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Photo by Joe Inel

The HARBAUGH YEARS

By Kyle Hightower

Forty-one years ago, Jack Harbaugh began his career raking leaves in the backyard of football excellence.

The year was 1961.

The place was Canton Elementary School in Canton, Ohio.

Yes, that Canton, Ohio.

The one that is home to the National Football League Hall of Fame and dances daily in the minds of today's NFL players and coaches who hope to be immortalized there one day.

Canton is to football what the North Pole is to children – a Mecca.

It is probably the one place on the planet where a professional sport's greatest moments can truly be admired by both young and old generations alike.

In 1961, Harbaugh was the poster child for the young generation of the day.

He was just an infant coach then, a newborn 22-year-old barely a few steps removed from his crib at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

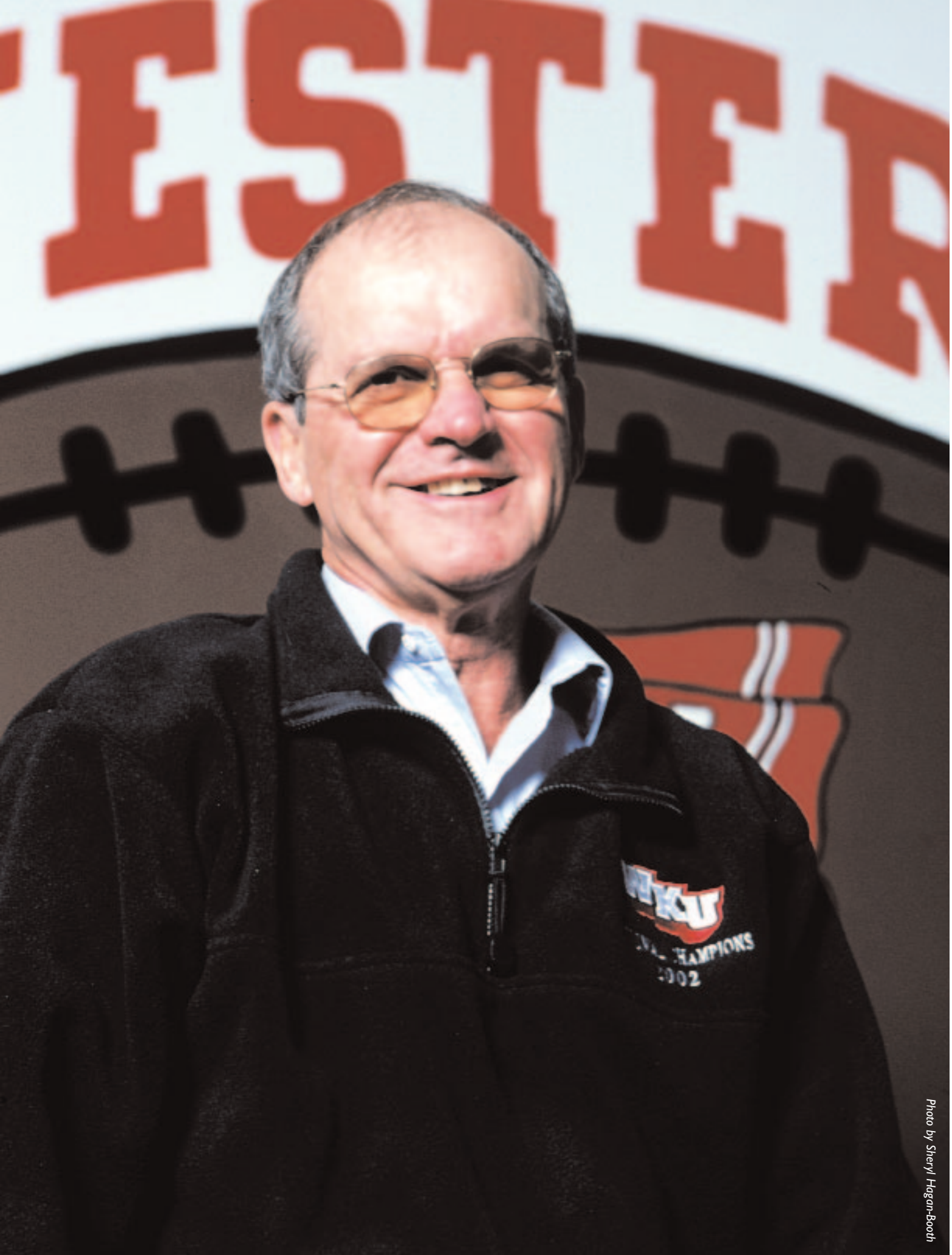


Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

At the time, Harbaugh's resume' was much too slim to garner a head coaching job, so he clung to his ambitions and bachelor's degree from BGSU in those early years.

He knew he would get his chance at immortality one day.

"I never really had any hobbies besides football other than my wife, my family and my grandkids," Harbaugh said. "Working never really excited me. And, what I've done has not been work. I would have gladly paid them to let me coach to let me do it if I thought it would pay the bills at home because coaching is what I love to do."

But, after 41 years of trudging through a coaching career that has included stops at some of college football's most renowned programs, only recently have people started to revel in the journey that Harbaugh has made as time has inched on.

Only now after winning his first national championship is he receiving the acclaim for the job he has done cultivating not only athletes, but capable young men as well.

He knows because they let him know by burying him with phone calls and letters in the weeks since he could hardly express his championship joy in words standing under a shower of praise in Chattanooga.

And even as Harbaugh decided to bid farewell to Western – resigning in February – he is perhaps closer now than ever to realizing the dreams that began in Canton so many years ago.

"I guess the word is 'blessed,' but I'm not sure I know what the right word is," Harbaugh said.



"What this championship has done is show me how the game of football has allowed me and my wife and family to experience the good people that have been a part of our lives. It staggered me."

To know Jack Harbaugh is to know the meaning of the word humble.

To know what he has meant to Western Kentucky University's football program, perhaps it is best left to Wes Strader, the long-time Hilltopper radio play-by-play man who called so many of his games.

"He means everything, period," Strader said of Harbaugh. "For the past 14 years, that man has been everything to Western football."

And for 14 seasons, Jack Harbaugh never once talked of



Photo by Joe Imel



ing the art of smashing heads and pounding bodies. It only awakened him to the symbols he has collected along the way.

“If I hadn’t been part of this team and championship, it wouldn’t have been crushing. A trophy is just a symbol,” Harbaugh said. “But if it were not for this experience (winning a title) I would have went to my grave not knowing the magnitude these past 41 years have had in people I’ve been privileged to know.”

Not one trophy used to sit on the shelf behind Jack Harbaugh’s desk inside the Western football office.

Not one. That space was instead reserved for the symbols the 63-year-old Western coach collected in his 41-year journey to what everyone kept telling him was the pinnacle of his coaching career.

But, the truth is, old football coaches like Harbaugh don’t need trophies. They only need the things that remind them of where they’ve been in hopes that it will help them figure out where to go next.

And, for Harbaugh, those

things have been mementos like pictures that could use Windex and old, tattered signs clinging to rusty, stale thumbtacks.

Pictures of guys like Don Nehlen, his former coach and mentor at Bowling Green

State and former Michigan coach Bo Schembechler whom Harbaugh coached under for seven years in the 1970s. Signs whispering of extinction like “Those who stay will be champions” after the program nearly went south in the early 1990s and catchy battle cries from seasons passed such as the 2002 “FINISH” that was ridden all the way to championship glory.

“If he

(Harbaugh) hadn’t dug in heels the way he did, it would’ve died,” said legendary former Hilltoppers’ coach and athletic director Jimmy Feix in regards to the program nearly going under.

Feix is one of only two persons to have his jersey immortalized outside of L.T. Smith Stadium. The other is one of Harbaugh’s recruits and former players – Willie Taggart.

Taggart, who was maybe Western’s best-ever quarterback

“Working never really excited me. And what I’ve done has not been work. I would have gladly paid them to let me coach to let me do it if I thought it would pay the bills at home because coaching is what I love to do.”



championships, only building champions.

That didn’t even change in December when the 63-year-old coach captured the elusive national crown that had eluded his grasps for 41 years of coach-



Photo by Joe Innes

and the NCAA's all-time career rushing leader at the position, is currently the Toppers' offensive coordinator.

"I look up to him a lot," Taggart said. "I can't say I was that surprised to see him leave it because he has done so much for the program and me personally and I'm going to miss him being here."

But, the fact is, he won't be on the Hill when Taggart returns to the sidelines next year.

Like those that Harbaugh himself used to look up to as models of what it takes to build the whole person through teaching football, so too must Taggart do.

Around 40-45 of Harbaugh's former players representing almost every season he's coached at Western lined the stands at the Dec. 20 championship game in Chattanooga. In the weeks since

that game he has received probably triple that in letters of congratulation.

"Seeing those former players in the stands just showed me how much of a football fraternity we have here for guys who've worn the red and white jersey – that so many people feel ownership in what we try to do here," Harbaugh said. "They bought into it and part of that trophy is theirs."

And, that is what trophies have always meant for Harbaugh. A symbol of the achievements and accomplishments of others.

Humble. Even as he walks off into the sunset.

Kyle Hightower is a junior print journalism major from Paducah, Kentucky. He is the sports editor for the College Heights Herald.

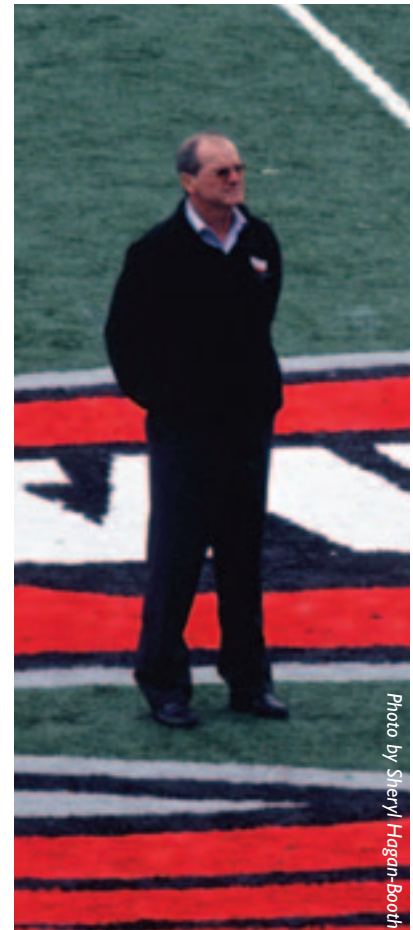


Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

True Fan

WKU Fan Lives Happily in a Sea of Red

By Jacob Bennett

Martha Lloyd's house is easy to spot—it's the one with Western decals on the door. She even put out two red towels for as long as WKU had a basketball team in the NCAA tournament.

And then she opens the door. From the WKU sun catcher in the living room to the WKU magnets on the refrigerator to the painting signed by Jack and Jim Harbaugh in her bedroom, the inside of her house also looks like Big Red went berserk in a special episode of "Trading Spaces."

"I dare anybody to come into this house and not know where I went to school," Lloyd said.

At games, it's also easy to spot Lloyd herself — "I'm the loudest one," she said.

The 1972 grad could have the reddest blood of any WKU fan—a season ticket holder for basketball and football, for 30 years she has driven more than an hour from her home in Radcliff to watch her beloved Toppers tussle.

She cracks up when asked how many WKU sporting events she has attended. She doesn't know, and she doesn't want to.

"It would probably scare me if I knew a number," she said.

Western has been her passion since she visited campus on



Martha Lloyd (72) amidst just some of her WKU memorabilia

homecoming weekend in 1967. She enrolled as a freshman the next fall, and got the first of her three teaching degrees in 1972.

Lloyd has been a sports nut since she was little and she spent her Saturdays and Sundays watching pigskin. She went to every football and men's basketball game in college; she still catches all the football games and most of the men's and women's basketball games. She has only missed one football game since graduation—in November 1997, when her father died.

