titles for men's indoor and outdoor track. A new era of Hilltopper Basketball began as well with Rick Stansbury taking over as our Head Coach. He inherited a difficult situation, but he has been relentless in meeting and overcoming challenges, and I feel great about the program under his direction.

What were some of the challenges WKU faced in 2015-2016 or may face going forward?

Budgets continue to be an ever-evolving issue, and we have to meet that challenge head on. Since 2011, we have incurred close to \$4 million in reductions. We have had to balance that while also taking on increased costs with the advent of the "cost of attendance" stipend that most athletics programs are now providing to their students. We have had success in generating private support, but we will need to continue to grow in this area more than ever in the years ahead.

What are you most excited about moving into 2016-2017?

I truly think there has never been a better time to be a Hilltopper. The success we've had on the field of play and in the classroom has resulted in tremendous momentum. Coupled with the outstanding head coaches we have, we are well positioned to have even greater success as we move forward.



A Lasting TRANSFORMATION

20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

By Bob Skipper ('82, '91)

On May 8, 1998, President Gary A. Ransdell used his inauguration address to outline his vision for the future of his alma mater. Part of the transformation he envisioned was a renewal of the physical campus through a significant investment of public and private assets.

"In this regard, we will also restore the campus to the park-like atmosphere and architectural integrity enjoyed by previous generations of Western students," President Ransdell said.

TRANSFORMED CAMPUS

Almost 20 years later, the transformation of WKU's physical campuses is one of the most visible legacies of Dr. Ransdell's tenure as President. More than \$1 billion in completed, current and planned projects has touched every aspect of the campus, from underground utilities, to renovations, to new facilities.

"In 1997, WKU was in a state of complacency with regard to the condition of the campus," Dr. Ransdell said. "A daunting deferred maintenance inventory was piling up. Roofs were leaking, mold was growing, in-ground steam and electrical lines were brittle with age, our residence halls were outdated and few were air-conditioned or had sprinklers for fire safety, and we were mired in a convoluted bureaucracy

with the state in trying to get work done in a timely manner."

The only relatively new academic building was the Environmental Science & Technology Building, which was constructed in the 1970s, and the Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center and two residence halls, Zacharias and Meredith, were the only student life improvements that had been made in 20 years.

"It was clear to the Board of Regents and to me that the campus needed a major overhaul," he said. "It was a strong mandate to me to lead a major rebuilding of the physical plant on our main campus in Bowling Green, and to build proper facilities on all three of our regional campuses."

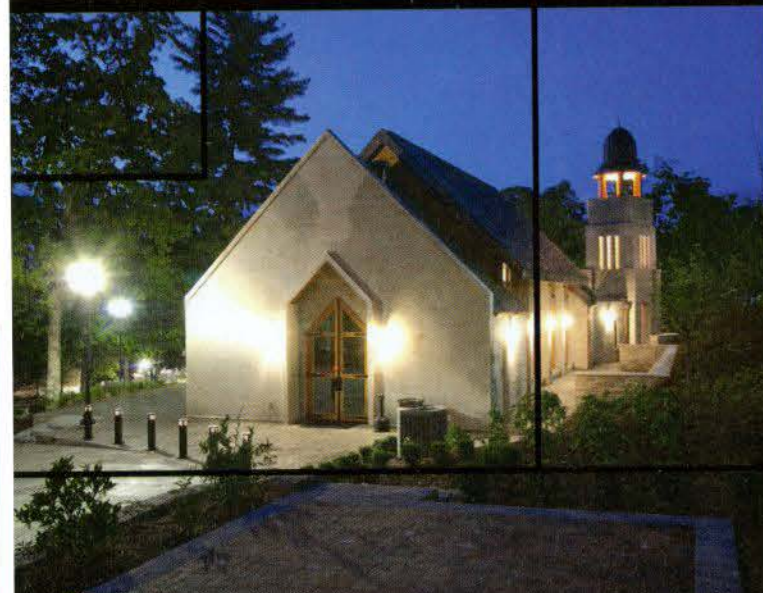
Almost 20 years later, "I believe we have done just that."



"It was clear to the Board of Regents and to me that the campus needed a major overhaul. It was a strong mandate to me to lead a major rebuilding of the physical plant on our main campus in Bowling Green, and to build proper facilities on all three of our regional campuses."

PRESIDENT GARY A. RANSELL





"Only about 20 percent of the construction has been funded with state money. Most was done through public or private partnerships, private gifts, municipal bonds, tax increment financing, off-balance recapitalization through a new Student Life Foundation to rebuild our residence halls, and two iterations of a campus building fee wrapped into our tuition rates."

PRESIDENT GARY A. RANSELL

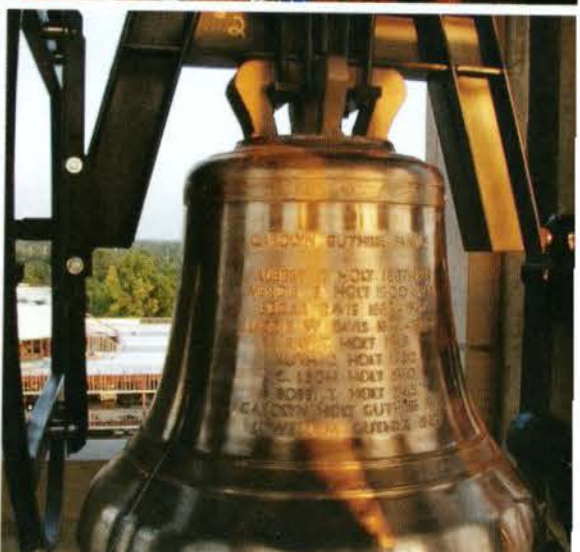
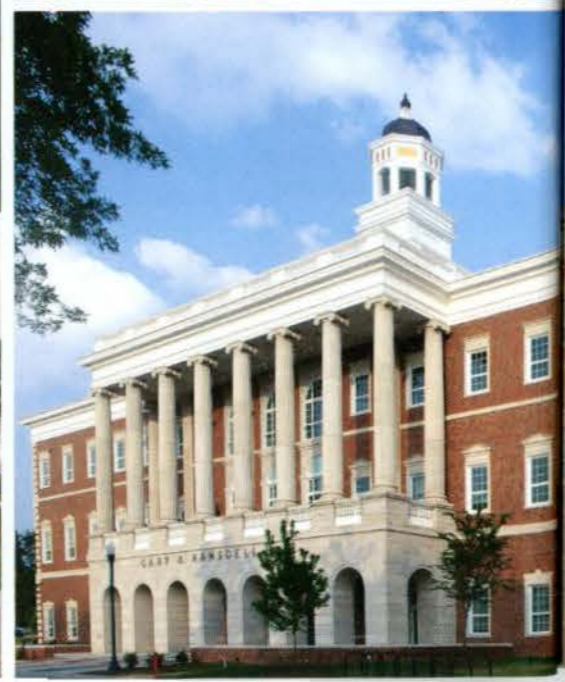
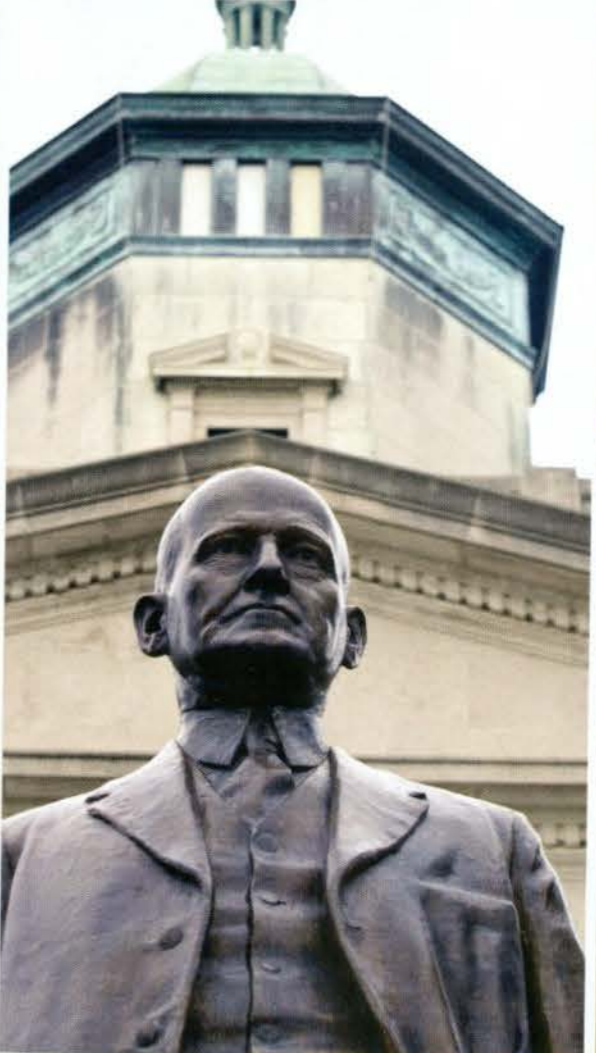
"Several academic buildings on the main campus have been built, renovated or replaced. Student life and performance facilities have been rebuilt. Athletic facilities have been renovated and expanded," President Ransdell said. "All three regional campuses now enjoy new buildings."

Funding was the biggest hurdle, especially with the pressure put on the University by decreasing state support.

"Only about 20 percent of the construction has been funded with state money," he said. "Most was done through public or private partnerships, private gifts, municipal bonds, tax increment financing, off-balance recapitalization through a new Student Life Foundation to

rebuild our residence halls, and two iterations of a campus building fee wrapped into our tuition rates."

Many of the changes are very noticeable, as visitors who have been away from campus for a long time can attest. New and renovated buildings sit on all parts of the campus, green space is well kept and the campus has returned to a park-like atmosphere. Other changes are less noticeable, although no less important, such as a complete overhaul of the underground electrical and steam systems, a heavy emphasis on energy efficiency, outdoor sculptures and the addition of thousands of trees that led to WKU's designation as a campus arboretum. All of this creates a welcoming environment for student, faculty, staff and visitors.



The list of projects is nearly 270 items long. Academic-related projects account for nearly half (\$449 million), followed by student life (\$338 million), campus-wide (\$161 million), athletics (\$99 million), research (\$10 million) and beautification (\$6.5 million).

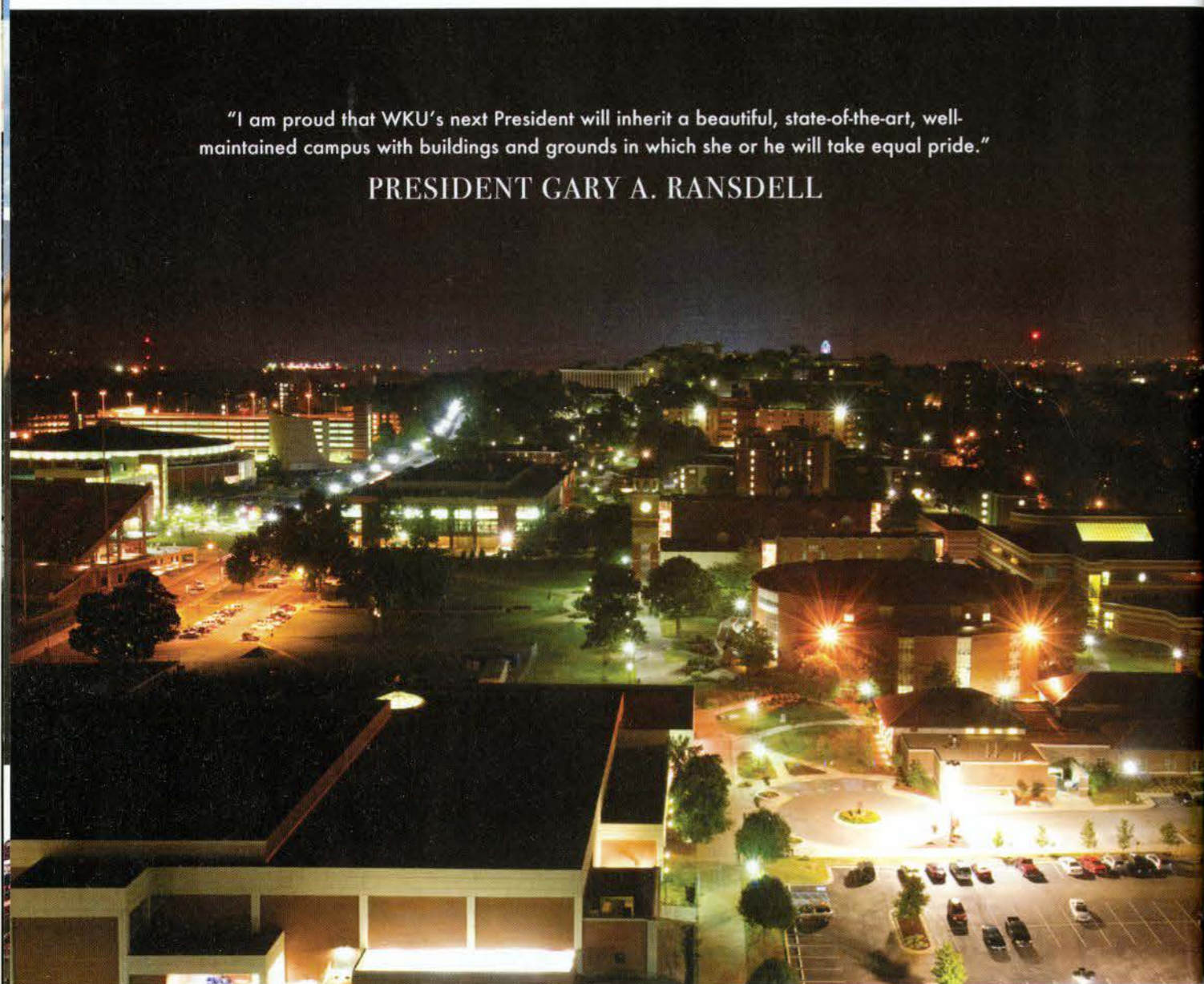
There are more than 20 new buildings on the WKU campuses while another 36 have undergone major renovations or expansions. Five additional buildings are being planned

and four more slated for renovation or expansion. All of this is being done while keeping the campus debt ratio at just over 5 percent of the campus budget.

