

# *top of the hill*



**TOPPER BASKETBALL LEGENDS**

Seniors #10 Tim Hausfeld, #20 Alex Falk and #1 Chris Morrow



# OHIO VALLEY ALUMNI CHAPTER SCORES A GREAT START



More than 135 alumni returned to campus for the Ohio Valley Tip-Off party, held Feb. 23, just before the Toppers took on backyard rival Wheeling Jesuit. Our men's and women's teams swept the Cardinals and the Ohio Valley Alumni Chapter was off to a great start!

"This was a very successful start to our new chapter. We look forward to an active and enjoyable association for everyone," said Director of Alumni Relations Shane Stack '10.

"The Ohio Valley alumni are the heart of the Forever Hilltopper alumni association since these graduates live closest to campus. We are thrilled with the turnout and look forward to continuing this momentum. We encourage all our alumni to get involved and enjoy and renew their time as Hilltoppers," said Christine Carder '72, president of the new group.

Four other Ohio Valley alumni officers are assisting in the organization of the new group: Christine Warco Battista '10, Joelle Connors '03, Ingrid Loy '96 and Billy Niesslein '08.

"I'm happy that the Ohio Valley alumni group now has a presence and is meeting and planning events. Our officers are working to create a useful network of contacts and to offer a variety of events to enjoy. I'm grateful for their work," Stack said.

"It was good to reconnect with so many friends. We'll continue to offer programs and events to enjoy both professionally and socially," Carder said.

Find out more at the Ohio Valley Alumni Facebook page, or at [westliberty.edu](http://westliberty.edu), or call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 304-336-8888.



From left, Chris Carder, Christine Battista, Ingrid Loy, Billy Niesslein and Joelle Connors.



## SAVE the DATE:

- Join WLU in Columbus, OH, at Gresso's Pub + Grill for "OHIO VALLEY NIGHT" [www.gressos.com](http://www.gressos.com) May 29, July 31 and September 25
- Brad Paisley Concert - June 1 First Niagara Pavilion - Details Coming Soon
- HOMECOMING - October 19

## UPDATE YOUR CLASS NOTES:

[www.westliberty.edu/alumni/class-notes](http://www.westliberty.edu/alumni/class-notes)



# WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

## *SELECTS NEW* PROVOST

Dr. Brian L. Crawford was named provost on Feb. 19, 2013.

"The selection of a provost is one of the most important decisions a university makes in terms of leadership and management. And it's a decision upon which we, as a university have worked on together over the last few months, constantly mindful of its impact on the future of West Liberty University," President Robin C. Capehart said as he introduced the provost to campus at an 11 a.m. press conference held in the R. Emmett Boyle Conference Center.

"Dr. Crawford is an individual of great character and great vision; he's an individual known for both his thoughtfulness and his decisiveness; he's an individual who has proven not only his understanding of the academe, but his commitment to the distinctive nature of its operation and its governance; he's an individual for whom we are extremely grateful – and for whom I am personally appreciative – was willing to step forward and offer his talents and abilities."

Dr. Crawford took the opportunity to comment on the positive impact of West Liberty University on the state and region. "I am committed to the continued growth

**As provost, he is the chief academic officer and leader of 146 full-time faculty and about 100 adjunct faculty teaching in six colleges.**

and development of high quality academic programs at West Liberty. I thank you all for your support," Crawford said.

Crawford is not new to WLU. He was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts since 2010. Prior to that he was the chair of the department of social and behavioral sciences from August 2007 - May 2010. Crawford taught geography in various capacities since August 1999.

He also has taught at Ohio University as an adjunct from 2003-2010 and previously was a teaching assistant at Indiana State University from 1996 - 1999.

Crawford was an ROTC instructor at the University of Kentucky from 1994 - 1996 and an adjunct instructor at Allan Hancock College from 1992 - 1993.

He also is a retired U.S. Air Force captain, having served in the military for 15 years. He was assistant professor of Aerospace Studies at University of Kentucky, Air Force ROTC Detachment 290 from 1993-1996. Prior to that he was Flight Commander, Academic Instructor and Operations Instructor, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), Vandenberg Air Force Base, Ca., and before that he worked with the 91st Strategic Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D. He began his military career as a navigation specialist with the United States Naval Reserve.

A resident of Wheeling, Crawford earned his Bachelor of Arts in Geography at Indiana University of PA, his Master of Science in Earth Science at California. University of PA and his Doctorate in Physical Geography at Indiana State University.

He and his wife, Vicki, are the parents of three adult children and have four grandchildren.