The only thing that gets in the way of her WKU cheers these

days is the good play of her former students on North Hardin High School's boys' basketball team. This year she juggled WKU's men's and women's basketball tournament appearances with the Trojans' tournament games.

In fact, one day before WKU's tournament play began, NHHS played in the state tournament in Rupp Arena, home of the University of Kentucky Wildcats. Despite wearing Trojan blue, Lloyd wore a button that showed off her true colors:

"Western is the University of Kentucky."

David Elson

Named WKU Head Football Coach



Elson with wife, Kathy, and daughters Lauren (6) and Jessica (1).

After serving as defensive coordinator for Western Kentucky University's NCAA I-AA national championship team last year, David Elson was named the school's head football coach by Director of Athletics Dr. Wood Selig.

Elson replaces Jack Harbaugh, who resigned after 14 years at the helm of the program. At 31, Elson is the second-youngest head coach on the Division I level.

He was the longest-tenured assistant on Harbaugh's staff, working seven years on the Hill with defensive backs, the last two as defensive coordinator.

"I want to thank (WKU President Gary) Ransdell and Dr.

Selig for the opportunity to lead the best football program, in my opinion, in the United States," Elson said. "Words cannot describe how excited I am to have the chance to take on this challenge. It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of people like Jimmy Feix and Jack Harbaugh, and the program is at a time where things have never been better. I'm looking forward to building on that and continuing our successful tradition.

"My family and I love the Bowling Green community and appreciate all that the University has done for us over the years."

Last season the Hilltoppers led the Gateway Football Conference in the regular season in rush, pass, pass efficiency, total and

scoring defense, becoming just the second team in league history to allow fewer than 10 points per contest in GFC games.

In WKU's first season in the conference, it led all teams in rush, pass, total and scoring defense, setting a league record in total yards allowed per game — the Toppers ranked in the top 10 nationally in each category.

Nine defensive players have earned first-team all-conference honors the last two years, with 13 total recognized by the voters. And, two defensive backs have been selected consensus All-America — Bobby Sippio ('00) and Mel Mitchell ('01) — while nine Hilltoppers on that side of the ball have been named All-America since Elson's arrival. Mitchell and Joseph Jefferson were both selected in the 2002 National Football League draft, the first time since 1990 that two Western players were picked in the same year, while Jefferson was the first player chosen from an NCAA I-AA institution.

"We are very pleased to announce David Elson as our new head football coach for several reasons," Dr. Selig said.

"Coach Elson has been on the Hilltopper staff for seven seasons, two as defensive coordinator during a period that saw WKU's defense rank number one in the nation in total defense. We feel defense wins championships.

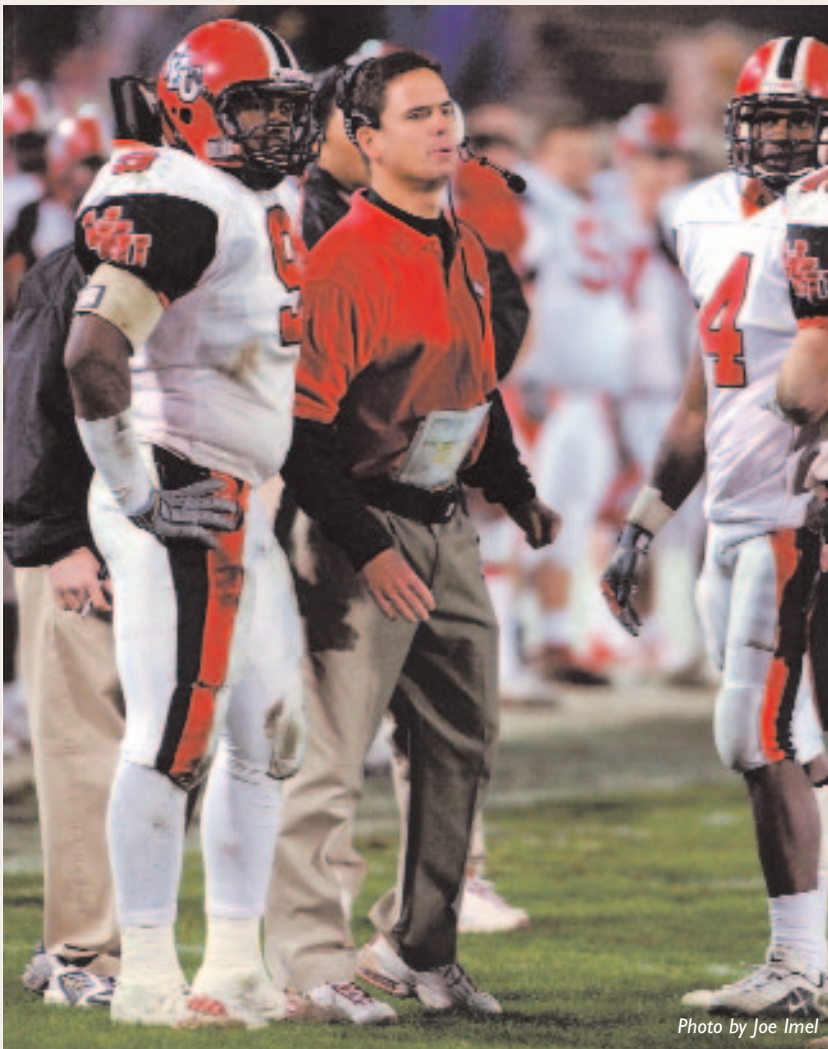


Photo by Joe Imel

Elson's intense work as defensive coordinator helped guide the 'Toppers to the NCAA I-AA national championship.

“Coach Elson will allow us the opportunity to maintain continuity within a program that has gone to three straight playoffs, culminating with a national championship this season. He was an integral part of that success serving as recruiting coordinator every year he was here. Coach Elson is familiar with our coaching personnel as well as our student-athletes and recruits, and we were not interested in making wholesale changes at a time when our program has reached the apex of I-AA football.”

Western is 61-24 (71.8%) over the last seven years, and has

reached the NCAA I-AA playoffs in four of the last six seasons. In addition to winning the Gateway Conference championship last fall, the Toppers also claimed the 2000 Ohio Valley Conference crown.

“I was very impressed with David’s interview and the time we spent with both David and Kathy Elson,” President Ransdell said. “He has the character, drive and knowledge which all Hilltopper fans expect in our head football coach. I’m confident David will strengthen the rich traditions built by Jack Harbaugh, Jimmy Feix and so

many others.”

Elson came to the Hill from Southern Illinois, where he served as a graduate assistant coach in 1994 and 1995 while earning a master’s degree in education. He is a 1994 graduate of Butler, where he was a three-year letter winner and started at strong safety his final two seasons. The Bulldogs were conference champions in both his sophomore and junior years.

A native of Indianapolis, Elson and his wife Kathy have two daughters, Lauren (6) and Jessica (1). Elson is the 16th head coach in the school’s 84 years of football, but just the sixth since 1948. The Toppers have an all-time record of 472-305-30 (60.3%) with 10 postseason appearances.

The Hilltoppers began spring practice Thursday, April 3. The schedule that Elson and Western will face in the fall will be released soon.

The Elson File

Born: Aug. 26, 1971,
Indianapolis, Ind.

High School: Cathedral '89

High School Athletics:
Football, SS, 3 letters
(co-captain, all-city)

College: Butler '94 (BS),
Southern Illinois '95 (MS)

College Athletics:
Football, SS, 3 letters

Coaching Experience:
Southern Illinois, graduate
assistant (1994-95);
WKU, assistant (1996-2002)

Family:
Wife, Kathy; two daughters,
Lauren (6) and Jessica (1)

DUC Set for Renovations This Summer

Downing University Center will have a new look when students return for classes this fall.

This summer, DUC will undergo \$6 million in capital improvements from both the University and from Aramark, which operates WKU Dining Services. The renovations will increase the usable space by enclosing the southern half of the porch that surrounds the building. Aramark will renovate the Topper Café and Food Court areas to bring a fresh foods concept to the student center.

The improvements are part of a multi-phased, \$11 million renovation of the student center, which opened in 1970.

Likes Wins Honors for Sept. 11 Documentary

Dr. Terry Likes, an associate professor in Western's School of Journalism and Broadcasting, has won national honors for his radio documentary on "The Media Coverage of 9/11."

Likes received "Best Of Festival" designation from the Broadcast Education Association. "This is the highest award for the Faculty Audio Competition," according to David Reese, competition chair.

The program aired on Sept. 6, 2002, on WKYU-FM, and later aired in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and on the Kentucky News Network. In the report, the audience heard from Sam Donaldson, ABC News;



East Elevation View



South East View



South Elevation View

Steve Kroft, CBS 60 Minutes; Neal Shapiro, NBC News president; Bob Dotson, NBC News; John Cochran, ABC News; Deborah Potter, a former CNN and CBS correspondent; Al Tompkins, Poynter Institute for Media Studies; Ross Becker, anchor

for KTNV-TV in Las Vegas; Julie Kraft, a former Des Moines television news director/anchor; and Bob Freeman, news director of WFIE-TV in Evansville, Ind.

Likes, a former radio/television reporter, has taught at WKU since

1988. His 1998 documentary on Global Weather Events won honors from the Kentucky Associated Press. His 1999 "State of the News" documentary won an award from the Broadcast Education Association and the 2000 video follow-up won first-place from the National Press Club.

Survant Named Kentucky Poet Laureate

A 32-year veteran of Western's English Department has been named Kentucky Poet Laureate for 2003-05.

Joe Survant, who is semi-retired, was nominated for the title by Kentucky State University English professor Richard Taylor, who has also been poet laureate. The selection was made by the Kentucky Poet Laureate Committee of the Kentucky Arts Council and approved by Gov. Paul Patton.

As poet laureate, Survant will be an ambassador for poetry and literature in Kentucky and may talk to

school groups, literary clubs and university classes.

Survant has had four collections of poetry published: "Rafting Rise," "We Will All Be Changed," "Anne and Alpheus, 1842-1882" and "The Presence of Snow in the Tropics."

Hightower Wins Sports Journalism Scholarship

Western junior Kyle Hightower was selected as one of eight Freedom Forum-NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship winners for the 2003-04 academic year.



WKU Junior Kyle Hightower

Hightower, a print journalism major from Paducah, will receive a \$3,000 scholarship for his senior year. His picture also appeared in the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Championship programs.

The Freedom Forum, through a grant to the NCAA, supports eight scholarships to juniors who have

career goals in sports journalism and major in journalism or have experience in campus sports journalism. The program is designed to foster freedoms of speech and press while promoting quality sports journalism education at the collegiate level.

This semester Hightower is sports editor of the *College Heights Herald*, WKU's student newspaper. He has interned at the *Paducah Sun*, *Lexington Herald-Leader* and *Philadelphia Daily News* and will be an intern next summer at the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

Southern Kentucky Festival of Books Named to Kentucky Top 10

The Kentucky Tourism Council has selected the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books as one of the state's spring "Top Ten" events.



The festival, sponsored by WKU Libraries and the Kentucky Museum, is the state's largest literary event. The two-day event was April 11-12, during National Library Week.

A panel of impartial judges selects the "Top Ten" events for each season. Criteria include popularity of the event, its impact on the local tourism economy and cultural and historical significance.



Photo by LaDonna Harmon

Kentucky Poet Laureate Joe Survant

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William E. Bivin Forensic Society

Wins Fourth International Title

Western Kentucky University's forensic team claimed its fourth International Forensic Association title as WKU students won international championships in eight of 10 events.

In overall sweepstakes, 18 members of the William E. Bivin Forensic Society doubled the score of second-place Texas Southern. The three-day tournament was held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"This is the strongest team we've had in the past 13 years at Western," said Judy Woodring ('68), forensics director.