"I am proud that WKU's next President will inherit a beautiful, state-of-the-art, well-maintained campus with buildings and grounds in which she or he will take equal pride," President Ransdell said.

"I am proud that WKU's next President will inherit a beautiful, state-of-the-art, well-maintained campus with buildings and grounds in which she or he will take equal pride."

PRESIDENT GARY A. RANSELL



CAMPUS TRANSFORMED

NEW BUILDINGS

- WKU Glasgow Regional Center
- Mass Media and Technology Hall
- Engineering and Biological Sciences Building
- Parking Structure 2
- Adams-Whitaker Student Publications Building
- Pearce-Ford Tower Food Court
- Health Services Center
- Snell Hall
- Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex
- Chandler Memorial Chapel
- WKU Owensboro Administration Building
- Music Rehearsal Hall
- Paul C. Orberon Baseball Clubhouse
- Softball Complex
- Gary A. Ransdell Hall
- USDA Greenhouse
- Gateway Apartments
- Augenstein Alumni Center
- Medical Center-WKU Health Sciences Complex
- Kentucky Street Apartments
- Honors College/International Center
- Confucius Institute Building

MAJOR RENOVATIONS/EXPANSIONS

- McLean Hall
- Bates-Runner Hall
- Northeast Hall
- Southwest Hall
- E. A. Diddle Arena
- Barnes-Campbell Hall
- Bemis-Lawrence Hall
- Hugh Poland Hall
- Downing Student Union
- Center for Research and Development
- Minton Hall
- Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium
- College High Hall
- Meredith Hall
- Zacharias Hall
- Keen Hall
- Gilbert Hall
- McCormack Hall
- Pearce-Ford Tower
- Rodes-Harlin Hall
- Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center
- Van Meter Hall
- Knically Conference Center
- Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center
- Academic Complex
- Craig Administration Building
- Florence Schneider Hall-Carol M. Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky

MAJOR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

- Diddle Park
- Guthrie Tower and Plaza
- Centennial Mall
- Centennial Mosaic
- Charles Keown Plaza
- Guthrie Fountain and Van Meter Overlook



Julie Ransdell

By Carol Cummings ('92)

Julie Ransdell may not be on the payroll of Western Kentucky University, but many say she might possibly be one of WKU's greatest treasures.

As the wife of WKU President Gary A. Ransdell, she has spent the last 19 years working both quietly behind the scenes and on the front lines of leadership alongside her husband. Those close to the action often refer to the couple as "Team Ransdell," as they recognize the unique role Julie Ransdell has played in the the University's success.

Julie Bush first came to WKU as a 17-year-old freshman in 1970. She had toured WKU, along with three of her friends, during her senior year of high school. The Louisville, Ky., native wasn't interested in attending her parents' alma mater, Centre College, and when she first visited WKU, she just knew that was where she wanted to be. The Elementary Education major got a job as a student worker at what was then Downing University Center and pledged Chi Omega sorority.

"Greek life was the best experience for me," Julie Ransdell said. "I tell students today to find their niche. It can be anything—a campus activity or a club—but get involved and find your place. For me, Greek life anchored me and gave me my friends for life."

In a way, it also led her to her husband. She first met Gary Ransdell at a 1971 Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity rush event when he was a sophomore potential pledge and she was an SAE little sister who was dating an active member. She immediately made an impression on him, but the feeling wasn't necessarily mutual.

"It wasn't that I didn't like him," she explained. "I just wasn't that interested. He was a pledge, and I was already dating an active and was involved in sorority life. I did not give him the time of day. But he's a very persistent thing. It took a few months, but we went out on a date and then it was just a whirlwind."

The two were married less than two years later during their senior year, and they have now been married for more than 40 years. After graduation, Julie Ransdell taught for Russellville and Barren County schools in Kentucky and in elementary schools in Bloomington, Ind., and Clemson, S.C.

"I thoroughly enjoyed teaching, though Gary always said I spent more money on my classroom than I ever made," she said with a laugh.

However, she willingly hung up her teacher hat in 1997 when Gary Ransdell was named WKU's ninth President. "It was fun to close that chapter and start a new one," Julie Ransdell said of their return to the Hill.

During the years under Dr. Ransdell's leadership, Julie Ransdell has certainly taken a completely active role in giving back. "My main job as a presidential spouse is entertaining guests and dignitaries on campus," she explained. "That involves far more than just showing up. I don't have a housekeeper or a secretary, so most of the planning falls on me. This includes everything from menus, flowers, venues, guest lists, directions and parking, to individual dietary restrictions. I know that how people leave an event is how they view the University and Gary."

Dr. Ransdell says Julie has been an amazing partner with him as they have performed the duties of the job. "She has managed the President's home with style and graciousness—and we have used the house and grounds extensively for guests, alumni, students, faculty and staff," he said. "She has served on numerous campus committees and assisted departments and programs with whatever they needed. She has helped raise money and has worked the politics of the job exceedingly well."

A large part of what Julie Ransdell does is related to development, and a key factor of the University's transformation under Dr. Ransdell has been the dramatic increase in private giving and revenue generated through two capital campaigns. One of the fundraising projects that has been near to her heart is the WKU Sisterhood, which she calls her "favorite group." The WKU Sisterhood is group of women who pool their resources to support worthy projects at the University. Each member of the WKU Sisterhood commits to a gift of \$1,000 per year, and the donations are placed into a restricted fund. Faculty, staff and students are invited to apply for funding from the WKU Sisterhood, and the full membership of the group votes on the distribution of the funds at the annual business luncheon each fall. Julie Ransdell serves as Co-Chair of the group alongside Kristen Miller, a 1997 alumna.

"I have absolutely loved getting to work with Julie on the WKU Sisterhood," Miller said. "Time and time again, her in-depth knowledge of the University's priorities and what's happening on campus have been tremendously helpful as we make our decisions. You can tell how

invested she is and how much she understands the bigger picture, which is so beneficial to those of us who may not fully understand what the impact of one of our grants might be on a particular group."

And Miller says there has never been a question Julie Ransdell cannot answer. "When we're in our annual meeting and someone doesn't understand the purpose of a request under consideration or is confused about how a request might play into the University's future goals, she can always fill in the blanks," she said. "We have yet to come across a department or project she didn't know all about."

Aside from excelling as a hostess and a fundraiser, Julie Ransdell has also made a mark upon countless WKU students as a mentor, friend and mother figure, and she frequently hosts student groups at the President's home on Chestnut Street. "I don't know how many pizzas, hamburgers and hotdogs I have served over the years, but I have enjoyed the student interactions the most," she said.

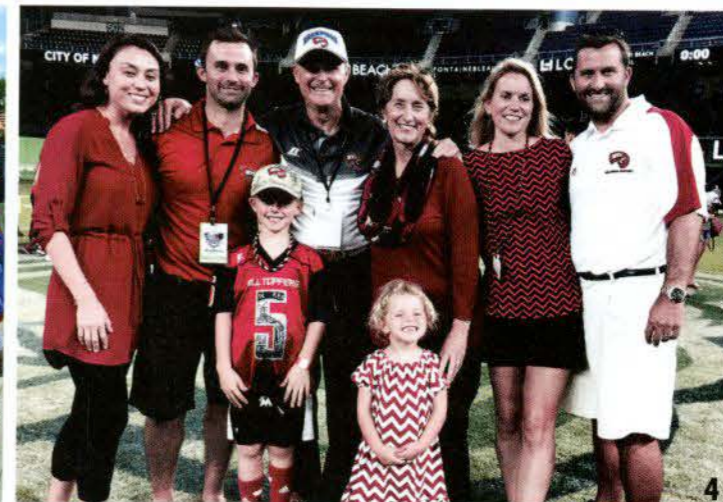
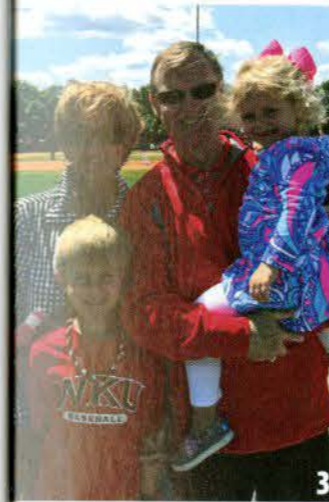
When she first moved back to Bowling Green, Julie Ransdell and her neighbor, Ann Allen, decided to start walking early in the morning to "lose a little weight and live a healthier lifestyle."

This 90-minute walk with her dogs—Spirit, Diddle and Tsavo—has become a regular part of her daily routine, and the sight of "Mrs. Julie" walking her dogs has become a frequent sight to students. "Many students stop and talk with me," she said. "They may be missing home and just need to hug my dogs."

Longtime friend Susan Minton of Bowling Green, Ky., says Julie Ransdell's love for the students and ability to focus on them are some of the things that make her such a unique and dynamic leader. "She entertains all groups at a tremendous level at WKU," she said, "but she brings the students in and makes them such an important part of the presidency. She's been a mom to so many kids at Western. With her schedule, student events are always her first priority."

President Ransdell agrees. "She makes people feel welcome," he said. "She ensures that our students are loved and that they know they belong here. She is the best ambassador we have."

Julie Ransdell is indeed a fixture at student events, and she always enjoys the fall when student activities are in full swing.



"SHE MAKES PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME. SHE ENSURES THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE LOVED AND THAT THEY KNOW THEY BELONG HERE. SHE IS THE BEST AMBASSADOR WE HAVE."

- PRESIDENT RANSDELL

TOP TO BOTTOM: 1| Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell greet students on the first day of classes. 2| The Ransdells celebrate a campus snow day with WKU students 3| The Ransdells with their grandchildren, Walker and Collins. 4| The Ransdell family (left to right: Sandra, Matthew, Walker, Gary, Julie, Collins, Brooke and Patrick) at the December 2015 Miami Beach Bowl. 5| Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell with the famous Budweiser Clydesdales. 6| Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell help a student with directions on the first day of the fall semester. 7| The Ransdells welcome international students to a picnic at the President's home.

"I enjoy May when I can cross Chestnut Street without fearing for my life," she laughed. "But by the end of July, I'm stir crazy. In the fall, we generally entertain five nights a week, and I enjoy it all. We also attend many campus events, such as theatre and dance performances, forensics tournaments and sporting events. We also have two boys (Patrick, WKU Class of 2002, and Matthew, WKU Class of 2006) who played baseball at WKU, so we had eight years where we never missed a game."

Her favorite experiences, though, have come through sharing study abroad trips with WKU students. "We have had the opportunity to travel to many places with students, including China, England, Italy and Iceland," she said. "Africa and the Galapagos Islands were our favorites. You get to know the students so well. Some have never traveled abroad before, and they come back as completely different people."

In addition to Julie Ransdell's loyalty and love for the students, she is also a devoted friend. "Julie Ransdell is one of the best friends I have had in my life," said Dixie

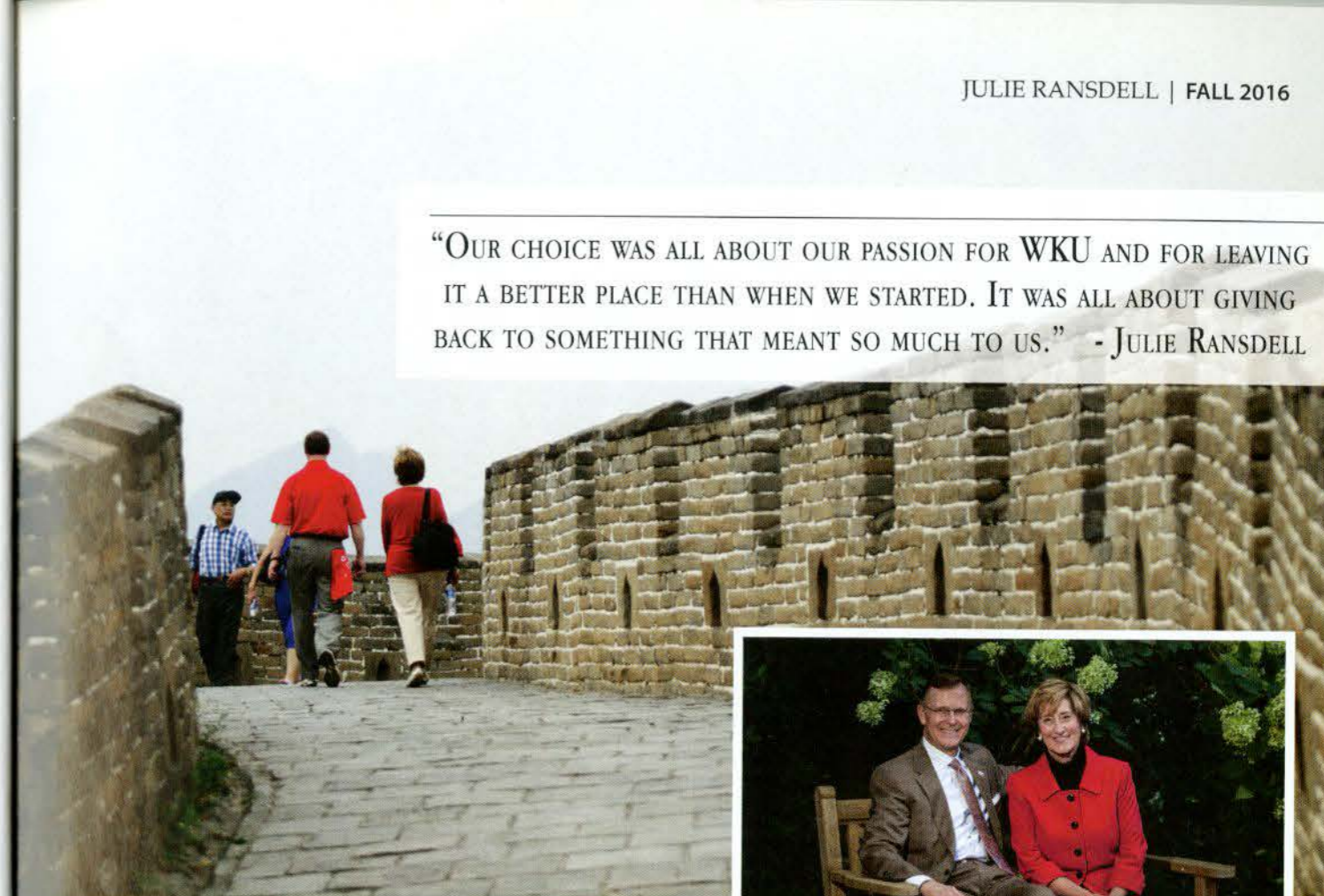
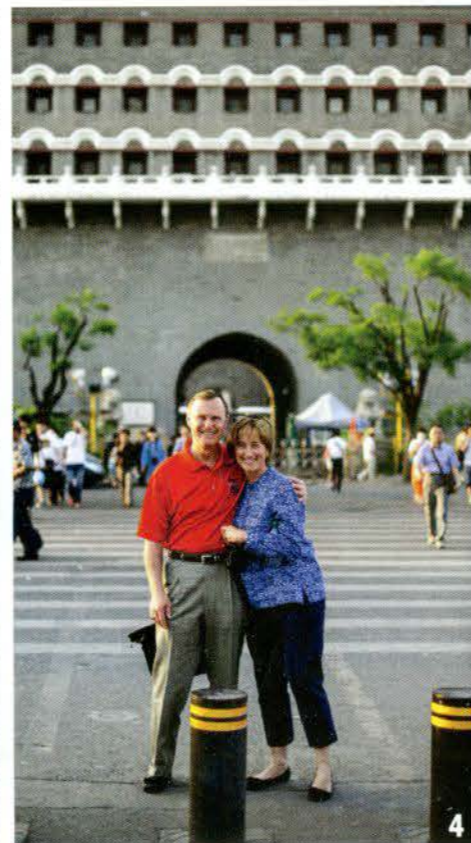
Mahurin, a 1962 and 1967 alumna and Academic Advisor in WKU's Student Athlete Success Center. "Julie is the friend I call when things are good or when things are bad. She is the friend I call when a student is in trouble or needs help. She is the friend with whom I celebrate the accomplishments of our children and the births of our grandchildren."