**DR. BRIAN L. CRAWFORD**



# 2012-13 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## STORYBOOK SEASON FOR TOPPER FANS

*The No. 1-ranked men's basketball team came up one win shy of playing for a national title, but the memories burn bright for Topper fans. Hundreds of fans followed the team to the Final Four — and nearly 200,000 Facebook fans viewed posts. Tweets were hot too thanks to #toppernation.*

*Here's a partial list of highlights from the award-winning season:*

## BASKETBALL

- ✦ WLU led the nation in scoring for the seventh time in the past eight seasons with 3,702 points.
- ✦ WLU set an NCAA Division II record for winning percentage (128-9, .934) over a four-year span.
- ✦ Consensus All-American Alex Falk was named NCAA Division II National Player of the Year.
- ✦ Head coach Jim Crutchfield leads all NCAA men's basketball coaches in career winning percentage (241-45, .843).
- ✦ Crutchfield won his fifth straight WVIAC Coach of the Year honor and was the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year for the third consecutive season.
- ✦ Junior guard Hillary Southworth is the third WVIAC woman in more than three decades to be honored as a first-team NCAA D II All-American by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and was a consensus first-team All-America selection.



Coach Jim Crutchfield



Alex Falk



Hillary Southworth



**MORE SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS AT**  
[westliberty.edu/toth/sports](http://westliberty.edu/toth/sports)

## WRESTLING

- ✦ Coach Brian Davis' wrestling team broke into the national Top 10 a few weeks into the season and rose as high as No. 9 in the polls by the middle of January before a series of injuries sidelined many of the team's top-ranked competitors. Regional champion Mike Carpenter, fellow senior Derrick Williams and sophomore Art Hobley all qualified for the NCAA Division II nationals but came up just short of All-America honors.

### WEST LIBERTY

2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
9/7/2013	1:00 PM	Catawba College
9/14/2013	1:00 PM	Glenville State College *
9/21/2013	1:00 PM	West Virginia State University
9/28/2013	1:00 PM	Concord University *
10/5/2013	TBA	Duquesne University
10/12/2013	TBA	Fairmont State University
10/19/2013	1:00 PM	Urbana University (Ohio) *
10/26/2013	1:00 PM	West Virginia Wesleyan College
11/2/2013	1:00 PM	University of Charleston *
11/9/2013	1:00 PM	University of Virginia's College at Wise
11/16/2013	1:00 PM	Notre Dame College (Ohio) *

\* Home Game

**HILLTOPPERSPORTS.COM**



# American Dream

guides Charlie Annett '66

Success did not come easy to Charlie Annett, yet today he leads a major logistics firm, FSA Network, that employs 400 people in 32 U.S. locations.

"I was raised on the romantic idea of the American dream. I thought everyone was pursuing the dream of hard work leading to success, so it was ingrained in me to take advantage of opportunities as they happen, work hard and stay optimistic."

A Wheeling native and West Liberty graduate, he now lives in a mansion in sunny Florida (Weston) with his wife, Leticia, and three dogs. He has three



married children and 10 grandchildren.

One of eight children himself, Annett moved several times during his childhood, living in South Wheeling, North Wheeling and the Betty Zane neighborhoods of Wheeling. He was the only one in his family that was lucky enough to go to college.

But he never expected it to be easy.

"I wasn't going to college at first. My uncle was a Navy recruiter, so I joined the Navy Reserve, planning to go active after high school. Somehow, I got an academic scholarship to West Lib, so I took a military deferment," he said.

While at West Liberty, he played basketball for four years. His freshman team was undefeated.

"When I was a freshman, we only played about 12 games but it was the most fun. We played local teams and had a student coach. I also dressed for a few varsity games that year," he said. His most vivid memory of 1963 was a basketball tournament at Rio Grande College when President John F. Kennedy was shot.

"I was in my hotel room and another guy on the team, Freddie Chambers, told

**"I took advantage of opportunities in life, never knowing for sure where I was headed."**

me that the president was assassinated. I told him I didn't believe him and went back to my room."

In hindsight, another big moment was when Annett and fellow senior Ernie Czekaj were basketball co-captains with baseball legend Joe Niekro.

Getting to campus also was memorable.

"For the first two years, I didn't have a car. Most of the time, I had to walk home or hitchhike. When I had money, I got rides with other students and chipped in for gas." His first car was a 1956 Ford that he bought for \$80 in 1964.

Another life opportunity presented itself when the Navy suggested that he enlist in the Navy Reserve Officer Training

Corps during college. This meant that Annett went to officer training school for two weeks each summer in Rhode Island and graduated with an officer's commission.

"I took advantage of opportunities in life, never knowing for sure where I was headed. After graduation, I served in the Navy for three years, one in Vietnam. Then I got into the trucking business and worked for 20 years before I got a chance to buy my own trucking firm."

He started out with Ryder, learning the ropes. In 1989, he joined A&F Transportation Company as vice president with a minority interest. In July 1989, he was elected president and became 50 percent owner. In September 1990, Annett became the sole owner

of FSA Network, specializing in home delivery of appliances, furniture and electronics.

Like most successful men, Annett had help.

"After I bought the company, my wife took a very active role in the operations of the company. Over the years, she was an instrumental part of the growth and directed the startups in many cities that we serve."

Business is good and 2012 was FSA's highest revenue year. Clients include the largest retailers in the country.

His advice to others seeking success is simple, "as life presents opportunities, be ready."

After all it's the American Dream.



# WLU Earns: *National* **HONOR**



West Liberty University was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recently. This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

"We are pleased to achieve this honor and I personally thank our students and staff for their hard work and dedication in the area of community service. This designation is something we can all take pride in," said Vice President of Community Engagement Jeff Knierim.