WKU's international champions are: Nicole Estenfelder, a Florence sophomore, informative speaking and programmed oral interpretation. Jennifer Purcell, a sophomore from Lewisville, Texas, impromptu speaking. Chris Brasfield, a Fulton freshman, prose interpretation. Keith Blaser, a senior from Evansville, Ind., after-dinner speaking. Lindsey Nave, a junior from Harrisburg, Ill., poetry interpretation. Evelio Silvera, a jun-

“This is the strongest team we’ve had in the past 13 years at Western.”

-Judy Woodring '68

Forensics Director

ior from Fort Myers, Fla., persuasive speaking. Reagan Gibson, a senior from Evansville, Ind., Lincoln-Douglas debate.

In the two other events, Western finished second and third. David Burns, a sophomore from Dayton, Ohio, and Stacy Bernaugh, a senior from Seaside, Calif., were second in duo interpretation, while Silvera and Caleb Williams, a sophomore from Lewisville, Texas, were third in parliamentary debate.

Each academic area at Western shares in the forensics team's success, she said.

"Anytime we win a national or international event, it shows how strong our academic units are on campus," Woodring said. "Our students come from every major and discipline. The knowledge they use in speech and debate competition

comes from the classroom. That speaks well about the level of instruction our students receive as well as the library and technology resources Western provides for student research."

Western won IFA championships in 1999, 2000 and 2001, but didn't travel to the 2002 competition after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

WKU President Gary Ransdell called the team's success "a major accomplishment. We have staked a claim that this program is a priority at Western, now we must proclaim such success loudly.

"Our basketball teams have received a lot of attention for their recent successes, but those successes pale in comparison to what this team has achieved. To be the best in the world is a rare and proud accomplishment."



Legacy OF LEADERS

The Spirit Does Make the Master as Western Alums Rise to Presidential Status

By Tommy Newton

From its beginnings as a teacher's college, Western Kentucky University has built a tradition of developing leaders for elementary and secondary schools.

The University's educational leadership legacy doesn't stop at the principal's office or superintendent's desk. The legacy extends all the way to the president's job or chancellor's position at the post-secondary level.

In 2003, the list of leaders includes Dr. Gary Ransdell at WKU, Dr. James Ramsey at the University of Louisville, Dr. Oscar Page at Austin College in Texas and Dr. Thomas Meredith at the University of Georgia system.

"Western's historical roots and strong tradition over many years has been as a teacher's college," Dr. Ramsey said. "Most often that has been viewed in the context of K-12. However, I believe that Western's commitment to the value of education has become embedded in educators from early childhood, to K-12, to higher education, to adult learn-

ing. As a result, WKU's impact on education is profound."

Dr. Ransdell called the leadership legacy, which includes numerous higher education administrators and board members, "a pretty strong compliment to Western."

"An interesting kind of phenomenon has unfolded here," Dr. Ransdell said. "I think that when this many people rise to this position from one institution there's something more to it than coincidence."

When Dr. Meredith returned to Western as president in 1988, he could seek advice from four former presidents or interim presidents — Kelly Thompson, Dero Downing, John Minton and Paul Cook.

"That was kind of a unique situation in which to enter," Dr. Meredith said. "Usually when I tell people that there were four former presidents on campus when I got there, they faint. But, I quickly tell them that all four were extraordinarily supportive every day."

The support, encouragement and guidance offered by administrators and faculty members provided a

roadmap to educational leadership, but “we all took different routes into the presidency,” Dr. Meredith said.

For example, Dr. Meredith was a high school principal before entering higher education leadership; Dr. Ransdell’s background included alumni and development positions; Dr. Alexander was an endowed professor; and Dr. Ramsey’s roles included economics professor and state budget director.

As an undergraduate student in economics at Western, Dr. Ramsey said, “I learned that higher education is about much more than going to class and learning course material. Western instilled in me an important set of values that have guided me throughout my life.”

Dr. Ransdell agreed. “I think the values that one gets at Western coupled with the history and traditions of this place are certainly the kinds of things that most campuses would emulate or strive to instill in alumni, students and faculty,” he said. “Maybe there’s some value in the characteristics that one comes to embrace in this place. Maybe it does lend itself to leadership.”

Dr. Page said his interest in administrative leadership was stimulated by his interaction with the administrators and faculty at Western. “While teaching at Western for one semester while working on my doctorate, I learned a lot about teaching and observed the work of people like Ray Cravens and John Minton as they led the college through a period of rapid growth and development,” he said.

“Western was quite different then because it was a small state college but these men were shaping the future of the college with every decision they made. I was impressed with what I saw and realized they held



H. L. Donovan, the first student enrolled in Western Kentucky State Normal School and later served as president of Eastern Kentucky and University of Kentucky.



Kelly Thompson who received his bachelor’s (‘35) and master’s (‘43) degrees at Western and was the school’s third president.

“My mentors at Western were faculty, staff and administrators who played a prominent role in the development of me as an individual — the principles and values that I live by daily.”

- Dr. James Ramsey ‘70

President of the University Of Louisville



Dero Downing received his bachelor's ('43) and master's ('47) at Western and was the school's fourth president.



Martin Massengale received his bachelor's ('52) at Western and is president emeritus of University of Nebraska.



Oscar Page received his master's ('63) at Western and is serving as president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

challenging roles that were very meaningful.”

Before assuming his position at Austin College, Dr. Page served as a history faculty member at University of Georgia, dean of Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., vice president and provost at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., and president of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn.

“Because of my experience at the ‘smaller’ Western, I have had a tendency to focus my work in smaller colleges,” Dr. Page said. “Obviously, Georgia was the one exception. The personal relationships that I developed at Western have greatly influenced my work and my goal of promoting these types of relationships wherever I have worked.”

Relationships developed on the Hill also influenced Dr. Martin Massengale in his four decades of educational leadership roles. Faculty members like H.L. Stephens and L.Y. Lancaster in biology and Charles Taylor and Charles Keown in agriculture “had a great impact on me.”

Dr. Massengale was 14 when he left the family farm in Wayne County for Western in 1948. “I was just a young person. These faculty members recognized my potential more than I did.”

He received his bachelor’s degree in agriculture and biology in 1952, becoming the first person in his family to earn a college degree. Two brothers and a sister followed. “Our parents understood the value of an education” even though they hadn’t graduated from high school, Dr. Massengale said.

Stephens, head of the biology department, steered him to the University of Wisconsin, where he earned his master’s and doctorate. “I think those four people took an interest in me, encouraged me and supported me along the way,” Dr. Massengale said. “They had a major impact on what I was doing.”

His career has included U.S. Army service, faculty and administrative roles at the University of Arizona, chancellor of University of Nebraska-Lincoln, president of University of Nebraska, leadership roles in professional and agricultural organizations, consulting visits to a dozen nations and intercollegiate athletics leadership roles with the NCAA, Knight Commission and College Football Association.

“Western has had a great impact on my life and on the impact I’ve had nationally and internationally,”

Dr. Massengale said.

Dr. Meredith also has had a national impact in leadership roles in Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia education systems.

“I knew I wanted to pursue administration for quite some time, but the decision to move into higher education administration occurred while I was pursuing a doctorate at the University of Mississippi,” said Dr. Meredith, whose mentors as a graduate student included John Minton, John Scarborough and James Hicks.

Dr. Ramsey said his Western education prepared him for master’s and doctoral work and for a career goal as an economics faculty member. “A number of years later, as the associate dean for the College of Business at Loyola University in New Orleans, the provost told me that is hard to define a ‘good’ higher education administrator, but that I had what it takes.

“At the same time,” Dr. Ramsey continued, “I didn’t want to give up my profession as an economist, so I took advantage of every opportunity to be in a higher education administrative position.”

Dr. Ramsey served Western as vice president for finance and administration for six years as well as professor of economics. He still values the education and experiences gained on the Hill.

“My mentors at Western were faculty, staff and administrators who played a prominent role in the development of me as an individual — the principles and values that I live by daily,” he said. “People like Dero Downing, Dee Gibson, Dr. James Davis, Dr. Bob Pulsinelli, Dr. Rich Cantrell and many others all had a profound influence in my life.”

Dr. Dero Downing, a mentor to several Western leaders, had his own mentors as he rose through the ranks at Western from student-athlete, faculty member, and administrator to president. “I had the good fortune of having classes with some of the Western greats,” including Gordon Wilson Sr., Miss Frances Richards and H.M. Yarbrough, he said.

“All of those people had such a commitment to academic excellence and shaped the university’s foundation,” Dr. Downing said.

Dr. Downing succeeded one of the people responsible for shaping Western’s foundation, Dr. Kelly Thompson. “Dr. Thompson had a tremendous influ-



Kern Alexander received his master’s (‘62) at Western and served as president of WKU and Murray State University.



Thomas Meredith received his master’s (‘66) at Western, was the school’s eighth president and is serving as chancellor of the University of Georgia system.



James Ramsey received his bachelor’s (‘70) at Western and is serving as president of University of Louisville.

ence on my career and my life,” he said.

Dr. Thompson received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western and began his career under President Henry Hardin Cherry. Thompson, who also served as the school’s publicity director and assistant to President Paul Garrett,

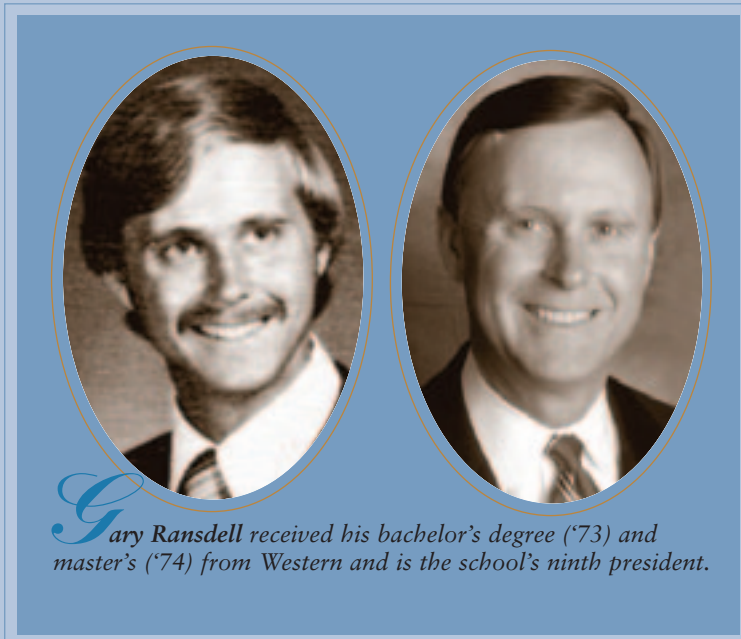
became Western’s third president in 1955 and led the school through a period of enrollment growth and construction.

“Both Kelly Thompson and Dero Downing were on campus when I became president,” Dr. Meredith said. “They provided extremely valuable insight and guidance.”

Dr. Ransdell became acquainted with Dr. Thompson and was a student during Dr. Downing’s tenure as president, but “Dr. Minton was the one I knew quite well and who guided me in most of my career decisions.”

Dr. Minton, who would serve as Western’s fifth president, was responsible for Dr. Ransdell’s graduate assistantship and his first job at Western in the Office of University School Relations. Dr. Minton encouraged the future president to earn his master’s and doctorate then seek professional experience elsewhere.

Even though his career has included jobs as associate director of Alumni Affairs at WKU, director of Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University



*G*ary Ransdell received his bachelor’s degree (’73) and master’s (’74) from Western and is the school’s ninth president.

and vice president for Institutional Advancement at Clemson, Dr. Ransdell knew his doctorate in higher education administration (Indiana University ’78) had him on track for the top job.

“In pursuit of that degree, it was clear to me that my career goal was to reach this position, not necessarily

here, but to become to a university president,” he said. “That’s what the degree was all about and that’s what I wanted to pursue.”