Kristen Miller says that Julie Ransdell is a truly authentic person. "Julie is entirely, unapologetically, Julie," she said. "She is the same delightful person whether she's talking to a frightened freshman or a big-time donor. She is so grounded, so genuine. If she's having a bad day, she doesn't hide it, and if she feels like laughing out loud, you'll hear it. She is true to who she is, which I find so refreshing from someone in a position of responsibility and authority like hers."

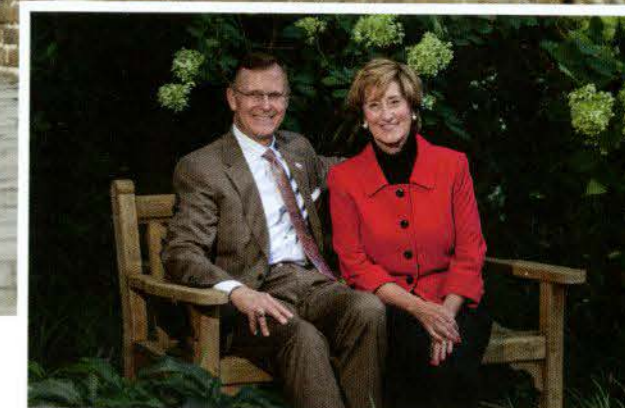
Gail Brooks, a 1975 alumna, has been friends with Julie Ransdell since their college days when they were in Chi Omega sorority together and Gail's future husband, Kevin, a 1974 alumnus, was Gary Ransdell's fraternity brother. "Julie was a very centered, conscientious, well-rounded student and one you looked up to," she said.

"OUR CHOICE WAS ALL ABOUT OUR PASSION FOR WKU AND FOR LEAVING IT A BETTER PLACE THAN WHEN WE STARTED. IT WAS ALL ABOUT GIVING BACK TO SOMETHING THAT MEANT SO MUCH TO US." - JULIE RANSDELL

TOP TO BOTTOM: 1| WKU Sisterhood Co-Chairs Julie Ransdell and Kristen Miller recognize grant recipients. 2| Julie and Dr. Gary Ransdell assist students on the first day of classes. 3| Julie Ransdell poses with grant recipients and members of the WKU Sisterhood. 4| Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell tour Beijing, China, with members of The Symphony at WKU.



ABOVE: The Ransdells at the Great Wall of China



Brooks says their relationship has changed over the years as they have remained connected with a tight circle of couples from their college days. "We have always been close, but now we are able to spend time together as couples and renew our friendships," she said. "We travel together as a group, and it's a time when everyone drops their careers and just becomes college friends again. It's fun that we've been able to keep that up. Not many friendships last that long."

Outside of her responsibilities at WKU, Ransdell loves yard work. "I don't have pretty nails because I can't use garden gloves," she said. "I also love to read (her favorites are mysteries and novels set in World War II), travel and spend time with my family, including my grandchildren."

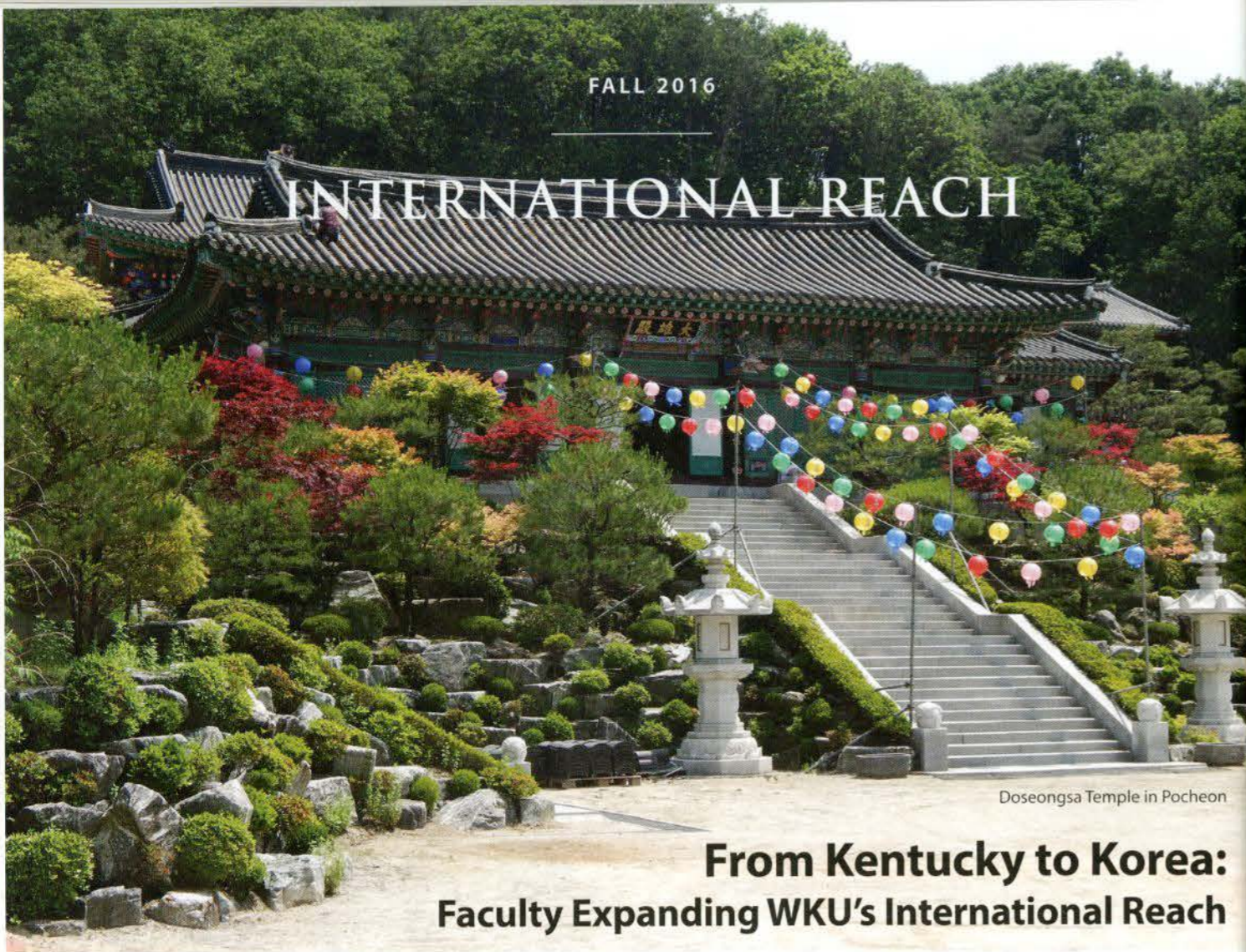
The Ransdells' oldest son, Patrick, is married to the former Brooke Thrasher, a 2004 WKU alumna and former cheerleader. The couple has two children, Walker, who is 8, and Collins, who is almost 4. They live in Orlando, Fla., where Patrick works in the athletics office at the University of Central Florida. Their younger son, Matthew, is married to Sandra, whom he met at Stetson Law School, and the

couple, who married two years ago at Chandler Memorial Chapel, lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Miller said that it has been clear from day one that Julie Ransdell was definitely not just along for the ride. "I think she very clearly understood from the very beginning that a university presidency, especially at a school as beloved as WKU, is not just a one-person job," she said. "It really takes a total team effort to accomplish as much as they have in the past 20 years, and they make it look so easy."

President Ransdell calls Julie the best advisor he has had. "She sure has a way of keeping me grounded," he said. "Our best personal memories are our days as students when we fell in love here, and the years we spent watching our sons and daughter-in-law create their own WKU experiences. Julie is all in for WKU. Her Hilltopper Spirit is as deep and rich as anyone's."

Together, Team Ransdell has worked tirelessly to transform WKU. "Our choice was all about our passion for WKU and for leaving it a better place than when we started," Julie Ransdell said. "It was all about giving back to something that meant so much to us."



Doseongsa Temple in Pocheon

From Kentucky to Korea: Faculty Expanding WKU's International Reach

In the fall of 2016 South Korea will take center stage for the third annual International Year Of... (IYO). Following a vibrant and active yearlong focus on South Africa in 2015-2016, WKU audiences will have multiple opportunities—through academic courses, public lectures, art exhibits and other interactive activities—to deepen their understanding of South Korea's rich culture, complex political history and rapid economic rise. For a cohort of WKU faculty members, the investigation of the East Asian nation began nearly a year earlier.

Just days after the May 2016 commencement ceremonies, 10 WKU faculty and staff members boarded a plane bound for Seoul, South Korea. The international leg of the third annual Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty

Seminar (ZSEIFS) was officially underway.

The ZSEIFS is an intensive academic program geared toward WKU faculty and designed to promote comprehensive internationalization. Each year, faculty members are selected from different disciplines and backgrounds to participate in a semester of concentrated study and preparation that culminates in a two- to three-week program in the target country. Not only does the ZSEIFS position a core group of faculty to play a lead role during the relevant IYO, it also serves as a springboard for their long-term engagement with the target country.

In line with its interdisciplinary aims, the ZSEIFS South Korea participants hailed from three academic colleges and seven different departments, their individual areas of study ranging from occupational

health to Buddhism, folk studies to early childhood development, along with gender and communication, psychology and educational accountability. This diversity was further accentuated by the fact that each faculty member came to Korea with a unique set of professional goals.

Such a multi-disciplinary makeup might not seem like a recipe for cohesion and collaboration. And yet, that is precisely what the ZSEIFS seeks to achieve.

"It is this very capacity to foster cohesion, bridging distinct and distant disciplines while supporting individual faculty in pursuit of academic goals, that allows the ZSEIFS to punch above its weight as a professional development program," said Addie Cheney, Assistant Director of International Programs.



TOP LEFT: ZSEIFS South Korea participants visited the Korea Foundation Global Center in Seoul. | TOP RIGHT: ZSEIFS South Korea participants discussed U.S.-Korea relations with Cultural Affairs Officer Mark Canning at the U.S. Embassy's American Center in Seoul. | BOTTOM LEFT: ZSEIFS South Korea participants discussed the history of Buddhism during a visit to the Doseongsa Temple in Pocheon. | BOTTOM RIGHT: ZSEIFS South Korea participants exchanged business cards with faculty and staff at Konkuk University.

The Office of International Programs (OIP), which administers the ZSEIFS, has already seen a multitude of outcomes stemming from its first two iterations (Ecuador, 2014; South Africa, 2015), among them joint research projects, new education abroad courses, a Fulbright Scholar award and countless academic courses imbued with new international content.

"I continue to see faculty who have never met before—and likely never would—discover common research or service interests through a ZSEIFS," said Cheney. "Reenergized by the experience and armed with new knowledge and an expanded network of contacts, ZSEIFS alumni are reshaping WKU's international profile."

These positive outcomes are not the result of chance, but rather careful

planning and significant preparation. From the outset, faculty leader Dr. Tim Rich, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Cheney, who served as co-leader, strove to create a program that would facilitate an interdisciplinary study of South Korea, foster group dynamics, and provide the space and support for faculty to pursue their distinct goals—a process that began more than a year before the group touched down on the Korean peninsula.

Participants also turned their focus to South Korea long before their journey overseas, meeting regularly throughout the spring semester to discuss common readings and laying a foundation of knowledge for the coming academic sojourn.

The two-week itinerary in South

Korea brought to life the history, culture and systems they had been studying—both individually and collectively—throughout the previous semester, introduced them to new professional opportunities and served as a platform for continued social capital building. A visit to the Korea Foundation provided a concentrated overview of Korea's complex history and familiarized faculty with funding opportunities for research and teaching. Participants explored the social hierarchy of traditional Korean architecture at a hanok village and examined religious iconography and rituals during a visit to a Buddhist temple. Korea's economic and educational systems were at the center of multiple lectures from local scholars, while a briefing from a U.S.

"I came back with ideas not only on how to incorporate knowledge about Korea into my own classes, but also ways to provide Korean content into several of my Department's Colonnade courses and to collaborate on public programming with the Kentucky Museum and Kentucky Folklife Program."

- Dr. Michael Ann Williams, Professor and Department Head, Folk Studies and Anthropology -



Pavilion at Gyeongbokgung Palace, the main royal palace of the Joseon dynasty

diplomat offered insight into U.S.-Korean relations. Rich, who specializes in political behavior in East Asia and North Korean politics, arranged for a visit to the palpably tense Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas.

Formal visits to WKU's three partner universities, Hanyang University, Konkuk University and Yonsei University, punctuated the two-week program. During these visits, participants connected with their counterparts and discussed options for academic exchanges of students and faculty.

When not exploring key cultural sites or visiting partner universities, faculty were pounding the pavement of Korea in pursuit of their individual goals.

For Dr. D'Lee Babb, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, the ZSEIFS was a springboard for

expanding her professional repertoire to include international teaching. "The ZSEIFS experience enabled me to take a program being developed on paper and make it come alive, filling in the details with wonderful preschools where we can observe, Korean faculty to learn from and cultural experiences we don't want to miss," she said.

Alongside Babb, several other ZSEIFS participants have plans to return to teach. Following meetings with WKU's partner universities in Korea, Dr. Kimberlee Everson and Dr. Samuel Kim, assistant professors of Quantitative Methods and Psychology, respectively, are exploring options to couple their research agendas with international teaching.

Eager to open up new lines of research or expand upon existing ones, most all of the participants dedicated

significant energy and time to research-related pursuits. For some, it was a unique opportunity to conduct primary research. Dr. Helen Sterk, Professor and Department Head of Communication, conducted nearly half a dozen interviews during her time in South Korea, making significant headway on a project centering on leadership and women faculty.

Dr. Jeff Samuels, Professor of Religious Studies, approached the ZSEIFS with an eye toward growing the number of students participating in academic exchanges in South Korea. As Program Director of WKU's burgeoning Asian Religions and Cultures major, the ZSEIFS afforded him an ideal opportunity to become more familiar with academic options available at WKU's three partner schools.

Samuels hit on what makes the ZSEIFS a valuable tool in WKU's pursuit of comprehensive internationalization:

"The ZSEIFS to South Korea was an awakening experience on so many levels," he said. "I learned as much about Korea and our partner institutions as I did about the other participants from across WKU's different departments and colleges. I feel certain that the cohesive atmosphere among all participants will continue to strengthen the University as we work toward the goals of internationalization and collaborative scholarship."

Rich, like Samuels, emphasized the potential for Korea-oriented outcomes in the long-term, predicting not only publications, but new classes at WKU, student research, internships and study abroad opportunities.

If Samuels and Rich are right, WKU should expect South Korea to occupy a more prominent role in WKU's overall international picture, starting with the forthcoming International Year of South Korea.



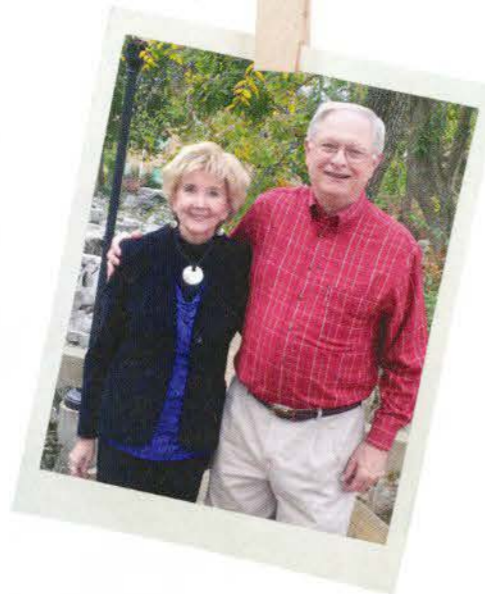
Hearts on the Hill

Did you meet at M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan? Did your eyes meet across the room at the Goal Post? Did a friendship in Biology class turn into the love of your life? Did you propose at the Kissing Bridge?

These were the questions we posed in the Spring 2016 issue of WKU SPIRIT. We knew you were out there, as alumni records indicate more than 13,000 WKU graduates are married to another graduate. In fact, WKU was recently ranked by *Bustle* as the No. 1 campus for falling in love, and even WKU President Gary Ransdell found his wife, Julie, during his time as an undergraduate!

We asked, and you certainly delivered, as many of you submitted your stories and photographs. Though you can read all of them online at alumni.wku.edu/wkuspirit, for now we hope you will enjoy reading these six stories representing different generations of "Hearts on the Hill."





Just in the Nick of Time

DAVID ('68, '69) AND CHARLENE ('69) ARVIN | HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

According to David Arvin, he and Charlene Miller met just in the nick of time.

"We followed the same road to our master's degree, but we certainly drove in different lanes," David said. "Having graduated from Georgetown College in 1965, Charlene took a job teaching at Flaherty Elementary School in Meade County. Two or three years later, she was looking around for a place to get her master's degree and learned that the WKU Department of Education taught classes one night per week at what was then Durrett High School in Louisville."

So Charlene pursued her graduate program with night classes at Durrett combined with summer school classes in 1968 and 1969, finishing in August of 1969.

Unlike Charlene, David was a Hilltopper through and through. After receiving his undergraduate degree from WKU in 1968, he also began taking graduate courses at Durrett High School at the very same time Charlene was there taking another class. Like Charlene, David also went to summer school on campus in 1968 and 1969. They were also both in the same graduate program (Guidance and Counseling), and both received their M.A. degrees on the same night. However, the two never met until the week of graduation.

"On Tuesday of that week, three days before graduation, the Department held an end-of-summer barbecue at Lampkin Park," David reflected. "There were about 60 people present, and I knew nearly everyone—everyone, that is, except a beautiful green-eyed brunette whom I had never seen before. I quickly learned who she was and walked over and introduced myself. We chatted briefly, and I told her I would call her the next day."

The two had their first date on Aug. 6, 1969, when they watched *The Chairman* at the Capitol Theater and went up on the Hill and parked in front of Van Meter to get a spectacular view of Bowling Green and the countryside beyond.

"We talked about a lot of things, and I instinctively knew she was the ONE, so I proposed to her right there," David said. "She didn't say 'yes' that night, but she didn't say 'no' either. Two days later, we both graduated and left Bowling Green—Charlene going back to Flaherty and me going home to Pembroke."

The two continued to see one another as often as possible for two people living 140 miles apart.

"A few months later, I asked her to marry me again, and this time she said 'yes,'" David said. "We were married on April 11, 1970. Forty-six years and many miles later, she is still the ONE."



The Girl in the Yellow Jacket

DAVID ('03) AND MERIDITH ('04) DORAN | BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

It all started with a yellow jacket and a missed turn driving to class one cold January day. David Doran missed his usual turn and took an alternate route. He passed a girl walking up the Hill in a yellow jacket, and she really caught his eye.

The same girl arrived at the front door of the Environmental Science and Technology Building, where the first day of his spring semester Agriculture 101 class was located, at the same time as he did. She followed him into the building. He walked down the hallway and found his classroom. The girl in the yellow jacket followed him into the classroom and sat down in the row across from him. They politely said "hello" as they were the first students in the classroom.

The professor's first assignment was for the students to number off to divide the class into working groups where they would complete an assigned project together for the remainder of the semester. David realized that he did not get the same number as the girl in the yellow jacket, so he quickly asked a friend to swap numbers with him so he could be in her group.

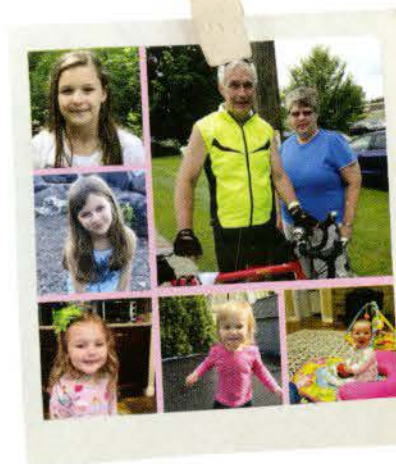
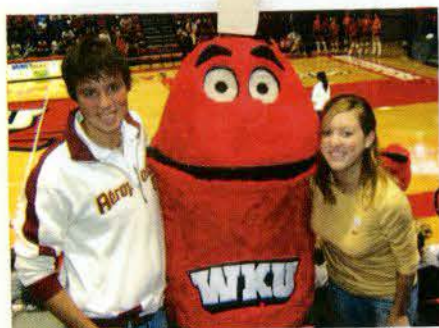
The professor then told the students that one person in each group needed to be the president of the group and collect

everyone's phone numbers. David swiftly volunteered himself to become the group president, learned the girl's name was Meredith Martin and got her phone number.

As the days went by, David made the alternate route to class his new driving route. He saw Meredith walking to class every day that he had Ag 101, so he asked her if she wanted a ride to class. She politely declined and said that she needed the exercise.

David did not take no for an answer, so after several repeated offers for a ride he asked her if she wanted to go to lunch. She finally gave in and went to lunch with him. As the weeks went on, David and Meredith had many study sessions in the campus library together, and she went to many WKU Football and Basketball games, as David was a WKU Cheerleader. After two years of dating, David asked Meredith if she would be his wife, and the rest is history.

David and Meredith were married on Aug. 9, 2003, and they are now the parents of 8-year-old Justin and 5-year-old Allie. And yes, Meredith still has the yellow jacket!



The Stars Aligned in Astronomy Class

TYLER ('09) AND MOLLY ('10) HART | BROOKS, KENTUCKY

It all started during the first semester of their freshman year, in Dr. Plummer's Western Civilization class. Tyler Hart noticed Molly Cecil from across the room and thought she was pretty cute, but never introduced himself.

The next semester, Molly had Dr. Bohuski's Astronomy class on her schedule. Her friend Sam (one of WKU's finest Big Red mascots) was registered for the same class, so they decided to meet up and sit together on the first day. Molly was a little late getting there (that HILL!) and had to sit in the back, but she spotted her friend Sam closer to the front talking with a guy friend.

From what Molly could see, she thought the guy might be cute and couldn't wait to find out who he was. When class was over, Molly introduced herself, and Tyler realized she

was the cute girl from last semester's History class! The stars aligned . . . it was meant to be!

In the following days, there was flirting, writing notes to one another during Astronomy class, talking on AIM (AOL Instant Messenger) and hanging out in the dorms. Tyler officially asked Molly to be his girlfriend the day before her 19th birthday in the lobby of Hugh Poland Hall.

On a crisp fall day, six years after they first met, Tyler asked Molly to marry him. The two had their engagement photos captured on the Hill, right in the Astronomy classroom (and in the Planetarium!) where they officially met.

They were married on Oct. 27, 2012. This year marked 10 years together for these two lovebirds, and they are expecting their first little Hilltopper this Fall!

She's Still the One

ALLEN ('77) AND SUNSHINE ('76) KLEIN | MONROE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

After 40 years, two daughters, two sons-in-law and five granddaughters, Allen Klein says his wife, Sunshine, is "still the one I want whisperin' in my ear."

"It all began at Western," Allen said. "A small town Kentucky girl spotted that guy from New York in that Biology class we both hated. A double date was arranged by mutual friends and ended with us strolling through the campus by ourselves."

Allen and Sunshine both lived on campus—he in Pearce Ford Tower and she in Central Hall, which is now Minton Hall. In those days, the guys could only visit their girlfriends' rooms a few times a year during open houses, so the guys got a bit creative.

"Central was a women's dorm and, after a night on the town in Bowling Green, the guys would take their girls back to Central and find a comfortable seat in the parlor area to watch TV," Allen explained. "In an effort to create the correct ambiance for such an endeavor, the lights would gradually be turned down by the guys to a more suitable level. Until such time as Ms. Nesbitt, the kindly dorm director, would appear. Always looking out for her 'girls,' Ms. Nesbitt would begin turning all those lights back on,

thus dousing any flames of passion that may have ignited."

The couple dated throughout the remainder of their college years, keeping in touch during school breaks when they were away from campus. "In those days before cell phones there were only long distance phone calls and letters, which you actually wrote on paper and sent it through the post office," Allen said. "Those phone calls and letters became more frequent with each vacation."

After graduating in 1976 and 1977, Allen and Sunshine married and moved to New York City, which was quite an adventure for Sunshine, who had grown up in Horse Cave, Ky., which had one stoplight. Sunshine went to work for a company in the Empire State Building. Al still works in the City across the street from the World Trade Center and commutes from New Jersey each day.

Allen said the big question from others has always been, "How did this guy from New York wind up at Western and meet this great girl?"

"I just have to answer, 'Divine Providence,'" Allen said. "Sunshine and I have much to be thankful for, and we always include in this our time at Western."



The Most Beautiful Girl I Had Ever Seen

HARDIN ('56) AND MARILYN ('56) MCLANE | ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

Hardin McLane says he owes WKU for two very big things: paying for his college education and allowing him to find the love of his life.

During the first week of the fall 1954 semester, the 20-year-old junior entered the school cafeteria to view the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. The girl turned out to be Marilyn Taylor, a 17-year-old freshman.

"I knew I had better get busy meeting her or I wouldn't have a chance with so many guys around," Hardin McLane reflected.

Hardin introduced himself to Marilyn, struck up a conversation and asked her out for a date. "Our first date was on Sunday morning at First Baptist Church, and then we went for lunch at the College Street Inn for two steak dinners for \$1.25 each," he said. "A big advantage I had was living at Diddle Dorm, the basketball players' dorm, and I had a Buick convertible."

After a few dates, Hardin knew this was the girl he wanted to marry. "I had found out she was more beautiful on the inside than even on the outside," he said.

As then-Head Coach E.A. Diddle did not want his "boys" to have anything to do with girls during basketball season, Hardin waited until March to ask Marilyn to marry him.