Timing and circumstance, however, had to align for that goal to be achieved at Western. “I was prepared to seek this job in any number of institutions

in the Southeast at the point in time I began talking with Western,” Dr. Ransdell said.

“It just so happened that Tom Meredith was leaving. I had been at Clemson at that time for 10 or 11 years and was ready. But then I had to be sure that Western was ready for me. Was Western ready to achieve its full potential? To go through the necessary changes?

“Having been away 18 years, I didn’t know whether it was or not,” Dr. Ransdell said. “The Board of Regents and I had to both get to know each other and reach the necessary conclusion that we were both

seeking the same thing for Western. When that happened, I became the fortunate beneficiary of being able to serve in this job at my alma mater.”

“I think that when this many people rise to this position from one institution there’s something more to it than coincidence.”

- Dr. Gary Ransdell ‘73
Current WKU President

WKU Receives Gift for Academic Athletic Center

Family's Giving Makes Them Largest Contributor to I-AA Football in Nation

Western Kentucky University has received a new gift of \$1.55 million for an Academic and Athletic Performance Center from a donor who wishes to remain confidential. The principal beneficiary of the proposed facility is the Hilltopper Football program.

According to WKU Athletics Director Wood Selig, this gift in support of a proposed center will bring total gifts from this family to \$4.9 million, which is believed to be largest amount given by a single donor to any I-AA football program in the nation. In addition, these gifts make the family the fourth largest donors to football in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"This facility is at the top of our current wish list to benefit all of our 350 student-athletes," Selig said. "It will assist all student-athletes with computer labs, study areas, and our primary academic advising center, and it will also house our primary weight training facility, athletic training and rehabilitation center, and offices and locker rooms for football and baseball."

Selig said the new Academic Athletic Performance Center will be located in the heart of the athletic precinct and accessible to all 20 intercollegiate athletic programs. "The name of the Academic Athletic Performance Center is completely accurate as it will serve to enhance the scholarly and athletic performance of all of WKU's student athletes," he said.

"WKU has just captured its first National Championship," said Selig.



WKU Athletics Director Wood Selig and VP of Institutional Advancement Tom Hiles present a prototype of the proposed Center.

"We have a finite window of time to capitalize on the national spotlight that has been directed to our campus and our athletic department."

According to Selig, Western is now solidly on the radar for some of the best athletes in the country, thanks in large part to the highly visible National Championship for football. "Facilities recruit athletes better than any other tangible asset," he said. "In order to keep the momentum going forward, progress in the area of facilities is the best statement to prospective student-athletes as to the value and importance of an athletic program. The facility will be a significant statement to the prominence of intercollegiate athletics at WKU and the national aspirations we have for all of our academic and athletic programs."

WKU President Gary A. Ransdell expressed his appreciation to the

donors. "We are so grateful for what this family has done and continues to do for Western," he said. "This enrichment center is a perfect bookend for the Diddle Arena renovation. In one part of campus we are restoring one of the nation's best on-campus basketball facilities to benefit numerous athletic and academic programs. This new center, to be located between the football and baseball fields, is another step in creating the facilities necessary to enable our students to be nationally competitive – in the classroom and on the athletic field."

Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Institutional Advancement, says "This new gift brings us closer to our \$90 million goal. We are very grateful for this generous new leadership commitment which plays a key role in completing a major upgrade in our campus facilities."

Isbell Gift Creates Two Scholarships

Rosella Isbell of Bowling Green recently made two \$50,000 gifts to create scholarship funds that will provide awards to students in perpetuity. One gift created the Calvin M. and Rosella Spivey Isbell Scholarship Fund for the WKU Department of Nursing and the other created the Calvin M. and Rosella Spivey Isbell Alumni Leadership Scholarships. Mr. Isbell, an alumnus of the Bowling Green Business University, passed away in 1997.

“ Calvin and I became interested in the nursing profession many years ago when we had a niece who entered school to become a nurse. We have always wanted to do something to support worthy students pursuing a nursing career. I am also pleased that we can provide support for the Alumni Leadership Scholarship program. This program is grooming fine young students to become outstanding leaders. ”

-Rosella Spivey Isbell

Kentucky National Bank Makes Gift to WKU

In Honor of Lois Gray

Western Kentucky University has received a gift from Kentucky National Bank to fund scholarships for students from Hardin County, Ky. This \$10,000 gift was made in honor of Lois Gray of Vine Grove, Ky., chair of the WKU Board of Regents and a founding board member for Kentucky National Bank.

The gift will annually provide four \$500 scholarships to graduates of Central Hardin High School, Elizabethtown High School, John Hardin High School, and North Hardin High School. These students will be referred to as the Lois Gray Scholars.



Lois Gray

“ Lois has been an outstanding member of our Board of Regents. It is indeed appropriate that Kentucky National Bank has chosen to honor her in such a wonderful way. It is a fitting tribute to her interest in and dedication to higher education in Kentucky. ”

-WKU President, Gary A. Ransdell

“ Through her leadership, Lois has helped shape the quality educational opportunities our young people enjoy. This gift is a fitting tribute to her and a sound investment Kentucky National Bank is making in our youth — the future of Elizabethtown and Hardin County. ”

-Larry Calvert,
CEO, Kentucky National Bank

Campaign Update

Unmet Needs Remain in Investing in the Spirit Campaign

Western Kentucky University has reached the initial \$78 million goal for the Investing in the Spirit Campaign and is within \$2 million of the new goal of \$90 million. However, many unmet priorities remain in spite of those successes. These include the areas of Cultural Enhancement, Instructional Technology, the Kentucky Museum, and University Libraries. Those needs include:

CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT

Goal: \$1,000,000

Amount Raised: \$173,000

Investing in the Spirit seeks to enhance the student experience by offering a series of activities each year designed to enrich the University's cultural life. Reaching across many disciplines, these activities feature prominent artists and scholars who will present both on the stage and in the classroom working directly with students and faculty. This area of the Campaign directly relates to the University's strategic goal of providing cultural community events that enrich the quality of life in our community. Additional funds raised in this area will provide the following activities.

- Cultural community events
- Visiting artists and scholars

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Goal: \$1,000,000

Amount Raised: \$250,000

Achieving the Campaign's Instructional Technology goal will allow Western to better utilize technology, enabling students and faculty to acquire, share, and manage knowledge more efficiently. Additional funds will help meet Western's strategic goal to ensure that all students possess the ability to utilize information technologies in their respective disciplines and provide the following opportunities.

- Smart classrooms
- Enhanced instructional equipment
- Computer and technology enhancements

THE KENTUCKY MUSEUM

Goal: \$1,000,000

Amount Raised: \$605,000

The Kentucky Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of materials that reflect the unique history, culture, events, and people of Kentucky. Meeting this goal would provide the following opportunities for the program.

- Conservation of rare and important artifacts

- Acquisition of new items for museum collections
- Additional exhibits
- New educational programming

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Goal: \$1,000,000

Amount Raised: \$732,554

The University Libraries support Western's roles of teaching, research, and public service by serving as a regional source for information access and education. The library system is an integral part of any university as it is the only entity that touches the lives of students and faculty in all academic disciplines. Additional funds for the libraries will provide:

- Support for new focus collections in the main library
- Additional research materials for the Kentucky Library
- Enhanced electronic library resources

These areas are directly reflective of the goals outlined in Western's Challenging the Spirit strategic plan. Collectively, the goals are designed to guide WKU toward its vision to "be the best comprehensive public institution in Kentucky and among the best in the nation."

Hardin County Donor Supports Student Scholarships

New student scholarships will be provided and a visiting professorship funded at Western Kentucky University thanks to a recent gift from a donor from Hardin County, Ky., who wishes to remain confidential.

This gift will be made through a \$500,000 charitable remainder trust, which will create both a \$100,000 scholarship endowment

for select Central Hardin High School students who attend WKU, and a \$400,000 endowment to create a Visiting Professorship in Business Leadership and Ethics in the Gordon Ford College of Business.

"We are extremely grateful that this donor has chosen to support Western in such a generous way," said WKU President Gary Ransdell.

"Endowed student scholarships are one of the most important priorities outlined within our Challenging the Spirit strategic plan. In addition, support for nationally prominent faculty is essential in preparing competent graduates and leaders seeking to create, renovate, or grow existing business organizations or to bring new ideas for business development to Kentucky."

The 1960s

demonstrating for change

By Sue Lynn Stone, University Archivist

The 1960s was a period of change in student life. During this decade, Western became a university, experienced great growth in student enrollment and faculty, and built numerous campus buildings. And, as the college grew into a university, its students sought a larger voice on campus.

In the early 1960s, when students felt the need to be heard by their campus administrators, they took to the streets. "Basketball Fever" can be blamed for Western's first student demonstration of the decade. On Wednesday afternoon, March 14, 1962, a small group of students on campus began protesting the college's refusal to grant a holiday on that Friday when the men's basketball team was playing University of Iowa in the NCAA Mid-East Regional tournament in

Iowa City, Iowa. One local newspaper estimated the crowd at the College Street bridge had grown to 1,000 by 9:30 p.m. Six students were arrested for disturbing the

students headed for Fountain Square Park to protest new social conduct rules that would severely curtail necking on campus.

Students told reporters that

Western Students Frolic in Monday Demonstration



Students and fans shout, "We want a holiday!", *Park City Daily News*, March 15, 1962

peace. An editorial in the next *College Heights Herald* called for an alternate route for student expression in policies that concerned them.

In May 1963, an estimated 750

signs in dormitories warned girls not to talk to boys while sunbathing, students not to sit in cars unless their heads are above the windows, and that goodnight kisses must be brief.

Dorm directors said there were no such signs; college officials and campus police said they knew of no new regulations.

In April 1964, more than 300 students marched down College Street to Fountain Square Park and then proceeded to Clay Street where 23 students were arrested after rocks were hurled at the resi-

Students and Fans Shouted "We Want A Holiday!"

dence of Pauline Tabor. Although two newspapers quoted students as saying the students were demonstrating because things "had been quiet too long," an underground newspaper called *The Agitator* insisted that they were on a "noble mission, namely, to stamp out a house of prostitution."

Finally, in March 1965, a student forum began the process of creat-

ing formalized student government. *College Heights Herald* cartoons echoed concerns about student apathy and the end of the traditional Spring riot. Meanwhile, more students expressed interest in national affairs, the draft and Viet Nam. Five thousand students and friends sent a petition in support of the American troops that year; 3,000 signed a petition endorsing

the Moratorium on Oct. 15, 1969. Western's last demonstration of the 1960s drew an estimated 1200 participants, singing protest songs and chanting "Well it's one, two, three, what are we fightin' for?"

Did you demonstrate while a student at Western? If so, please write about your experience and send it to University Archives!



College Heights Herald, March 31, 1965



College Heights Herald, May 13, 1965

twin cents

Young entrepreneurs find success at WKU's Center for Research and Development *and* in the classroom... what a freshman year!

By Scott Sisco, The Daily News

Chris and Clinton Mills are nearing the end of their first year as students at Western Kentucky University. They are also getting more and more comfortable in their office at Western's Center for Research and Development. The twin brothers run Hitcents.com, an Internet advertising company.

"I was happy with all of my classes," Chris Mills said.

So happy, he made the Dean's Scholar List for his first semester. He's been taking mainly general education classes in his first year and he cleft out of a computer class.

Clinton Mills has been taking some classes in his business major.

"I'm very interested in business and learning about business," he said.

Going to Western has helped the brothers by making new friends which helps to relieve stress by getting the brothers out of the office.

The new office has given the Millses a workspace, something they didn't have when they were running the business out of the family home.

"It's made business thrive," Chris Mills said. "It's really let people get to know of us better."

A lot of people from Western have come to the center to talk to the Millses too.

"I got to meet a lot of Western students before school started," Clinton Mills said.

Clinton Mills is planning to take one class over the summer just to get ahead.

"It's too early to tell, but right now I'm on target for four years," he said. "It's very hard to manage a full-time business plus books."

High Tide Technologies, another company in



Young Entrepreneurs Chris (left) and Clinton Mills



Photo by Sheryl Hagen-Booth



the center, began in July by Joe Ahler and his partner David Mundie. The company manufactures a device that allows the user to monitor water, waste water and transmission pipeline equipment via the Internet from around the world.

“We send packets of data at specific increments,” Ahler said.

Ahler said he’s hoping to get a crew into his space soon to renovate and be up and running.

The company applied for several research and development grants.

“Part of being able to get these grants, we have to team with a university,” Ahler said.

Since Ahler and Mundie are both from Nashville, Bowling Green and Western offered a good opportunity.

“It was a good fit for us,” Ahler said.

High Tide has clients in places such as Peru, Mexico and Canada.

“It keeps us moving pretty quickly,” Ahler said.

Ann Mead, chief financial officer for Western, has the challenge of attracting start-up, New Economy businesses to the center.

The companies locating to the center must pay the cost of renovations because Western doesn’t have the funds to cover it, Mead said. Western bought the old Bowling Green Mall property to bring in technology companies. The University received a New Economy grant from the state to purchase the property and make a few improvements.

“We have to be careful to stay true to what the state wants us to do,” Mead said.

Some of those improvements have been to the parking lot. Some of the parking lot has been subdivided and will be either leased or sold to commercial businesses, such as restaurants and banks.

“ We would love to see Western alumni and friends locate back to the center to make Bowling Green their future business and home,” said Mead.

We want you back!

WKU Center for
Research and Development
Leasing space for start-up companies
Contact: Ann Mead 270.745.2434

Coming home

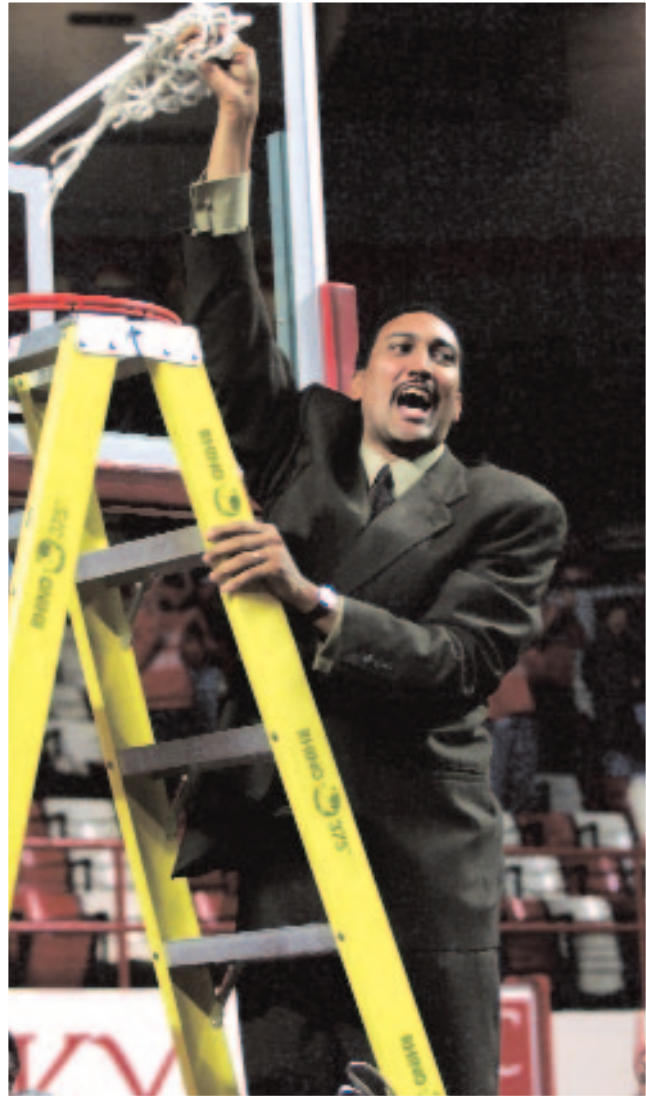
Photos by Sheryl Hagan-Booth

Alumni and friends celebrated Coming Home festivities in conjunction with a WKU Basketball Senior Day doubleheader



Hilltopper and Lady Topper basketball legends graced the Reunion Room in the newly constructed Hall of Champions. Those legends, along with a sold out Diddle Arena, watched the Lady Toppers as well as the men's team come out victorious over Middle Tennessee State University. It was a memorable celebration of dual Sun Belt Conference regular season championships!







CHAMPS!

women...



Photo by Joe Innel



Photo by Sheryl Hogan-Booth



Photo by Joe Innel



Photo by Joe Innel

...and men!



Photo by Joe Innel

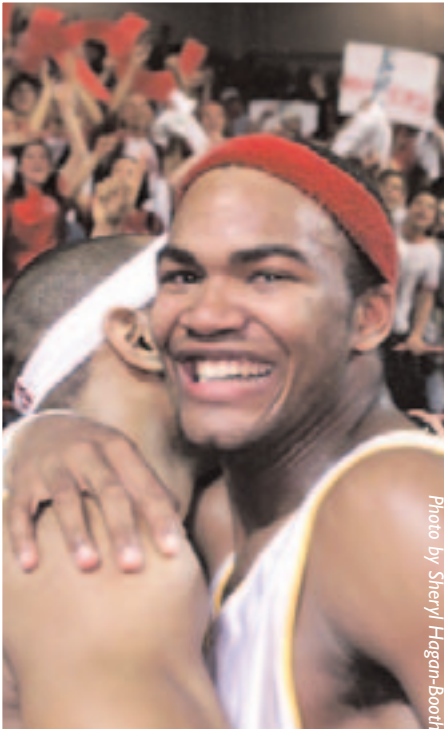


Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth



Photo by Joe Innel





Photo by Joe Imel



Photo by Joe Imel

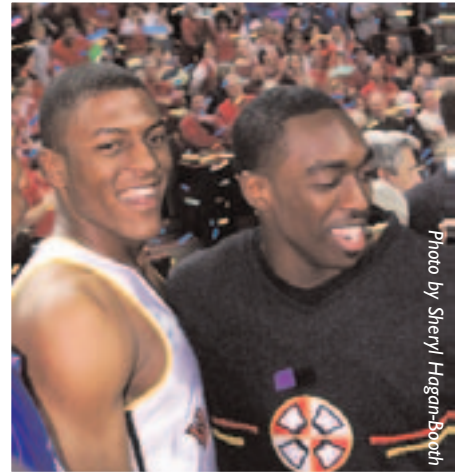


Photo by Sheryl Hagan-Booth



Photo by Joe Imel



Photo by Joe Imel



Photo by Joe Imel

WKU Retires Jersey of Basketball Great *Carlisle Towery*

Towery's is only the sixth Hilltopper basketball jersey to hang in Diddle Arena

Carlisle Towery, Western Kentucky's first two-time All-American and the first Hilltopper to score 1,000 career points, had a jersey bearing his number (42) retired in his honor during halftime ceremonies of the WKU-Ball State ESPN Bracket Buster Saturday game Feb. 22.

Towery was the sixth former Hilltopper basketball great to be honored in this fashion. The legendary Western coach E.A. Diddle, along with All-Americans John Oldham, Tom Marshall, Clem Haskins and Jim McDaniels, already have jerseys hanging from the rafters in Diddle Arena. And, Lady Topper consensus All-American Lillie Mason is recognized similarly.

A Chuck Taylor Basketball All-American both his junior and senior seasons (1939-40 and '40-41), "Big Boy" Towery came to the Hill from Shady Grove (Ky.) High School in 1938.

The three Western varsity



WKU mascot Big Red congratulates Carlisle Towery on joining an elite group of Hilltopper basketball legends.

Photo by Bruce Davis

teams he played on won 68 of 81 games (84%) - going 22-3 in '38-39; 24-6 in '39-40; and 22-4 in '40-41. Those clubs won three Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships and

two Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles. And, he was an important part of the '39-40 Topper club that made the school's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Towery led the Hilltoppers in scoring both his junior (13.8 points per game) and senior (17.0 ppg - the first Western athlete to average more than 16 points a game) seasons after ranking second on the '38-39 club (10.6 ppg). He completed his career at Western with 1,010 points, averaging 13.3 ppg for his career.

He was twice named to the All-KIAC and All-SIAA teams.

Towery went on to play eight seasons of professional basketball with the Ft. Wayne Pistons, the Indianapolis Jets and the Baltimore Bullets,

all wrapped around a stint in the military.

Now retired and living in Marion, Ky., Towery is the father of four children, three of those Western alumni.

**WKU Alumni Association
National Board of Directors**

Claire Arnold '85, '90
Louisville, KY

Don Ball '68
Auburn, AL

Bill Bewley '68, '76
Oakton, VA

Sandy Billingsley '86
Bowling Green, KY

Anthony Bowles '83, '84
Bowling Green, KY

Kevin Brooks '74
Bowling Green, KY

Wayne Bush '89
Bowling Green, KY

Mike Byers '69
Elizabethtown, KY

Tony Cochran '73
Atlanta, GA

Missie Hubbuch Cole '90
Nashville, TN

Rosemary Crennel '69
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Donna Harmon '82
Bowling Green, KY

Brenda Bailey Little '79
Hartford, KY

Marc Lovell '88
Bowling Green, KY

Dr. Jerry Martin '58
Bowling Green, KY

Amber Mayfield
(Student Representative)
Owensboro, KY

Brad Mutchler, Jr. '58
Paducah, KY

Bob Owsley BU '58
Cecilia, KY

W. Leo Peckenpaugh '73, '96
Henderson, KY

Mary Jo Phillips '53
Nashville, TN

Hugh Ridenour '66, '96
Hanson, KY

Diane Ritter '76
Hastings on the Hudson, NY

David N. Roberts '79
Owensboro, KY

Jim Smith '70
Nashville, TN

Brad Watson '73
Franklin, TN

Terry Wilcutt '75
Houston, TX

“To Enhance and Strengthen the Western Spirit”



Greetings from the Hill! It was great to see thousands of alumni and friends in attendance at the Coming Home celebration on March 1, 2003. It is very apparent throughout our 70,000+ alumni base that there is a renewed excitement about Western. From the capital construction to the student recruitment to the fundraising success, alumni are showing their support and getting involved at WKU. Become part of the energy that is permeating the Hill. And, if you haven't see campus in a while, then I encourage you to come back for a visit.

There are also many alumni events planned across the country in the coming months that will allow you to interact with other Western alumni and get reconnected with the Hill. These events include social activities, Derby parties, student recruitment events, and so much more! I hope you'll take a look at the Events Calendar and attend an event in your area. We look forward to your involvement! Always remember, "The Spirit Makes the Master".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Smith".

Donald Smith ('94)
Executive Director
WKU Alumni Association

Legislative Update

The 2003 General Assembly has completed its work on the 2002-2004 biennial budget and officially adjourned in late March. While higher education was not spared from budget cuts in the current fiscal year, both the House and Senate confirmed their commitment to continue the progress made by higher education since the 1997 reform effort by providing an \$18.9 million increase in funds for universities in 2003-04. The budget also funds a third round of the Bucks for Brains program and gives universities the opportunity to borrow money for infrastructure improvements.

For Western this means a \$1.4 million cut in state appropriations for the current year. The administration has planned for a potential budget reduction, and departments on campus will not see cuts to their operating budgets to meet this obligation. In 2003-04, WKU will

receive an addition \$3 million in base funding and will claim \$4.6 million in matching dollars from the Bucks for Brains program.