"I had a full scholarship that was paying my way through college, and I didn't want Coach Diddle to take that away before my senior year," Hardin explained. "But in March, before asking Marilyn, I went to Coach Diddle and told him that I was going to ask Marilyn to marry me with the ceremony being in the summer after school was out."

Coach Diddle told Hardin he had "better marry that girl," because he would "never do better than Marilyn."

So on Aug. 20, 1955, Hardin and Marilyn were married and moved to an apartment in Bowling Green. "Coach Diddle not only let me keep my basketball scholarship, but every two or three weeks he would come to our apartment with a big bag of groceries. We loved that man!"

Now, more than 60 years later, the two are still happily married and make sure to say "I love you" every day.



A Good Investment

WHITEY ('55) AND JOYCE SANDERS | FT. MYERS, FLORIDA

The way Whitey Sanders likes to tell it, the summer of 1953 was a particularly warm one when legendary WKU Basketball Coach E. A. Diddle pulled up to the curb in front of Wells Drug Store on the corner of the town square in Munfordville, Ky.

"Coach Diddle was there for a brief visit with his old friend, Howard Wells, owner of the pharmacy and soda shop located on a corner of old 31-W, which ran right through town," Whitey explained. "As Diddle walked into the drugstore, Howard Wells was finishing a phone call. Around the corner and two blocks down the street, teenagers Joyce and Joan Wallace, known by everyone as the Wallace twins, were enjoying their day off from working behind the soda fountain at the drugstore when the phone rang and they were asked to come up to meet the famous coach."

Aware of Coach Diddle's penchant for masterful promotion of his colorful Hilltopper Basketball team, Wells introduced the twins and explained that the two were cheerleaders at Munfordville High School. Ever alert, Diddle inquired if the girls might be coming to WKU that fall. They shyly allowed as how they were "thinking about it." Diddle lobbied the idea at length and added, "Now you come on down to Western and be cheerleaders for us!" The girls eventually decided to take him up on his offer.

That fall, Whitey was taking part in one of the September rituals on the Hill by sitting on a retaining wall along the sidewalk that led into the old student union cafeteria, checking out the

"new crop" of freshman girls walking to lunch.

The freshman who struck Whitey's fancy turned out to be Joyce Wallace. She and her sister, Joan, were unanimously elected cheerleaders, garnering total support from the football team, the basketball team and Coach Diddle.

"Our courtship ran the usual course, and in 1954 I put \$50 down on a 1949 Chevrolet and \$50 down on an engagement ring," Whitey said. "The first investment lasted two years, but the second has been good for 61 years. I took Joyce down by the overlook at the swimming pool behind the old Diddle Gym and asked her to marry me."

The two were married on the afternoon of Feb. 12, 1955.

"The roads were covered with ice and I was covered—much to the dismay of my bride—with a charcoal and pink zoot suit," Whitey said. "It was the first suit I had owned since I was in the eighth grade and had to attend a cousin's wedding. You have to understand that at the time, the 'in' colors were charcoal and pink. String ties, those of the one-inch wide variety, were also the coolest guys' fashion accessory. So what could be better than a wool charcoal suit with pink flecks, a two-button roll, double split coattail and a pink string tie? I was to learn after the fact that almost any costume in the known universe would have been better for a traditional wedding in a traditional Methodist Church in the traditional village of Munfordville, Ky."

MOMENT IN HISTORY

This story is a reprint from the Fall 1997 issue of ALUMNI magazine, the predecessor of WKU SPIRIT.

Ransdell returns to alma mater to be named ninth President at WKU

Western's Board of Regents on Sept. 12 selected Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, Vice President for Administration and Advancement at Clemson University, as WKU's ninth President.

Dr. Ransdell, 46, will officially begin his duties on Nov. 10, and assumes the presidency vacated last spring by Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, who became Chancellor of the University of Alabama System.

"Dr. Ransdell brings our University the vision, the experience, the passion, the focus and the commitment to lead us forward to a higher level," said Peggy Loafman of Bowling Green, Ky., Chair of the WKU Board of Regents. "This Board challenges Dr. Ransdell to chart the course that will elevate Western to new heights in this community, our Commonwealth and the nation."

Dr. Ransdell said he shares with Regents an ambitious vision for Western.

"We have an opportunity to achieve a national reputation for teaching and strength in selected academic programs," he said. "We will reinforce our statewide reputation for a strong faculty across our curriculum, technical innovation and character of this unique campus. And we will fulfill our local responsibility for meaningful research and public service

to enhance the economic development and quality of life in this community.

"We will think national, but certainly act regional. We will dedicate resources to those priorities which will ensure value for cost and transform Western into a university worthy of national recognition."

Dr. Ransdell said he wants Western to be the "university of choice for students and faculty. We want to ensure value for the investment, which this state and our students make in a Western education. We want to ensure a meaningful Western experience for those who study, work and live on and around this campus and those whose exposure to Western is transmitted electronically."

Dr. Ransdell acknowledged Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton's higher education reform legislation enacted earlier this year.

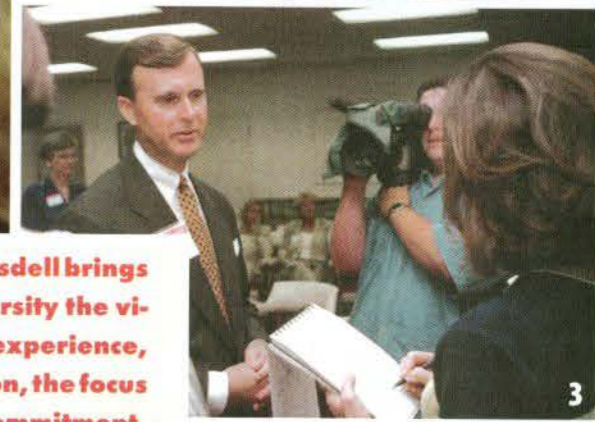
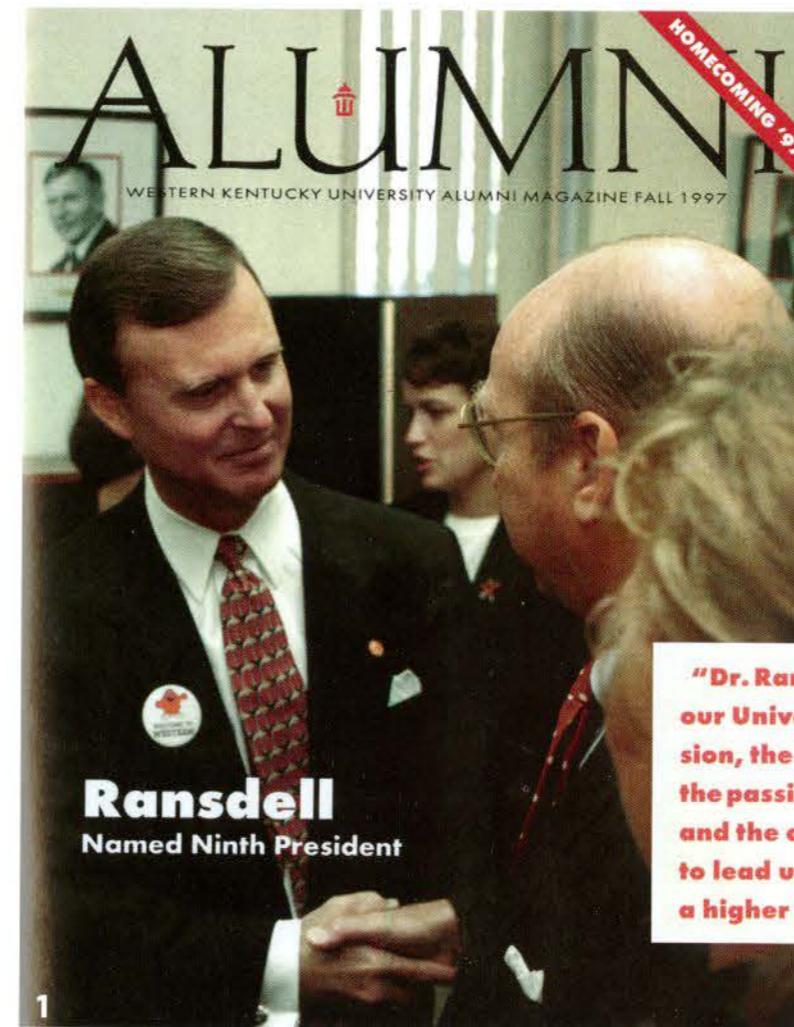
"I pledge to the Governor my full capacity as President and our collective energy to ensure optimum realization of the goals outlined in the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act," he said. "And I pledge to each of you our best efforts to ensure Western's rightful place as a leader in the fulfillment of those goals."

Dr. Ransdell and his wife, Julie, met, dated and were married while at WKU pursuing their undergraduate degrees.

Then they were absent from Western for 17 years, but those were valuable years spent gaining the expertise needed to meet the challenges higher education faces in the 21st century, and which were to eventually lure him and his family back to Kentucky and Western.

"I was shaped by the values of Western," he said. "Ideals of collective spirit, individual dignity, trust, responsibility and interdependence permeated the minds and hearts of those who built Western, and I observed and experienced these values when I was an undergraduate and graduate student. Cohesion and community have been cornerstones at Western, and they will be daily priorities for me, and those with whom I work."

Dr. Ransdell has served as Vice President for Administration and Advancement at Clemson since 1995 and has been responsible for functions related to Alumni Relations, Development, Public Affairs, Conference and Visitor Programs, Human Resources, Environmental Health and Safety and campus-wide Facilities Maintenance and Operations. He was also responsible for Clemson University's Trustee Committees in Institutional Advancement and Business and Finance, as well as the Clemson University



"Dr. Ransdell brings our University the vision, the experience, the passion, the focus and the commitment, to lead us forward to a higher level"

1 - The cover of the Fall 1997 issue of ALUMNI magazine. | 2 - Dr. Gary Ransdell and his wife, Julie, respond to questions during his interview. | 3 - Dr. Gary Ransdell meets with reporters on Sept. 12, 1997, following the announcement that he will serve as WKU's ninth President.

Foundation and the Clemson Alumni Association. He chaired the Finance Corporation for the Clemson Continuing Education/Conference Center, Golf Course and Hotel.

He directed Clemson University's capital campaign, which has a preliminary goal of \$200 million, and chaired the University's Strategic Plan for Community Relations. Prior to assuming additional administrative duties, he served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Clemson from 1987 to 1995. He served as Director of Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University from 1981 to 1987 and was Associate Director of Alumni Affairs at WKU from 1978 to 1981.

"The board joins hands with Dr.

Ransdell, the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University as we work united to make this University the best it can be," said Loafman. "We invite all our constituencies to join this effort."

Dr. Ransdell earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication in 1973 and a master's degree in Public Administration in 1974 from WKU and received his doctoral degree in 1978 from Indiana University.

Dr. Ransdell served on the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1989 and Program Chair of the 1990 CASE Annual Assembly and currently serves on the CASE National Committee for Institutionally Related

Foundations. He has conducted various seminars for CASE and the Association for Governing Boards (AGB).

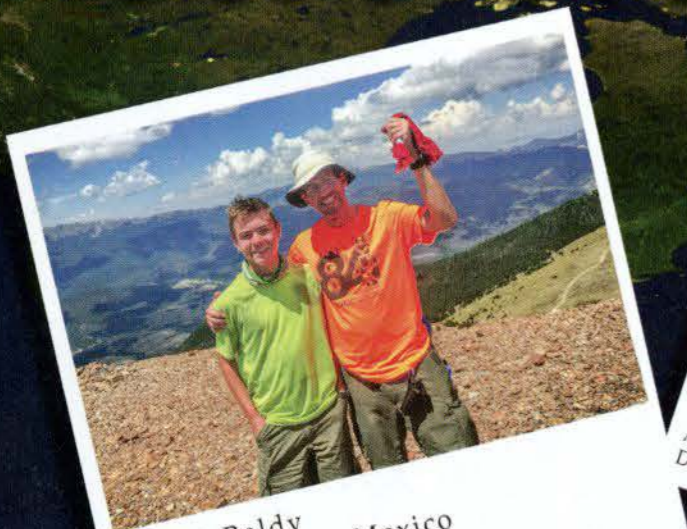
He serves on the Regional Board of Directors of BB&T Bank and previously was Chairman of the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995 and Co-Chair of the NFL Task Force, which hosted the inaugural season of the Carolina Panthers of the National Football League.

Dr. Ransdell was a contributing author to the *Handbook of Institutional Advancement* and *AGB's College and University Foundations: Serving America's Public Higher Education*.

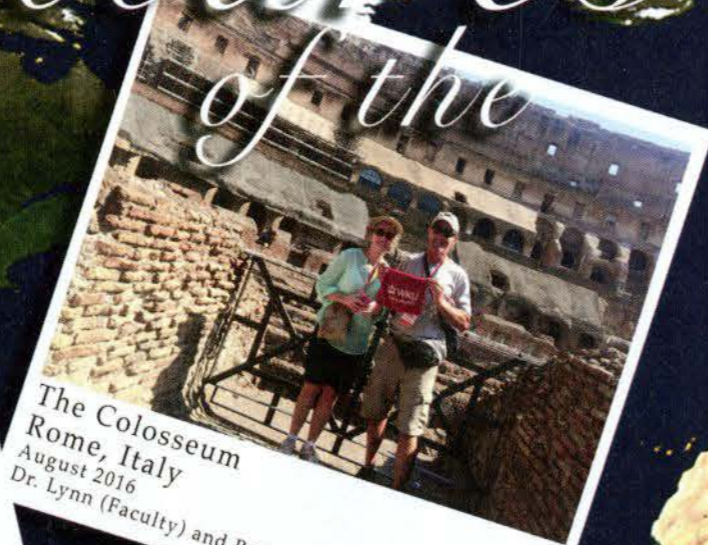
He and his wife, Julie, a '75 WKU grad, have two sons, Patrick (18) and Matthew (14).

Adventures

of the



Mount Baldy
Cimarron, New Mexico
June 2015
Stephen and Steve Smart ('92)



The Colosseum
Rome, Italy
August 2016
Dr. Lynn (Faculty) and Bob Austin ('12, Staff)



Irish Derby at Curragh Racecourse
County Kildare, Ireland
June 2016
Bobby Werner ('73), Artie O'Bryan ('73), Lalla O'Bryan ('80), Claire Boldrick ('80), Gene Boldrick ('78), Barbara Grosso and Mike Grosso



The Pitons
St. Lucia
July 2016
Jennifer ('07) and John Lamanna ('07)



Big Ben
London, England
May 2016
Ryan ('05) and Taylor (Moad) Cummings ('12)

RED TOWEL



See all the Adventures of the Red Towel
online at alumni.wku.edu/redtoweltravels



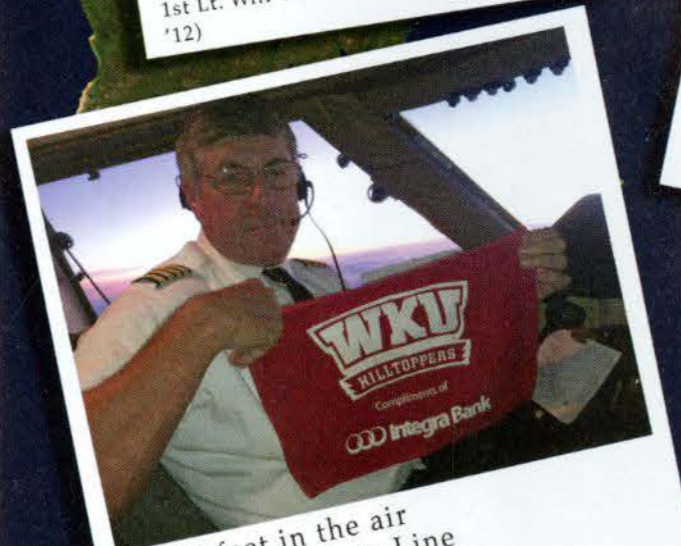
Bali, Indonesia
July 2016
Whitnee Thorp ('11) and Allison Sterbling ('11)



Schofield Barracks
Honolulu, Hawaii
May 2016
1st Lt. Will Carter ('12) and Capt. Michael Terry ('10, '12)



Parc du Cinquantenaire
Brussels, Belgium
July 2016
Chris Thompson ('88, '90)



34,000 feet in the air
International Date Line
Over the Pacific Ocean
February 2016
Brad Watson ('73)



Stari Most
Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
June 2016
Chris ('08) and Enisa (Bosnjakovic) Handlon ('07)

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Please list names of each person in picture and their graduation year. Please include date and location of picture. Send pictures to: WKU Alumni Association, Red Towel Travels, 292 Alumni Ave. Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or email to alumni@wku.edu. Pictures will not be returned.

THE WKU Store

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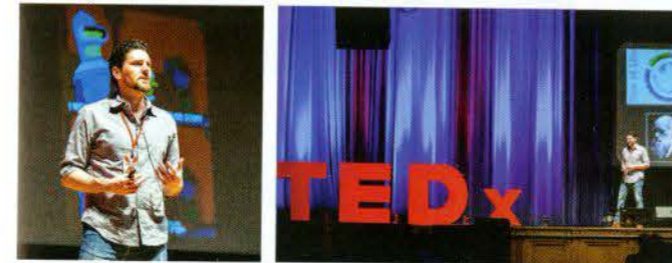
Men's & Women's Sideline Polos | WKU Football Replica Jersey | Brohm Squad Tees
Tailgating Merch | WKU Nike Footballs | Girl's WKU Cheer Dresses



Thumbs-Up!

Thumbs-Up! recognizes the artistic endeavors of our talented alumni. We want to honor your creative spirit and share your achievements. Do you have something to share with your fellow alumni? Have you recently published a book, sang your heart out in a musical, or held an exhibition of your artwork? Please submit your announcement by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

Casey Bennett ('03)



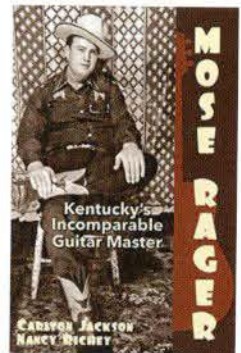
Casey Bennett ('03) was one of several presenters at the TEDxNashville conference in April 2016. Bennett is the Chief Scientific Officer for Faros Healthcare, and formerly a Data Scientist at Centerstone Research Institute. His work focuses on artificial intelligence in healthcare, including the areas of robotics, machine learning, clinical decision support and personalized medicine. He was the lead designer for Centerstone's award-winning organization-wide analytics platform and the national Knowledge Network Data Warehouse, the largest ongoing clinical mental health data repository in the country. His work has also been featured as part of IBM's "Smarter Planet" campaign. His talk can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LkbUxqGTfo>.

Adam Henze ('06)

Adam Henze ('06), a current Indiana University doctoral candidate, has been named the Indianapolis 500's first official poet since the early 20th century. Henze beat out more than 200 others who submitted Indy 500-themed poems for the contest co-sponsored by Indiana Humanities. The competition revives an Indy 500 tradition from the 1920s, when an official poem was included in the race day program. His poem is titled "For Those Who Love Fast, Loud Things." Henze also read his winning poem at the Speedway during qualification weekend in May 2016.

Nancy Richey ('97, '03, '07)

Nancy Richey ('97, '03, '07), an Associate Professor and Visual Resources Librarian for Library Special Collections at WKU, has published her third book, *Mose Rager: Kentucky's Incomparable Guitar Master*, with her former professor, the late Dr. Carlton Jackson, WKU's first University Distinguished Professor. It was the last book of Dr. Jackson's long and productive writing career. The book focuses on Rager, "That Muhlenberg [County] Sound," and the wide reach of his thumb-picking guitar style that influenced such famed musicians as Merle Travis, Chet Atkins, Marcel Dadi and George Harrison. Visit acclaimpress.com for more information.



Capt. John Lynn Shanton ('57)

Capt. John Lynn Shanton ('57) is a contributing author for the recently published *Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always: More Than a Century of Service by Citizen Sailors*, released to coincide with the centennial anniversary of the U.S. Navy Reserve in March 2015. Shanton had produced a self-published manuscript about the Navy Reserves for the 90th anniversary and envisioned a book for the centennial. Some of Shanton's work as a Reserve Officer included teaching Better Navy Writing at the Pentagon, as well as commands on the East Coast and the Naval Academy.



CLASS NOTES



15 Kaleb A. ('12) & Bennett (Peck) Greene ('15)



3 Greg Coker ('86, '89)



8 Jeff Baynham ('02)



22 Chris ('11) & Anna (Tapscott) Townsend ('12)



21 Nick ('08) & Keela (Osborne) Skaggs ('10)



14 Christine Gries ('11) & Andrew Keltner ('13)



1 James Massey ('78)



12 Shane Webb ('09, '11) & April August ('13)



16 McKenzi Loid ('12)



10 Phil Wilson ('06)



19 Matthew ('08) & Erin Simmons Garrett ('08, '10)



13 Geneva Drane ('10)



9 Ashley Brauer ('05)



11 Nic Hartmann ('09)



2 Kerry Tharp ('79)



4 John Schocke ('87)



6 Rebecca Simpson ('95)



7 Christina Vessels ('01)



18 Jonathan ('09) & Vanessa (Lawson) Belcher ('09)



20 Miles ('06, '15) & Megan (Micheli) Ormon ('07, '11)



5 Mark Andrew Sullo ('94)



17 Jennifer Recchio ('12)

Class Notes is a department that allows WKU alumni to update fellow classmates on significant accomplishments and events in their lives. If you wish to publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

J. David Porter ('70) of Lexington, Ky., has been awarded the Henry T. Duncan Award by the Fayette County Bar Association. According to the Association, this award is given to an attorney "whose integrity, leadership and professional conduct serves to exemplify the high ethical and professional standards that benefit the community." Porter currently serves as President Elect of the Kentucky Bar Foundation and is also a Fellow of the Foundation.

Ann Beal Salamone ('72) of San Antonio, Texas, has been elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering. President of Rochal Industries in San Antonio, a private research company developing new biomaterials for wound and burn care, Salamone is also an adjunct faculty member at UT-San Antonio in the Biomedical Engineering Department.

Dr. Mike Bochenko ('74, '76) of Nashville, Ga., an Assistant Professor at Valdosta State University, has recently been appointed Director of the Educational Leadership program.

Dr. Beverly Davenport ('76, '77) of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Senior Vice President and Provost at the University of Cincinnati, was unanimously elected Interim President by UC's Board of Trustees at the June 21, 2016, meeting. She began her service in that role full time on July 15, 2016. Recently, she championed a Textbook Affordability Initiative that has gained state-wide attention for helping students save millions of dollars and has overseen operations to award financial aid to more than 30,000 UC undergraduates.

Dr. Betsy Flener ('78) of Bowling Green, Ky., was part of a team that won the 2015 Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation for the TactileTalk Toolkit and Guidebook for iPad: Strategies for Functional Communication and Literacy, a comprehensive program that teaches and reinforces tactile communication and literacy. Dr. Flener is an Assistive Technology Specialist at the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative.

James Massey ('78) of Dallas, Texas, has joined Charles River Associates as a Vice President in the Finance Practice. Massey has more than 30 years of experience in providing financial valuation and merger and acquisition advisory services to senior management across many sectors. (Photo 1)

Kerry Tharp ('79) of Fort Mill, S.C., a long-time NASCAR communications veteran, has been named President of Darlington Raceway. Tharp most recently served as Senior Director of Racing Communications for NASCAR. He joined NASCAR in 2005 after a 20-year career as Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations for the University of South Carolina in Columbia. (Photo 2)

Lisa Basham ('83) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been awarded U.S. Bank's Pinnacle Award, the company's highest employment achievement honor. Basham, who serves as the Treasury Management Consultant, has previously won this award six times.

Steven Barber ('84) of Santa Monica, Calif., an award-winning documentary filmmaker, is working on his upcoming release *Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story*, which tells the story of Col. Ed Ramsey who led the last cavalry charge in World War II. The film, which is narrated by Josh Brolin, premieres Nov. 13, 2016 at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Greg Coker ('86, '89) of Harrodsburg, Ky., recently published his second book, *Soft Skills Field Manual*, which accompanies the workshop, "Soft Skills Boot Camp," which he delivers across the country. Coker describes his second work as both a calling and a responsibility based on feedback from employers that today's workers lack the "soft skills" needed for career success. His first book, *Building Cathedrals: The Power of Purpose*, is in its fourth printing. (Photo 3)

Eric Walker ('86) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been awarded U.S. Bank's Pinnacle Award, the company's highest employment achievement honor. Walker, who serves as the Vice President of Commercial Banking, has previously won this award five times.

Tom Womack ('86) of White House, Tenn., has been named Deputy Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Womack has more than 30 years of experience with the state of Tennessee and the Department of Agriculture, including time as the Department's Spokesman and Director of Communications.

Tim Hughes ('87) of Frankfort, Ky., has been named Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of Agricultural Marketing and Product Promotion. Hughes most recently worked for the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, where he led the Division of Biofuels since 2011.

John Schocke ('87) of Madison, Ala., recently completed the U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship program. During the Fellowship, he also obtained a Master of Arts degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University. (Photo 4)

Doug Hogan ('89) of Frankfort, Ky., has been appointed to the Board of Directors of United Way of Kentucky. Hogan currently serves as Executive Director for the Office of Communications and Public Outreach for the Protection Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In addition, he serves on the Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN) Public Policy Committee, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Health Council and is a deacon at Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in Midway, Ky.

Patrick Thomas ('90) of Bowling Green, Ky., has joined Service One Credit Union as the Network and Systems Administrator. Thomas recently relocated to Bowling Green after living in Tennessee for 17 years.

Kay Summers Gallagher ('91) of Russellville, Ky., was awarded a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in May 2016. Gallagher was among 44 individuals to receive degrees at the Seminary's 162nd commencement exercises, which were held at Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville.

Christy Hooper ('92) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has been appointed Associate Vice President for Human Resources at Lipscomb University. Hooper moved to Lipscomb after a 22-year career at Centerstone of America (formerly the Dede Wallace Center), which is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit providers of behavioral healthcare, offering a full range of mental health services.

Jennifer Anderson Miller ('92) and Karl Miller ('91, '00) of Round Rock, Texas, both accepted new positions this year. Jennifer was named Chief Executive Officer of Cross Creek Hospital in Austin, Texas. Karl accepted a position as Senior Associate with Bentz Whaley Flessner, an international fundraising consulting firm with offices in Minneapolis, Minn., and Washington, D.C. Karl is beginning his second year as a member of the WKU Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

Mark Andrew Sullo ('94) of Oakton, Va., has received a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. Sullo was one of 20 Distinguished Graduates out of a class of 208 military officers, federal employees and international students. He is currently the Director of Protective Intelligence Investigations and a Supervisory Special Agent with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. Following graduation from WKU, Sullo received his commission in the U.S. Marine Corps and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Marine Corps Reserves in July 2015. Prior to attending the National War College, he was detailed from the State Department to the White House where he served as a Director for Counterterrorism on the National Security Council Staff, and he supervised the overseas threats portfolio on behalf of the National Security Advisor and the President of the United States. Sullo is a native of Ohio County, Ky., and is a former President of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. (Photo 5)

JUSTICE MINTON



Justice John D. Minton Jr. ('74) was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute. SJI is a federal non-profit corporation that awards grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common

MILITARY HONORS



Maj. Gen. Steven L. Basham ('88) of Springfield, Va., was recently promoted to the rank of Major General, earning a second star for his dedication and 27 years of service to the U.S. Air Force. Basham will not only have a change of rank, but a change of title to Director, Legislative Liaison to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. In this role, he will facilitate communications between the Air Force and Congress on all programs. Basham and his wife, **Angie Fleenor Basham ('87)**, have two daughters, Sarah and Lauren.