While this was far short of the \$4.3 million WKU was hoping to receive in 2003-04 based on the original budget proposed in 2002, we are grateful to the Senate for including increased funding for the institutions in its version of the budget and to the House for supporting the increase. WKU continues to respond to the challenges of higher education reform. We are enrolling, retaining and graduating more students than ever, and this budget will allow us to keep our commitment to Kentucky. Please express your thanks to your legislators for their support of higher education and encourage them to keep higher education at the top of their priority list for the 2004-06 biennial budget. If you would like further information from WKU, please contact us at alumni@wku.edu.

calendar *of Events*

April

April 26, 2003

Muhlenberg County Alumni
Chapter Habitat for Humanity
Community Service Project
Central City, KY

May

May 3, 2003

Atlanta Derby Party
Home of Gerald Fudge

Dallas Chapter Derby Party
Lone Star Park
Reservations due April 18

North Carolina Derby Party
4:30 PM (EST)
Coach's Sports Bar and Grill
10403 Park Road Charlotte, NC
RSVP by May 1, 2003 to Ken
Szymanski at 704-553-2831 or
email: kszyman@aol.com

Tampa Derby Party
Home of Wayne and Laura
Roemer Champ
For more information, contact
Karen Matchus at 813-971-3433.
\$15 entry fee

May 15, 2003

Capital City and Central Kentucky
Chapter
Lexington Legends Baseball Game

Lexington, KY

May 24, 2003

Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter
Spring Day at the Races
Churchill Downs
Louisville, KY

May 30-31, 2003

Muhlenberg County Alumni
Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser
Wal-Mart in Central City, KY

June

June 4-6, 2003

Alumni College

June 4-6, 2003

Western Kentucky University
Golden Anniversary Club Reunion

June 6-7, 2003

Business University Reunion

June 6-7, 2003

Decades Reunion - 1960s

July

July 12, 2003

Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter
Warren County Alumni Chapter
Barren County Alumni Chapter
NIGHT AT THE BATS
Slugger Field
Louisville, KY

July 25-26, 2003

College High Grand Gathering

Let's take a trip
down memory lane to...

Alumni College

Remember those late night talks
with your college roommate?
Remember rushing back to your
dorm before curfew? Remember
the feeling of leaving a class after
acing a test? Have you ever want-
ed to relive those days again?
Here's your chance.

Western Kentucky University Alumni College JUNE 4-6, 2003

Alumni College is a continuing
education program for Western
Kentucky University alumni.
2003 will be the inaugural year for
the program. The program gives
alumni of Western an opportunity
to stay on campus while taking
fun, educational classes. This
year's Alumni College will spend
one day on campus in the class-
room and one day on a road trip
to Mammoth Cave National Park!
For more information, contact the
WKU Alumni Association at
888-WKU-ALUM or e-mail
alumni@wku.edu.

Save the Date!

Homecoming, November 1
WKU Football vs. Southern Illinois University

Parents' Association Update

- The Parents' Association has more than 1000 members.
- The Parents' Advisory Council meets on a quarterly basis.
- Each year money raised by the Parents' Association goes to fund a Student-Directed Initiative to improve student life at Western Kentucky University.
- During the 2003-2004 school year the Parents' Association will fund two separate projects. One is a video leadership library that will affect thousands of students. Another project will be the revival of the Student Escort Service on campus.
- For more information, join us online at www.wku.edu/StuAffairs/parents or call us at 270-745-5990.



Photo by Sheryl Hogan-Booth



Yes, I/we want to join the WKU Parents' Association

Enclosed is a gift of \$_____ to be designated for the Parents' Association and its projects.

Payment Method:

- Check made payable to WKU Foundation
- Credit Card: Visa MC AMEX DISCOVER Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Parent(s) Name: _____ SS# (for database ID only) _____

Home Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone _____ Home Email _____

Business Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Business Phone _____ Business Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

WKU Alumni? Yes No Graduation Year? _____

Student's Name: _____ SS# _____

Classification Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Please mail this form and your contribution to:
 Western Kentucky University
 Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
 Attn: Parents' Association
 1 Big Red Way
 Bowling Green, KY 42101



Western senior Josh Hawkins, Big Red, and Buddy the Bat at the Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter's WKU Night at the Bats.



Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter President Kristen Miller ('97) and Tim Corrigan at the WKU Night at the Bats in Louisville, Ky.



Barry McIntosh, Joe Earl Campbell, Jim Scott, and Butch Rush at the Hilltopper Golf Scramble at the Golf Club of the Everglades in Naples, Fla. in February.

The Society of African American Alumni conducted a WKU recruiting event at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. The Society was represented by its Executive Committee members, scholars, and Western Kentucky University staff members.



Show your WKU Pride

By Bob Edwards

Perhaps you have seen the new license plate design for Kentucky. For those who have not, it can best be described as a smiling-face sun rising over the hills of Kentucky with the slogan "Kentucky – It's that Friendly" underneath.

The new design and slogan are the result of marketing research that showed Kentucky and its residents are perceived as friendly, especially to travelers. By the end of 2003, it is estimated that more than 2 million motor vehicles will serve as ambassadors for Kentucky tourism.

Reaction to the design by Kentucky motorists has been consistently underwhelming to say the

least. Some critics have compared it to something akin to Teletubbies or Wal-Mart.

Even Gov. Paul Patton's defense of the design was less than a ringing endorsement, "They don't put Rembrandts on the back of cars."

A simple solution to those who don't care for the design is to opt for a specialty plate. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet currently offers more than 40 choices. Options range from one that commemorates the Horse Council to one for Purple Heart recipients. But, which one to choose? May I make a suggestion? How about showing your pride in Western Kentucky University and at the same time contributing to its general scholarship fund?

License plates featuring the WKU logo can be obtained through your local county clerk's office now, or the next time your license plate is due to be renewed. The license plate costs just \$10 per year in addition to the regular registration fees - \$10 that will go into Western's general scholarship fund.

Show your pride for Western with a little creative license – a WKU license plate for your car in 2003.

Editor's Note: If you live outside the Commonwealth of Kentucky and are interested in making WKU plates available in your state, let us know by calling the WKU Alumni Association at 1-888-WKU-ALUM.





Staying in touch with your college friends is just a click away.

Introducing the WKU Alumni Online Community

An online community is now available to all WKU alumni who register with their alumni ID number. The online community provides

- a searchable Alumni directory,
- searchable Chapter pages,
- searchable Class notes,
- and a searchable Events calendar

so you can stay in touch with Western and each other.

Visit the WKU Alumni web site for the new online community at www.wku.edu/Alumni/index.htm.

Look for your 10-digit alumni ID number on the mailing label on this edition of ALUMNI magazine.

For more information send email to: alumni@wku.edu.



Would You Like to Receive **ALUMNI** Online?

The entire ALUMNI magazine is now live online. Go to www.wku.edu. Click on Alumni/Giving. Click on ALUMNI Magazine.

There you'll find a complete version of the printed piece you now hold in your hand – every article, every picture, every word.

If you prefer to receive your magazine online instead of via regular mail, please send an e-mail to tracy.morrison@wku.edu and simply note "Online Magazine Option" in the subject line. Then, we will remove your name from our magazine mailing list.

We're pleased to be able to offer this service to you. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the site, please let us know. Enjoy!

Class NOTES

1940s

Robert A. Walters ('41) of Dahlgren, Va., is listed in the *Who's Who in the World* from 1999-2003. He was also listed in *America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals* 2003-2005.

Ruric E. Wheeler ('47) of Birmingham, Ala., has recently published a new book, *All Because of Polly*. The book is inspirational, historical fiction and a love story of two teenagers during the Great Depression and World War II. The book is available on the Barnes and Noble web site, Amazon.com, christianbook.com and various other bookstores.

1950s

William Ed Worley ('56) of Morrow, Ga., was named to the 2002 Gilmer High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was one of four inaugural inductees.

Bill Thomas ('58) of Glendale, Ky., has just published his 27th book, a novel called *The River Purple*. It's his first novel after 26 books with various major New York publishers on nature and wildlife subjects. Thomas is also director/founder of Oakbrook Farm Center for the Arts with an open photography art

gallery free to the public by appointment near Glendale, Ky., representing a worldwide collection of his work as well as selected students from Touch of Success Seminars, which he founded in 1978. The book is available through the Barnes & Noble web site, Amazon.com and Thomas' own web site, <http://www.touchofsucccess.com>.

1960s

Carlos B. Embry, Jr. ('63) of Morgantown, Ky., was elected 17th District State Representative in November's General Election. He will represent Butler, Grayson, and western Hardin counties in Frankfort. This marked Embry's fifth election to public office. Earlier, he served three terms at Ohio County Judge Executive and one term as Mayor of the City of Beaver Dam. He is retired from the multi-state law firm of Hughes & Coleman, where he served as general manager.



Dr. James D. Gilbert ('64, '68) of University, Miss., was promoted to chair of Health, Exercise Science, and Recreation Management at

University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss.

Karon Kay (Gary) Booth ('68, '72) of Bowling Green, Ky., a retired teacher who taught for 30 years in Butler County, Ky., joins the ranks of combat novelists with the publication of her first book, *COVER FIRE* by Peach Blossom Publications.

Ellen (Kiefer) Skomsky ('68) of Louisville, Ky., just completed a two-year term as president of Habitat For Humanity of Metro Louisville and is currently serving on the organization's Board of Directors.

1970s

Doris (Weaver) Deuth ('70, '74) of Louisville, Ky., has been named the Kentucky Department of Corrections Warden of the Year for 2002. Deuth has been warden of the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in Shelby County since Dec. 1999 when Gov. Paul Patton appointed her to the post. Deuth is a career corrections employee who has held several other positions with the DOC, including deputy warden for security at KCIW. She has just completed a one-year appointment on the Governor's Task Force on the

Economic Status of Kentucky's Women and served as a member of its Executive Committee.

C. Joseph

Russell ('73) of Carmel, Ind., has been appointed treasurer of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation



Board. Russell practices at the Indianapolis based law firm of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP.

Noretta (Gentry) Baxter ('75)

of Alvaton, Ky., is employed by WKU in the Department of Physics & Astronomy as an office associate. She has worked for WKU for 15 years. She is married to William E. Baxter and they have one daughter, Brittany Lynn Baxter, 16.

J. Frank Harmon ('77) of

Barrington Hills, Ill., is the vice president and general manager for Cardinal Health's Pharmaceutical Division responsible for operations in Chicago, Ill., and Humaco, Puerto Rico. Harmon and his wife, Jean Ann (Blomquist) Harmon ('79) have two children, Leah 14 and Jeff 11.

Michael New

('77) of South Burlington, Vt., joined Saint Michael's College as director of human



resources in July 2001, has been promoted to vice president for human resources at the liberal arts residential Catholic college located in Burlington, Vt.

Dennis Ray Spencer ('77) of

Gallatin, Tenn., was recently promoted to the position of plant

Robertsons Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Former WKU Alumni Association Executive Director Lee Robertson ('50, '57) and his wife, Joyce ('65), celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 2, 2003.

Congratulations to both of you from all of your Western family!

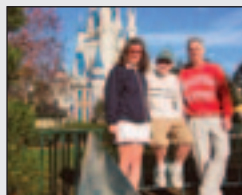


manager of Tennessee Valley Authority's Gallatin Fossil Plant.

Kathy L. Bunch ('78, '81) of Glasgow, Ky., was recently named the principal of Hardinsburg Primary School in Hardinsburg, Ky.

John H. Grizzell ('78) of St. Louis, Mo., is principal of Grizzell & Co., a marketing communications firm. Prior to founding Grizzell & Co. in 1991, he had held positions at internationally recognized firms. In addition to his education at Western, he recently attained a master's degree at Webster University ('02).

Tom Kerr ('78, '79) and **Lisa (Dowell) Kerr** ('79) of



Cincinnati, Ohio, took a New Year's family vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. They have a son, Sam, 14, who earned his Boy Scout Eagle rank in November 2002. He is also an honors student in 8th grade.

Randall E. Norris ('78) of Nicholasville, Ky., was recently appointed first assistant in the Jessamine County Attorney's Office, where he has been a prosecutor since 1993. Norris has his private law practice in Nicholasville, Ky., and he has taught part-time in the department of government at Eastern Kentucky University since 1995.

Nancy (Kesselring) Willenbrink ('78) of Louisville, Ky., recently accepted an early retirement package from BellSouth after 24 years of service. Nancy is looking forward to rejoining the work force and using her WKU math degree.

1980s

Phylis (Harrell) Newsom ('80, '82) of Franklin, Tenn., recently joined Shirley Zeitlin & Company Realtors as affiliate broker in the Cool Springs, Tenn., location. She and her husband, Mark, have three sons, John Mark 9, Peter 5, and Gabe 2.

David Turner ('80) of Grand Haven, Mich., is president of JOHN-

NY Advertising, Inc., an indoor advertising company specializing in "bathroom billboards," was elected as vice president of the Indoor Billboard Advertising Association for 2003.

Vicki Phillips ('81, '88) of Lancaster, Pa., was appointed by Governor-Elect Rendall as Secretary of Education for the state of Pennsylvania.

Mark Stuart Newsom ('82) of Franklin, Tenn., is the executive vice president and chief marketing officer for DigiScript, Inc., a digital learning and training company, recently recognized as one of the "Top 25 Emerging Companies" in the Nashville market, by *Nashville Post Magazine*, December 2002. Mark and his wife, Phylis, have three sons, John Mark 9, Peter 5, and Gabe 2.

Thomas Wayne Richards ('82) of Bowling Green, Ky., married Diane Alford Thomas on Dec. 6, 2002. Thomas is presently RTZ circulation manager of the Bowling Green Daily News in Bowling Green, Ky. He also is a parks board commissioner with the Parks and Recreation Department in Bowling Green, Ky.

Mary Dee Boemker ('83) of Frankfort, Ky., is the field services director for Special Olympics Kentucky.

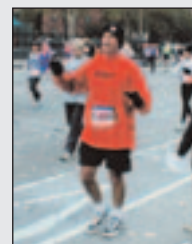
Tom Farmer ('83) of West Warwick, R.I., recently started and owns *Desktop Prose*, a freelance advertising design, copywriting and consulting business located in West Warwick, R.I.

Gary Fleming ('83) of Paducah,

Ky., married Pamela (Eastwood) Fleming on Dec. 14, 2002.

Anne McKee ('83) of Peoria, Az., was elected vice president/president elect of the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG). This international non-profit organization promotes communication and sharing of ideas among all members along the serials information chain. She will assume the presidency in June 2003.

Rick Roudebush ('83) of Greenfield, Ind., ran and completed the New York City Marathon in 5 hours and 34 minutes.



WKU MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

- ___ WKU Afghan \$42 + \$5 S&H
- ___ WKU Memorabilia Print \$10 + \$4 S&H
- Big Red Lapel Pin
 - ___ Large (2" high) \$30 + \$3 S&H
 - ___ Small (1" high) \$15 + \$2 S&H
- ___ Glasses (set of 4) \$10 + \$5 S&H
- ___ WKU Notecards (set of 16) \$10 + \$2 S&H

Name _____
 Address _____
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Method of Payment

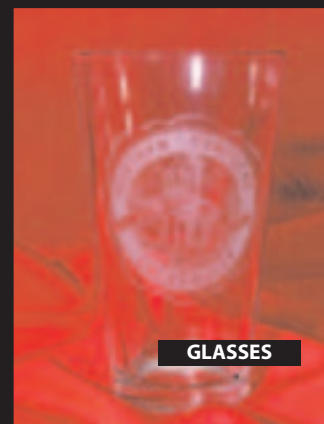
- Check Amount enclosed \$ _____
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Mail form to:

WKU Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
 1 Big Red Way
 Bowling Green, KY 42101
 Or call toll free 1-888-958-2586

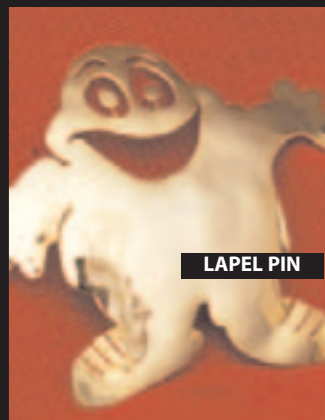


NOTECARDS



GLASSES

KEEP THAT WESTERN SPIRIT ALIVE ...



LAPEL PIN



AFGHAN

Jose Araque ('84) of Louisville, Ky., customer service representative for Corhart Refractories, was recently selected to win the Saint-Gobain Corporation "Volunteer Recognition Award."

Rita (McIntosh) McCarty ('85) of Fort Worth, Texas, married Dennis McCarty June 24, 2000. They have a daughter, Sydney Faith, who was born March 27, 2002.

Neika (Proffitt) Coughlin ('86) of Nehawka, Neb., is the clinical nurse specialist for Critical Care and Cardiovascular Services at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Neb. She received her MSN from Vanderbilt University. She has worked as a staff nurse, manager and educator. She is a Cardiovascular Lecturer having presented nationally on various cardiovascular and critical care topics. She is married to Barry Coughlin, a health care representative for Biovail Inc., and they have two daughters, Kaitlin and Emily.

Dan Hosek ('86) of

Alexandria, Va., and his wife, Cindy, are proud to announce the birth of their twins, Emma and Alex, who were born on Oct. 4, 2002. They also have a two-year-old son, Dean.



Karen (Kirsch) Krzmarzick ('86) of Alexandria, Va., was recently named assistant director of Education Programs at American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) International in Alexandria, Va.

Gary R. Brodarick ('88) of Hopkinsville, Ky., moved back to

Kentucky from Arizona and accepted a position with Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Ky., as the director of patient financial services.

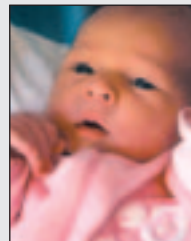
Chad ('87) and **Carla** ('88) (**Harris**) **Carlton** of Louisville, Ky., are proud to announce the



birth of their second child, Harris Clay Carlton, born Oct. 14, 2002. He weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces and was 21½ inches long. He was welcomed home by big sister, Harper Claire, age 3.

Jennifer (Sapp) Wethington

('88) of Bowling Green, Ky., and her husband, Van, are the proud parents of their first child, Grace Anne Wethington. She was born on Nov. 7, 2002.



1990s

Russell B. Morgan ('90) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently named a member of the law firm Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry, PLC.



Lisa Gayle Percy ('90) of Owensboro, Ky., was selected 2002 Entrepreneur of the Year. Lisa is co-owner and operator of Great



ComeBacks Resale Boutique located in Owensboro, Ky. She currently serves on Girls, Inc. Board of Trustees, the Owensboro-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and RiverPark Center's Board for Tomorrow's Broadway Audience.

Kimberly (Sammons) Wissert ('92) of Nashville, Tenn., was promoted to customer service manager for Bank of America. She is married to **Brien Wissert** ('93), who is a fleet manager for Shippers Transport. They have two children, Madison 5, and Alex 4.

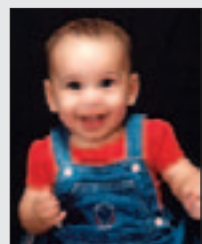
Russell Cummins ('93) of Louisville, Ky., and his wife, Valerie, are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Madison Jewell. She was born on Dec. 3, 2002, and weighed 9 pounds and 8 ounces.

Mia (Haselwood) Dawson ('93) of Lexington, Ky., and her husband, William, are the proud parents of



their son, Landon Dawson. Landon is a future Hilltopper.

David Dotson ('93) and **Sarah (Cravens) Dotson** ('94, '98) of Goodlettsville, Tenn., became



the proud parents of Catherine Isabella Lindele Dotson on April 5, 2002. Born March 14, 2002, "Bella" was a special gift from Bethany Christian Services. They became a "Forever Family" on Dec. 12, 2002.

Future Hilltoppers show their spirit with a chillin Big Red! Logan (left) and Lyn Dawsyn Steenbergen are the daughters of Krista ('92) and Derron ('93) Steenbergen of Glasgow, Ky.



Ken May ('95, '98) of Bowling Green, Ky., was recently named assistant principal at Bowling Green Junior High School. He taught business at Greenwood High School for four years before accepting his new position as assistant principal.

Dan Reed ('95) of Seattle, Wash., is in his third year of



Radiation Oncology residence at the University of Washington. He recently received the 2002 National Clinical Research Award by the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO). Reed was also named the 2002-2003 Seattle Prostate Brachytherapy Fellowship Program Coordinator by the American Brachytherapy Society.

Shannon (Akers) Seebert ('95) of Louisville, Ky., recently joined GENEX Services, Inc. as area sales manager for Kentucky.

Heather (Suell) Stewart ('95) of Louisville, Ky., married Don Stewart on Jan. 11, 2002. Heather is the executive director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kentucky, where they grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Andrew D. Atherton ('96) of Greensboro, N.C., has joined the law firm of Booth, Harrington, & Johns L.L.P. as associate attorney.

Stefanie (Keown) Popplewell ('92) and **Craig Popplewell** ('91) of Marlton, N. J., are proud



to announce the birth of their first child, Harper, born on July 25, 2002.

June DeLoria Bell ('93) of Owensboro, Ky., a registered nurse and executive director of St. Joseph's Peace Mission for Children, has been named the December recipient of the R.C. Neblett, M.D. Service Award, presented each month by the Citizens Health Care Advocates.

Michael Settles ('93) of Bardstown, Ky., was named the Associated Press' High School Football Coach of the Year for 2002. Settles is a teacher and football coach at Bullitt East High School in Mt. Washington, Ky.

Samatha E. Whitaker ('93) of Oakton, Va., is a park ranger and education coordinator for White House Liaison/President's Park for

the National Park Service in Washington D.C. She was promoted to this position from Grand Teton National Park in December 2001.

Michelle (Celsor) Pedigo ('94) of Austin, Ky., was appointed as national director of affinity marketing for MetLife Resources.



Paul Fulcher ('95) and **Amy (Fagerlin) Fulcher**



('94) of Madisonville, Ky., happily announce the birth of their son, Joseph Campbell Fulcher, on Nov. 17, 2002. Joey weighed 8 pounds and 11 ounces and was 21½ inches long. Paul is a case manager for the State of Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice. Amy is an extension associate at the University of Kentucky Research and Extension Center.

Marietta (Froggett)

Belcher ('96) of Clarksville,

Tenn., married **Benny Belcher** ('98) on July 7, 2001. She is a color specialist with Premium Wear, Inc. in Clarksville, Tenn. Benny works for Dunlap Sunbrand International in Hopkinsville, Ky.



Juliann (Glas) Cravens ('96) of Acworth, Ga., and Dan Cravens are happy to announce their marriage that occurred Aug. 17, 2002, on St. Helenas Island, S.C.

Amanda (Hincheliff) Harrell ('96) of Hernando, Fla., would like to thank WKU for helping her catch her dreams. Since she graduated, she married in 1999 and has a daughter, Mandalynn Kay. Harrell works for the Citrus County Schools.

Sgt. August K. Nienaber ('96) of Tucker, Ga., was recently called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while assigned to the Marine Corps Reserves Company A, 8th Tank Battalion, home based in Fort Knox, Ky.

Trenton Holt Smith ('96) of Newburg, Ore., recently accepted the position as assistant professor of biology at George Fox University in Newburg, Ore.

Cindy (Chiappetta) Barnett ('98) of Fishers, Ind., married Michael Barnett on Oct. 19, 2002 in Carmel, Ind.