Kay Coomes ('95) of Owensboro, Ky., was recently appointed Chair of the Owensboro Health Foundation Board of Directors. In recognition of her career achievements and service on the Communication Advisory Council at WKU, she received the 2015 Alumna of the Year award on behalf of the Department of Communication at WKU. She currently serves as the Manager of Public Affairs at Atmos Energy.

issues faced by all courts. Justice Minton is Chief Justice of Kentucky, a position he has held since 2008. He has served on the Kentucky Supreme Court since 2006. Previously, Minton served as a Judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals from 2003 to 2006.

From 1992 to 2003, he was a Circuit Judge in Kentucky's Eighth Judicial Circuit. From 1996 to 2003, he also served as Chief Administrative Judge for the 21-county Green River Region. He is currently a member and President-Elect of the Conference of Chief Justices.

URSULINE SISTERS

Three WKU alumnae, members of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.), are celebrating jubilees of religious life in 2016.

Sister Pauletta McCarty ('72)

a native of Curdsville, Ky., is celebrating 75 years. She is also a 1962 graduate of Brescia College with a degree in Education. She was an educator for more than 36 years, teaching in Kentucky, Missouri and Nebraska. She also served as minister to nursing homes and at a parish. She was Assistant Local Superior, Director of Transportation and Sacristan at Mount Saint Joseph. Sister Pauletta retired to the Motherhouse in 1998, where she remains active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



Sister George Mary Hagan ('72)

a native of New Haven, Ky., is celebrating 60 years. She is also a 1966 graduate of Brescia College with a degree in English. Sister George Mary was a teacher in Kentucky for 26 years, then was Director of Religious Education for the Office of Chaplains at Fort Knox (1984-2003). Since 2009 she has been involved in numerous internal ministries at the Motherhouse, including transportation for the sisters.



Sister Ruth Mattingly ('74)

a native of Loretto, Ky., is celebrating 60 years. She graduated from Brescia College in 1969 with a degree in English. She was a teacher for 28 years in Kentucky, Missouri and New Mexico. She also served in parish ministry and in internal ministry at Maple Mount in personal and pastoral care in the infirmary (1984-1991) and as Coordinator of the Guest House (1993-1996). She is retired at the Motherhouse and active in prayer and quilting baby quilts.



Marshall Crawford ('95) of Milton, Ga., has joined Community Ventures Corporation as the new Housing & Multifamily President. In addition to his experience serving as senior staff for NeighborWorks America in the southern region, he has experience as a bank examiner, mortgage loan officer and five years in the U.S. Army.

Rebecca Simpson ('95) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP, as a Senior Attorney. Simpson, who was most recently an attorney for Kentucky Legal Aid, will be practicing in estate law, family law and will offer mediation services. Her family law practice will encompass adoption, business valuation, child support, custody issues, divorce, parent relocation and property division, among other services. She will also provide mediation services in family law and estate cases. (Photo 6)

Christina Vessels ('01) of Lexington, Ky., has been admitted as a member of the invitation-only Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC). Vessels is a partner at Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., L.P.A. (Photo 7)

Jeff Baynham ('02) of Raleigh, N.C., has been named Senior Director of Advancement Services at North Carolina State University. Working on the Hill since 2005, he most recently served as the Assistant Vice President of Advancement Services at WKU where he managed gift processing, biographical records, reporting, prospect research and stewardship. (Photo 8)

Joseph Ellison III ('04) of Louisville, Ky., has been named the new Principal at Martha Layne Collins High School in Shelbyville, Ky. He was most recently the Assistant Principal at Seneca High School in Louisville, Ky., where he served for the last four and a half years. Ellison is currently pursuing a doctorate through the University of Louisville.

Ashley Brauer ('05) of Louisville, Ky., has been promoted to Senior Account Manager at Guthrie/Mayes Public Relations. Brauer joined the firm in June 2014 as an Account Manager and has since worked with many clients. Her areas of specialty include media relations, digital communications, spokesperson/media training, event coordination and management, crisis communications management and community relations. (Photo 9)



Phil Wilson ('06) of Gallatin, Tenn., has been appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health Compliance Office. Wilson previously served as Director of Internal Audit for TDH since 2013. Wilson's career includes service as a Regulatory Auditor with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of International Trade, as a Senior Auditor with CIGNA Government Services and as Internal Auditor with TDH. Wilson is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner, and currently serves as a bi-vocational Pastor with First Free Will Baptist Church in Portland, Tenn. (Photo 10)

Trista J. Lutgring ('08) of Evansville, Ind., has been promoted to the position of Senior Writer at Tucker Publishing Group. She previously served as Staff Writer since March 2015. Prior to her affiliation with Tucker Publishing Group, Lutgring worked as a Sales Representative and Feature Writer at the *Perry County News* in Tell City, Ind.



A very special “thank you” to all of our alumni who participated in the 2016 WKU Alumni Attitude Survey earlier this year! Your answers will help us improve alumni programs, develop new ways to serve alumni and keep you connected to your alma mater. For complete results, visit alumni.wku.edu/alumnisurvey.

ADRIENNE PATTERSON



Adrienne (Reuter) Patterson ('11, '12) of Louisville, Ky., has combined the Sign Language and video editing skills she learned at WKU to create an online Sign Language course for beginners of any age. The course was recently opened to the public in February 2016 and teaches 300 signs in one month, with a daily video lesson ranging from 5-15 minutes. As a purpose-driven entrepreneur, Adrienne's course benefits the non-profit organization Best Buddies International, which is dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Whenever a sign language course is purchased, Adrienne donates a course scholarship to a friendship pair in Best Buddies. To learn more about Adrienne's entrepreneurial journey as a small business owner or to find out more about her sign language course, visit learnwithadrienne.com.

Sam Northern ('08, '14) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been selected as one of the 2016 Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellows. In December 2016, the teacher-librarian at Simpson Elementary in Franklin, Ky., will embark on a 14-day Lindblad voyage aboard National Geographic *Explorer* to Antarctica for a one-of-a-kind field experience, accompanied by Lindblad-National Geographic expedition experts. This professional development opportunity will allow him to bring immersive geographic learning experiences back to his school and community. Northern is one of 35 educators from the United States and Canada to receive this honor.

Nic Hartmann ('09) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, defended his Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. In March, he began a new position as the Human Rights Education Specialist for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (Photo 11)

Shane Webb ('09, '11) and April August ('13) of Bowling Green, Ky., announce their engagement and upcoming wedding in September 2016. (Photo 12)

Geneva Drane ('10) of Louisville, Ky., was granted a Master of Arts in Clinical Professional Counseling with honors from the University of the Cumberland in December 2015. She is now a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has begun a new clinical counseling position working in youth and family therapy. (Photo 13)

Christine Gries ('11) and Andrew Keltner ('13) of Louisville, Ky., announce their engagement and upcoming wedding in November 2016. A reception will be held at the Augenstein Alumni Center. (Photo 14)

Kalleb A. Greene ('12) and Bennett (Peck) Greene ('15) of Hopkinsville, Ky., were married on June 18, 2016, in Hopkinsville, Ky. (Photo 15)

McKenzi Loid ('12) of Pittsburg, Pa., recently joined Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners. Loid has been named the Public Relations Manager on the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project, an initiative to repair 558 structurally deficient bridges throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Loid's role includes crisis communications, media and community relations. Prior to joining Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners, she served as an Account Manager at Guthrie/Mayes Public Relations. (Photo 16)

Jennifer Recchio ('12) of Clarksville, Ind., has been named a Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellow for 2016 by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The highly competitive program recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math, preparing them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools. Each Fellow receives \$30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master's degree program based on a year-long classroom experience. In return, Fellows commit to teach for three years in the urban and rural New Jersey schools that most need strong STEM teachers. Recchio will attend the Rutgers University-Camden. (Photo 17)

April Butler ('15) of Paducah, Ky., has been accepted into the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She will be studying at the University of Louisville Campus in Louisville, Ky., for her first two years, and then she will begin two years of rotations and clinicals at the Trover Campus in Madisonville, Ky., with a focus on bringing more physicians to rural areas of Kentucky.

Jonathan Belcher ('09) and Vanessa (Lawson) Belcher ('09) of Ooltewah, Tenn., announce the birth of their daughter, Adelyn Blair, on June 16, 2015. She weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. (Photo 18)

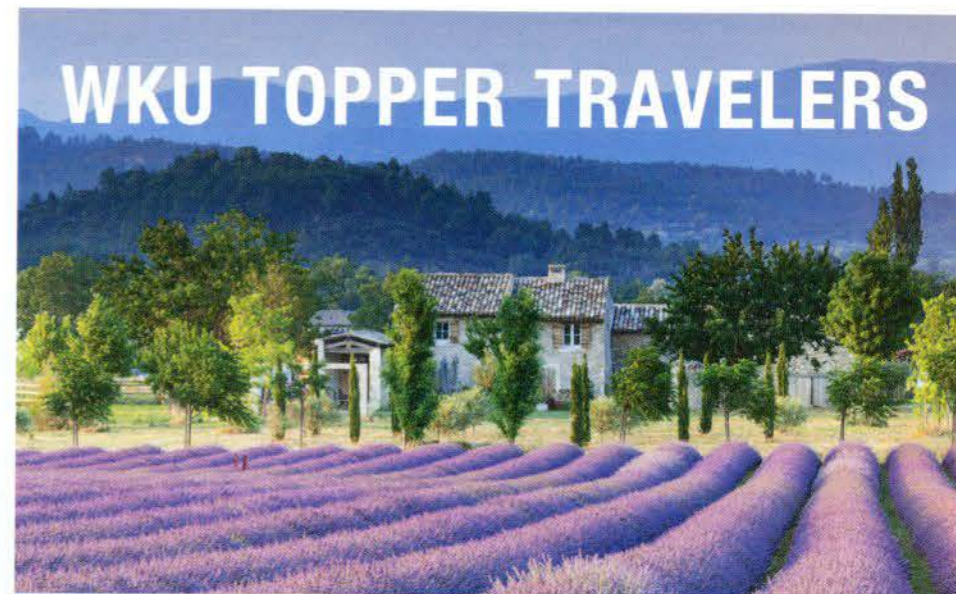
Matthew Garrett ('08) and Erin Simmons Garrett ('08, '10) of Glasgow, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Ruby Jane, on Feb. 12, 2016. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. (Photo 19)

Miles Ormon ('06, '15) and Megan (Micheli) Ormon ('07, '11) of Bowling Green, Ky., welcomed their first child, Levi Matthew, on Sept. 23, 2015. (Photo 20)

Nick Skaggs ('08) and Keela (Osborne) Skaggs ('10) of Bowling Green, Ky., announce the birth of their first child, Ivy Brooke, on June 23, 2016. (Photo 21)

Chris Townsend ('11) and Anna (Tapscott) Townsend ('12) of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., welcomed their first child, Noah Joseph, on July 7, 2016. (Photo 22)

Assistant Professor **Walker Rutledge** of the Department of English has been named the first recipient of the Undergraduate Mentoring Award. One of WKU's most senior faculty members, he has invested more than 40 years in supporting undergraduate research and creative activity. The student who nominated him wrote that he “shows a dedication to his mentees that is unparalleled.” It was Assistant Professor Rutledge, the student continued, who taught her “what true passion for craft looks like.”

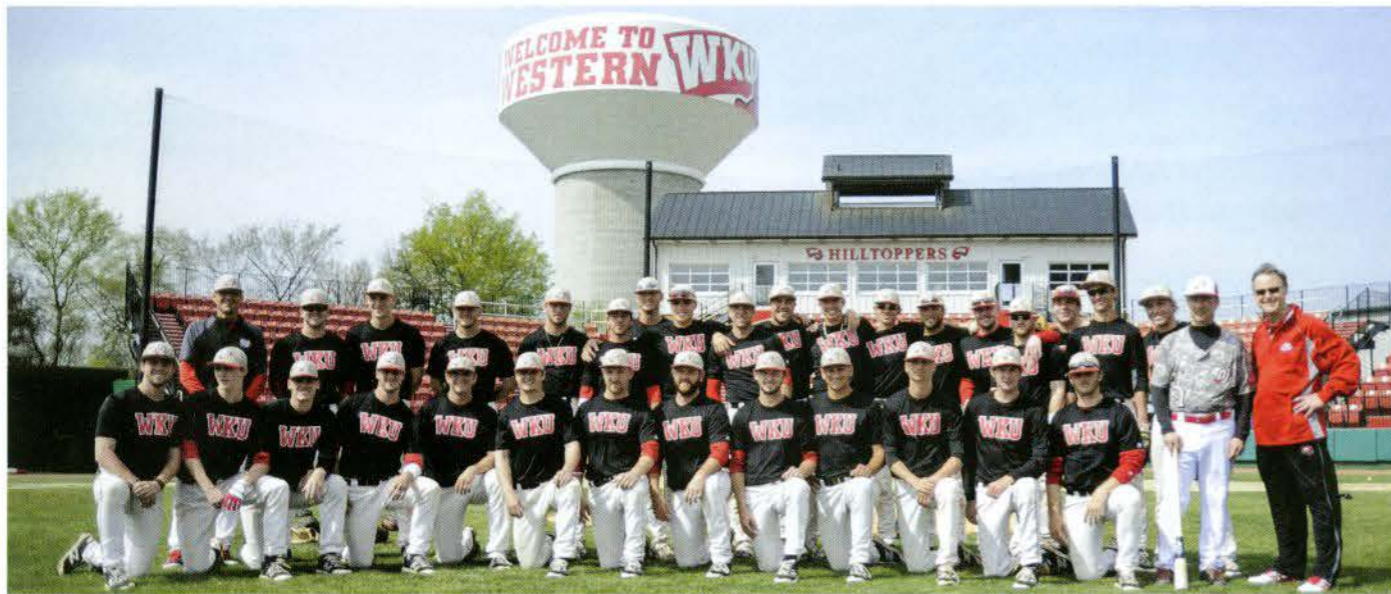


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Space is limited. For more information, please contact the WKU Alumni Association. 888.WKU.ALUM | alumnievents@wku.edu alumni.wku.edu/coastalmed17

CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE: Pictured above with WKU President Gary A. Ransdell, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul suited up for practice with WKU Baseball Coach John Pawlowski and the Hilltopper Baseball team on March 30 to prepare for the 2016 Congressional Baseball Game for Charity.