Susan (King) May ('98, '02) of Bowling Green, Ky., completed her master's degree in school counsel-

ing from Western Kentucky University in Dec. 2002. She is a mathematics teacher at Bowling Green High School.

Jared Riley ('98) of Paducah, Ky., married Misty (Sutton) Riley on July 27, 2002.

Sonja (McPherson) Lear ('99) of Dunmor, Ky., and her husband, Jamie Lear, are the proud parents of their daughter, Emma Rose. Emma was born June 6, 2002 at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

Michael A. Miller ('99) of LaVergne, Tenn., married Megan S. Somermeyer Miller on Dec. 7, 2002.

2000s

Angela (Clem) Webb ('00) of Nashville, Tenn., married Joseph T. Webb on Oct. 25, 2002. She is the convention and meetings manager for Tennessee Health Care Association and Joseph is the director of operations for the American Kidney Stone Management.

Cali (Koemer) Morrison ('01) of Bozeman, Mont., recently accepted the position of greek coordinator with Montana State University.

David L. Thoma ('01) of Russellville, Ky., was recently called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's Company A, 8th Tank Battalion, home based in Fort Knox, Ky.

Dana Warder ('01) of Bowling Green, Ky., recently accepted the position of partnership development coordinator at the Bowling

Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

Amanda Riley Borders ('02) of Bowling Green, Ky., and her husband, Michael, are the proud parents of their first child, Michael Edward Borders. He was born on Oct. 27, 2002, weighed 9 pounds and 3 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

MaDonna (Ward) Brown ('02) a business owner in Hodgenville, Ky., is married with three children, recording a CD, and a director of a daycare center at her church. She said that her degree has given her the courage and confidence to expand her life in many different directions.

Heather (Schepers) Caudill ('02) of Louisville, Ky., married Christopher Caudill on Nov. 29, 2002.

Christy (Brady) Jennings ('02) of Bowling Green, Ky., and her husband, Michael, are the proud parents of their daughter, Caitlyn Leigh Jennings. She was born on August 9, 2002, weighed 8¾ pounds and ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

In Memoriam

*In Memory, we pay tribute to
our alumni and friends who have passed away during the past year.
Our thoughts are with the friends and family.*

Mr. Thad S. Abell '36	Mr. Prentiss W. Foreman '41	Mr. Stiles A. Miller
Mr. Neal D. Adams '85	Dr. Prentice L. Gott '51	Ms. Linda Stewart Monson '72
Mr. Jan Niel Akers '71	Mr. Gerald Thomas Guinn	Mr. William M. Oates '38
Mr. Noble Allen '46, '54	Ms. Lena R. Hardcastle	Ms. Marian B. Phillips '62
Ms. Anna Hale Aspley '46	Mr. James F. Harvey, Jr. '40	Mr. Roy C. Phillips, Sr. '35, '47
Ms. Claire Bryant Barr '45	Mr. Thomas Meade Harwell	Ms. Jo Ann Price '65, '69
Mr. Jerry A. Bean	Ms. Earnestine Hatcher	Mr. Jimmy W. Ragan
Mr. J.C. Blancett '49	Mr. Franklin P. Hayes	Ms. Fern Cole Morris Geer Renfro '55
Ms. Ruth T. Boswell '38, '58	Ms. Mary Sue Houston '84	Ms. Lela Richardson
Mr. Daniel C. Bratcher '02	Ms. Janis Kay Jenkins '73	Ms. Leta Belk Richardson '69, '76
Ms. Almeda Haynes Brizendine '43	Mr. George B. Jones '52	Ms. Edith L. Riddle
Ms. Lila M. Buchanan	Ms. Dorothea L. Keown	Dr. Richard Salisbury
Ms. Anita F. Campbell '80	Mr. Thomas Daniel King '57, '64	Ms. Louise G. Scott
Mr. Joseph C. Cantrell '38	Ms. Elizabeth A. Larmon '33	Mr. James D. Shanahan
Ms. Georgia L. Cargile '23, '24	Mr. Robert E. Layman '39	Ms. Dorothy L. Shelton '51
Ms. Ruth Carr '42	Ms. Myra Logsdon '61, '62	Ms. Katie Simon
Ms. Margaret Tatum Clark	Mr. Charles W. Long	Mr. Eulice L. Smith
Mr. Jeff R. Coffey '86	Ms. Ruth Morris ('32)	Mr. Joseph Anthony Spugnardi, Jr. '62
Mr. Mark Price Critchfield '93	Ms. Lacey McCandless	Mr. F.W. "Steve" Stephens '39
Mr. Robert Curry '49	Ms. Mary Ann McCelvey '81	Ms. Ashley Stratton
Ms. Regina A. DeRossette	Mr. James C. McClellan, Jr. '69	Ms. Gladys N. Truitt
Ms. Eleanor L. Douglas '36	Ms. Mary Hampton McCracken '73	Mr. Brian J. Walker
Mr. Willie L. Draper	Ms. Elizabeth W. Meredith	Dr. F. Ben Wright
Ms. Georgia Eadens	Reid Miller, <i>infant son of Dale ('90)</i>	
Mr. Darrell Florence	<i>and Carol (Speakman) ('90, '91) Miller</i>	

Fellow Alums

Receive Honors in Education

By Cynthia Houston
WKU College of Education
and Behavioral Sciences

October 30 was a proud day in Frankfort for Western Kentucky University and the family and friends of two alumni from the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. In an awards ceremony hosted by Gov. Paul Patton, Education Commissioner Gene Wilhoit, and Marlene Helm, Secretary of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet, Patrice McCrary, a Cumberland Trace Elementary School teacher from Bowling Green, was named both 2003 Elementary School Teacher of the Year and 2003 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. On the same day, Patrick Black, a T.K. Stone Middle School teacher from Elizabethtown, received the 2003 Middle School Teacher of the Year



Patrick Black, 2003 Kentucky Middle School Teacher of the Year, with his wife Kim, son Ian and daughter Rebecca.



Photo by Rick McComb

Kentucky Teacher of the Year, Patrice McCrary, evaluates a student's counting skills.

Award.

The common threads that bind these award-winning teachers are their love for the profession and their boundless energy in the classroom. Both Black and McCrary exude an enthusiasm for teaching. McCrary says that the most meaningful aspect of teaching is making a difference. "I relish the excitement I see in the eyes of students as they make a learning connection. I count myself fortunate to love what I do, and get to do what I love." In a recent interview with the Hardin County News Enterprise Black expressed his feelings about receiving the honor. "It's something I'm proud of—to have worked hard in my profession and be recognized. It's great that I can proceed in a job that I love, feed my family and have a great feeling of worth at the same time."

Black recently received the WHAS-TV/PNC Bank ExCel Award for Elizabethtown Independent Schools. McCrary is a

new National Board Certified Teacher. She continues to be involved in the WKU teacher education program as a mentor teacher for Elementary Education students and as a team member in the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program. As a lifelong Hilltopper, McCrary says she will forever feel the "spirit" of WKU. "If I step into a classroom without knowing what EVERY student knows and needs to know, then I have fallen short of my goal. WKU helped me see that I don't teach school, I teach students."

The Teacher Achievement Awards, sponsored by Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education, are the highest honors given to teachers in the state. To win, finalists are selected from a slate of 24 candidates based on the quality of their applications, professional accomplishments, community involvement, personal interviews, and classroom visits.

Welcome to
BRACKET HILL
*The friendly competition to support
 the Western Annual Fund*

Look for the Bracket Hill logo and the opportunity to participate in the Western Kentucky University Annual Fund.

You can help your "Team" (major, class year, department, alumni chapter) advance in the "Field of 65."

Support your Team. Support Western. Participate today!

www.wku.edu/Alumni or 1-888-WKU-ALUM



Thanks Again for Investing in the Spirit!

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Pizza Hut
 Sonic
 BW3's
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 Fazoli's
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*Your generosity supports
 our student callers and
 Western Kentucky University!*

The Halo Effect

Western Kentucky University's victory in the Division I-AA football championship game was the culmination of hard work, perseverance, and athletic excellence. But was it more than that?

The game, telecast on ESPN2, reached 806,688 households or 1,036,708 individual viewers across the nation. While this national focus is usually a one-time opportunity, what benefits, if any, does Western Kentucky University receive from its time in the spotlight?

In a 1994 nationally broadcast football game, then senior Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie, with time expiring, heaved a desperation pass as far as he could. The "Hail Mary" touchdown pass upset the Miami University Hurricanes and launched Flutie to the Heisman Award. To this day, that play has been replayed countless times and is considered one of the most dramatic moments in collegiate sports. Over the next few years, Boston College saw a 33 percent increase in student applications.

At the University of Connecticut, in a five-year period in the late 1990s, during a string of men and women's championship basketball teams, donations rose from \$6 million to \$20 million. Campus tours for prospective students rose 33 percent and applications also climbed by double digits.

Is it a coincidence that enrollments and donations at those specific universities rose during a period of athletic success? Maybe, maybe not.

Certainly, many factors figure into a certain university's increased enrollment or financial contributions. Universities that are able to boast of outstanding academic offerings, excellent facilities and physical plant, favorable geographic locations, and rosy career opportunities after graduation are positioned to be most competitive.

Another reason for enrollment increases is the children of baby boomers creating a population bulge a generation after their parents did. This year, 2.85 million students are expected

to graduate from high school, a steady increase from the 2.48 million who graduated 10 years ago.

A third reason is the economy. Traditionally, enrollments at universities and community colleges spike upwards in times of a poor economy. More working adults return to college to upgrade their skills and make themselves more marketable.

But can a university's increase in enrollment or donations be attributed to a successful athletic program or the "Flutie Factor"?

When the Kent State University men's basketball team made it to the Elite Eight in the NCAA playoffs last spring, people were talking about how the national attention would generate a boost in enrollment and donations. But it's hard to say whether there was any connection, university officials say, because the school was already in the midst of an alumni fund-raising effort, and enrollment was already up by the time the school sent its team to the tournament.

"It's very hard to directly track the economic impact from a championship season," said Kent State University President Carol Cartwright. "There is some national research that concludes that the 'Flutie Factor' is vastly overrated in terms of increased (enrollment) applications."

Likewise, officials at Mount Union College in Alliance, OH say they don't see a direct connection. The college's football team has won six national championships in NCAA Division III. "Coming off years we didn't win a national championship versus years we have, I don't think you see a correlation in alumni contributions," said Harry Paidas, vice president of public affairs and marketing. However, since Mount Union first went into the playoffs in 1985, enrollment has more than doubled, from 1,000 to 2,300. A lot of that probably was because of national publicity the school gained from its football championships, conceded Paidas.

Will a large school like The Ohio

State University see a overall rise in donations as a result of its recent national championship in football? "Just because you're winning, people don't take it on themselves to write us checks," said Tom Hof, OSU's associate athletic director for development and marketing. "But it does create a wonderful climate when we go out to ask."

Regardless of whether officials agree if there is any correlation between athletic success and increased enrollment and contributions, you cannot deny the increased awareness outside your traditional recruitment area brought about by added exposure a high profile, successful athletic program can bring. So-called small schools like Gonzaga and Xavier of Ohio have raised their name recognition tremendously by consistently making it to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

"I know it sounds silly, but the TV exposure, the excitement, the thought that 'I can be at a school that's winning,' does make a difference," says Jacqueline King, director of policy analysis for the American Council on Education.

Western Kentucky University has enjoyed tremendous enrollment growth and financial support over the past five years. How much of that increase in either is the result of athletic success over that time period is debatable. Like Kent State University, Western has been very active with a capital campaign and has positioned itself as a university of choice. But, aside from more WKU apparel being sold and worn, increased alumni pride, and on-campus and community celebrations, the "halo" effect from a successful athletic program creates a perception that the university is successful in other areas as well. A perception in this case, that is true.



- Bob Edwards serves as WKU's assistant vice president of university relations