Summer visit to Washington, D.C., includes Henry Clay and baseball

By Jennifer Breiwa Smith ('03)

Earlier this summer WKU President Gary A. Ransdell, WKU Vice President for Public Affairs Robbin Morrison Taylor and I spent two days in Washington, D.C., visiting with members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul and U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie. We also attended a major event hosted by the Kentucky Society of Washington, the Henry Clay Dinner, which is held every two years to recognize an outstanding Kentuckian. This year the award was presented to Dr. G. Scott Hubbard, originally from Elizabethtown, Ky., for his expansive career at NASA.

The Henry Clay Dinner is attended by members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation as well as a number of elected leaders from the Kentucky General Assembly and dozens of Kentuckians living in the Washington, D.C., area. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin also attended. The dinner serves as the primary fundraiser for the Henry Clay Internship in Public Policy Scholarship program, which funds a number of internship opportunities in Washington for Kentucky college and university students interested in pursuing careers in public service.

"We always enjoy being a part of the Henry Clay Dinner," said President Ransdell. "It's an opportunity to visit with many of our friends in D.C. and to be reminded of the outstanding Kentuckians who have made so many worthy contributions to our nation and throughout the globe. I especially enjoy meeting

the Henry Clay interns and hearing about their experiences working and living in Washington."

A second event, the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity, was held at Nationals Stadium the next evening. Sen. Paul has played in the charity game each year since his election in 2010 and has worn a WKU uniform every year. Players can choose to wear either a professional or collegiate team's official uniform. The Congressional Baseball Game dates back to 1909 and draws thousands to watch the Democrats and Republicans battle it out on the baseball field for a good cause.

"The Congressional Baseball Game is a great tradition," said Taylor. "It's a fun event and an opportunity to gather with members of our Congressional delegation and their staffs to enjoy America's game among political rivals. Sen. Paul got a hit and an RBI, and of course we're crediting WKU Baseball Coach John Pawlowski and the Hilltopper Baseball team for some extra coaching this year!" Sen. Paul dressed with the WKU Baseball team and participated in a practice at Nick Denes Field earlier this spring.

"It's important that we work closely with our Congressional delegation and their staff members, many of whom are WKU graduates, and visit with them not just at home in Kentucky but in Washington as well," Dr. Ransdell said. "I personally appreciate their support for our efforts to transform WKU over the last 19 years, and I want to see that continue in the future."

IN MEMORIAM

We pay tribute to all members of the WKU family who have passed away.

- | | | | |
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| Mr. Darrell D. Arnold, '67 | Mr. Gary Gilbert Bush, '70 | Mr. Charles Edward Elmore | Mr. Patricia (Smith) Hardy, '65 |
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| Ms. Carla Wiley Bohannon, Staff | Ms. Jill (Jackson) Cushing, '89 | Mrs. Sarah E. Goodwin | Mrs. Mary Alice Hounshell-Warren, '61 |
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| Mr. Curtis Boswell | Mr. James Ray Dar, Staff | Mrs. Connie Brashear Gould | Rev. Coleman Howlett |
| Ms. Mary Alice (Bird) Bowles, '50 | Ms. Murphey M. Dare, '53 | Ms. Carmella J. Granato, '67 | Mr. George Maurice Hudson, '54, '61 |
| Mr. Lyle Boyles | Mr. Doy Ott Davis Jr. | Dr. John G. Green | Mr. Randy Humphrey, '77 |
| Mr. Harold C. Bozarth Jr. | Dr. Wallace Dawson, '54 | Ms. Thelma (Wells) Grider, '55, '63 | Dr. Raymond A. Humphrey, '51 |
| Ms. Mona Lewis Brady | Mrs. Virginia Nowlin DeBoe | Mr. Joe W. Gupton, '66 | Ms. Leona E. Ingram |
| Dr. James L. Brewer, '56 | Mr. Adrian B. DeJarnette, '62 | Mrs. Julia Morton Gustafson, '90 | Mr. Othmar Jacobs |

- | | | | |
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| Mr. Charles Larry Johnson | Mr. Robert E. Krenzin | Mr. Earl Magruder Jr. | Ms. Virginia (Allen) Miller, '80 |
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| Mr. Wendell L. Johnson | Mr. Samuel C. Lawrence Jr., '57 | Mrs. Shirley (Holzapfel) Martin, '79, '81 | Mrs. Barbara T. Milliken |
| Mrs. Margie Jean Jones | Mr. Robert A. Leach, '54 | Mr. George V. Matherly | Mr. Ruel L. Minyard |
| Mrs. Vivian K. Jordan | Mr. Carl J. Leisure, '58, '63 | Mr. Larry Malcolm McCollum | Ms. Valerie F. Moddrelle, '87 |
| Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Kafoglis | Mr. Wilbert Thomas Lewis Jr., '67 | Dr. William "Bill" McCormack, '57 | Mrs. Mary (Murphy) Moman, '81 |
| Mr. Carl Keen, '75 | Mrs. Carolyn F. Lippo, '57 | Mrs. Michele Dempsey McCoy | Mr. Aubrey L. Mooneyham, '51 |
| Mr. Douglas Foster Kingsley | Mr. Walter Litke, '59, '61 | Mr. Homer Wayne McDougle, '93 | Mrs. Nancy Morgan, '67, '70 |
| Mr. Eddie Joe Kipling | Mr. Shepard C. Lowman | Mrs. Connie Shirley McGehee, '70 | Mr. Douglas Bruce Morris, '75 |

Kathryn Roper Costello was born April 20, 1942, to Dr. E. A. Roper and Elizabeth Morrison Roper in Jasper, Ga. She lived her gracious and loving life all over the country, touching everyone she met with an unforgettable legacy of grace, kindness, compassion, charm, competence and love. Kathryn crossed over from this life on March 20, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ky. The cause of her death was complications from lung cancer.

Kathryn had a stellar career in strategic planning and management as a university senior executive and international consultant to institutions of higher education, foundations, boards of directors and trustees, and other non-profit organizations. She focused on university advancement, strategic planning, institutional positioning and leadership development at the board level and within senior management. Her last position was at Western Kentucky University (WKU) beginning in January 2011 as Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations and President/CEO of the WKU

Foundation. She served in these roles until her retirement in December 2015. Under her leadership, WKU completed its largest capital campaign, raising an extraordinary \$200 million and surpassing the campaign's goal.

Kathryn had more than 30 years of experience in philanthropy, development, strategic planning and management. She served as Vice President for Development at the University of Buffalo; Vice President at Southern Methodist University, the University of Maryland, Rice University and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; and Senior Vice President at the University of Georgia. Early in her career, she served as Associate Vice President at Vanderbilt University. In her 30 years of fundraising for institutions of higher learning, Kathryn implemented successful capital campaigns that raised more than \$1 billion.

Kathryn received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky and completed her coursework for a doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Kentucky. She also completed



coursework in the doctoral program for Policy Studies at Vanderbilt University.

Kathryn is survived by her beloved sons, John Preston White III and Henry Cornelius White II, of Nashville, Tenn.; sisters Beth (Jack) Watson of Atlanta, Ga., and Jan (Don) Elliott of Menlo Park, Calif.; brother Dr. E.A. (Dale) Roper Jr. of Seattle, Wash.; one niece and six nephews she praised and loved dearly; seven great nieces; and four great nephews.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
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| Mrs. Elaine (Kelly) Murphy, '57 | Mr. Brian Thomas Ruff, '80 |
| Mr. Lloyd E. Myers | Mr. Roscoe Saltsman, '61 |
| Mr. Dennis Edward Nachand, '65, '75 | Ms. Lori Lynn Satterly, '93, '95 |
| Mrs. Emma McCracken Nahm, '72 | Mrs. Evelyn H. Schell, '44 |
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| Mrs. Suzanne Penn Nuttle | Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen, Faculty |
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| Mr. William S. Parker, '81, '83, '85 | Mr. Bruce Elliott Simmons, '81, '94, '02 |
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| Hon. Charles J. Pilliod Jr. | Mr. Roy Phillip Skaggs, '81 |
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| Ms. Retta Jo (Vlantis) Pounds, '92 | Mr. Danny E. Smith |
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| Mrs. Rebecca (Morton) Razor, '76 | Dr. Sally Ann Strickler, '55, '75, Faculty |
| Dr. John C. Richardson, '57, '62 | Mr. Ralph Summers, '70 |
| Mrs. Mary L. Ries | Mr. Charles B. Tachau |
| Mrs. Lauren (Brown) Roberts, '85 | Mrs. Judith Nell Taylor |
| Mr. Charles Steve Roemer Jr., '49 | Mr. Millard Crowder Taylor, '90 |
| Mr. Arthur R. Rogers, '88 | Ms. Alfreda Gail Thompson, '81 |
| Mr. Carlos Elbert Romines | Mr. James D. Thornton |

Dr. William M. McCormack, of Bowling Green, Ky., passed away April 20, 2016, at the age of 80. A 1957 alumnus of WKU, Dr. McCormack was also a graduate of Bowling Green High School and the University of Louisville School of Medicine. After medical school, he was a flight surgeon in Vietnam and later became a radiologist, practicing in Owensboro, Ky., and in Illinois. During the Investing in the Spirit Campaign, Dr. McCormack created one of the University's first endowed professorships to benefit the sciences. At the time of his gift, he said he wanted to "pay back a little" of that which he received from his long association with WKU. Dr. McCormack is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Ann McCormack; his son, Mark McCormack (Caroline) of Bowling Green, Ky.; his daughter, Laura McCormack Cross (Jerry) of Angier, N.C.; and five grandchildren.



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Mr. S. E. Thurmond | Mrs. Antionette Mercer Williams |
| Mr. Ruther E. Turner | Dr. Donald R. Williams, '70, '75 |
| Ms. Lucia Ellis Uihlein | Mr. Robert C. Williams |
| Mr. Glenn Vanderpool | Ms. Gwenda Lenise Willingham, '78 |
| Mr. Billy Ray VanWinkle | Ms. Melinda "Lindy" Willingham, '80 |
| Lt. Col. Anthony Michael Vickers, '76 | Mrs. Kaye (Dunn) Willis, '68, '77 |
| Mrs. Sheila D. Wager | Ms. Linda Faye Winstead, '71, '80, '99 |
| Mr. Richard Wayne Wagner, '77 | Mr. Thomas Oral Wisley, Faculty |
| Mr. Billy G. Waldrop, '59, '62 BU | Mr. Tim W. Wolfe |
| Mr. William "Tommy" Walker, '70, '85 | Mr. Paul Kenneth Wood Jr. |
| Dr. Robert "Bob" E. Ward, Faculty | Mr. Royce Wood |
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| Mrs. Phyllis Evalyn Whitfield, '82 | Mr. G. Don Young |
| Mr. Mark Willard Wiedmar, '81 | Mr. James Howard Young |
| Mr. Sylvester Lee Wildes | |

* Data for In Memoriam is gathered from a variety of sources and is deemed to be correct to the best of our knowledge.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

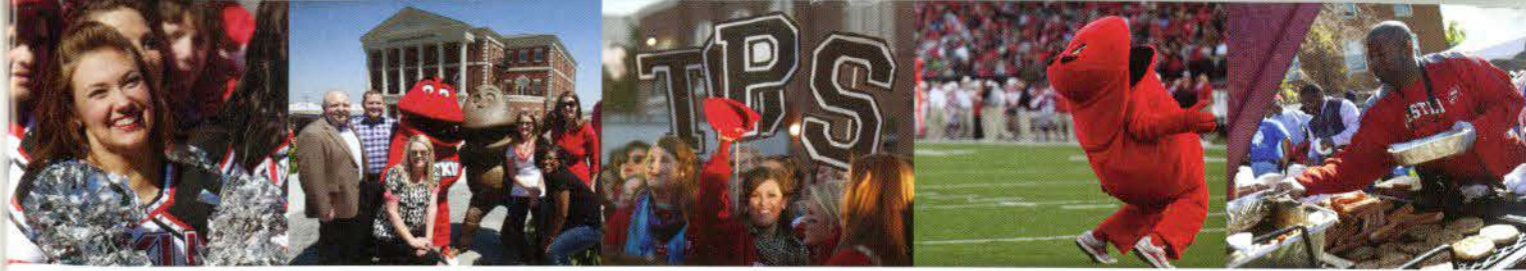
Megan Laffoon

Megan Laffoon loves soil. Over the past four years, she has spent countless hours inside and outside the classroom learning how it works, where and why it doesn't, and what she can do to improve its capacity for nourishing life. "There's an expression that soil is the mother of life. It's true, and it's so easily neglected," she said.

A Louisville, Ky., native, Laffoon came to WKU with an interest in environmental science and a curiosity about Chinese language. Following these interests into research opportunities and study abroad, Laffoon has compiled a robust record of intellectual and cultural engagement with the help of her primary mentors, Dr. Chris Groves (Geography and Geology) and Dr. Albert Meier (Biology), as well as the staff of the Chinese Flagship Program and Bowling Green permaculture farmer Timothy Kercheville. The staff of the Office of Scholar Development have helped her translate her experience and sense of purpose into success in national scholarship competitions.

In 2013, a two-week training workshop at the UNESCO International Research Center on Karst in Guilin, China, transformed Laffoon's interest in karst desertification into a passion for improving people's quality of life through environmental restoration. The next year, she won a Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's most prestigious award for undergraduates in STEM fields and a recognition of her commitment to a career in scientific research. At WKU, she has served as the Ecology Club President as well as a Grow Fellow in WKU's Office of Sustainability. Last spring, she presented her Honors College thesis research at an international symposium in Guangzhou, China, which brought together research hydrologists from all over the world.

In her final year as a WKU student, Laffoon is forging a clear path ahead. Last summer, she interned with global biotechnology company Alltech in China, visiting crop science research sites and exploring Chinese soil conditions and sustainable agricultural practices. This fall, she begins two semesters of language study and professional experience in Nanjing, China, funded by a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship. With future leaders like Laffoon, the world will be better equipped to manage the challenges of environmental degradation and global food security.



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