The 2013 Honor Roll recipients were announced at the American Council on Education's 95th Annual Meeting, Leading Change, on March 4, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

West Liberty projects submitted for consideration of the award included the service trip to the tornado-devastated region of West Liberty, Ky., when students and staff packed up and traveled to the stricken region to help out in the clean up and recovery after the 2012 storm.

The ongoing community outreach of the dental hygiene department was another project that illustrated WLU's commitment to service. Dental hygiene students completed a total of 800 cumulative community service hours during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Finally, the Hilltoppers Choose Hope service project was included in the award consideration. This project consisted of a 12-hour walkathon that raised more than \$5,800 for the Schiffler Cancer Center patient support fund.



**SAFEST**  
**CAMPUS**

West Liberty University is rated #1 in West Virginia for campus safety, according to campus safety rankings compiled by a popular college website, stateuniversity.com in December 2012.

"It's important for parents to know that we work hard to ensure the safety of our students and our campus," said President Robin C. Capehart. "Our campus police work daily to maintain a high level of safety awareness and inter-agency cooperation that results in a very safe environment for our employees and students."

West Liberty Campus Police are headed by Lt. Tom Hostutler, who credits the housing and residence life staff

with doing a great job of identifying and reporting problem behavior. Unlike some campuses, West Liberty University employs armed police officers, empowered to arrest and uphold the law, not security officers.

"The safety of students and the entire campus community is everyone's top priority at West Liberty," Hostutler said, noting that in recent years, a concerted effort has been made to strengthen relationships with Town of West Liberty police, Ohio County Sheriff's Office, City of Wheeling police, the state police and other law enforcement agencies.





# ANGIE'S HILL

Angela Zambito Hill, Director of Development

As we approach the end of this fiscal year, we are grateful to all who supported the Capital Campaign and we urge those considering a gift to get involved before June 30, 2013.

Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights as of March 31:

- ✦ \$3.8 million raised to date for FY 2013
- ✦ 233 new first time donors
- ✦ 31 donors gave \$5,000 or more, 26 percent increase over last year
- ✦ 1,922 total gifts received as of March 31, compared to 1,557 gifts received over the entire 12 month of previous year
- ✦ President's Circle donors are giving more, the amount of contributions triples last year's figure

These highlights are exhilarating! Based on the success we've had so far, we feel such a strong sense of promise for the future. But the reality is that we continue to face a decline in state funding. West Virginia state appropriations for next year will only cover 19 percent of WLU's operating budget.

This downward trend, which is projected to continue, dramatically increases the need for private fundraising.

For West Liberty University to achieve aggressive goals of continued growth in enrollment and new programming to provide our students a high quality education, private funds must grow. We are sensitive to the fact that many of our alumni may not understand this need, given we are a public university. But times have changed drastically since the days when state-funded schools didn't need a development office, and we are fortunate to enjoy the generosity of our alumni and friends to sustain our mission.

The amount needed to reach the \$4 million goal for fiscal 2012-2013 is \$195,000. For more information, please call me at 304-336-8490.



## University Accepts the Largest Outright Gift in History

WLU began 2013 with a new facility, courtesy of alumnus and benefactor Gary E. West. The announcement was made at a Jan. 2, 2013, press conference held at the former Roadworthy property, now known as the Gary E. West Events Center.

"On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, benefactors and friends, it is with a great sense of excitement and appreciation that we accept Gary's act of kindness and dedication to his alma mater," said President Robin C. Capehart.

The donation includes the former restaurant building and the parking lot area and represents a gift of \$1.65 million.

It is located at 260 Roadworthy Drive, just across W.Va. Route 88 from the main campus.

"It is one of the most significant gifts in the history of the University," said Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jason Koegler.

A Wheeling native, West earned his business administration degree from West Liberty in 1958. He bought Valley Welding Supply Company and grew it from a one-shop operation to a business with 55 locations in 10 states and annual sales in excess of \$85 million. West's business became the largest privately held

distributor of industrial and medical gases and welding supplies in the United States.

He and his wife, Flip, established the Guy H. and Mary Ann West School of Business Scholarship Endowment. He has served in the past as chair of WLU's capital campaign, which he supported with the largest lifetime gift by individuals in the history of WLU. He also is a member of WLU's Foundation Board of Directors.

The Gary E. West College of Business also is proud to bear his name as a result of a 2010 gift and his generosity has funded a number of other campus improvements.



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**SAVE the DATE !**  
October 19<sup>th</sup> is Homecoming .

## Topper SPOTLIGHT



READ ALL ABOUT IT AT  
[westliberty.edu/toth/spotlight](http://westliberty.edu/toth/spotlight)



**JERRY LUCARELLI '72**

Honored by the city of Pittsburgh when his hometown named him to its Jazz Society's Hall of Fame. He's been in love with music since he was a child and as an adult, he taught music in both the Clairton City School and the Keystone Oaks districts. Known as the "Jazz Cowboy" because of his other interest in horses, you can discover more about Jerry in his online story.



**MARGARET ISIMINGER MONINGER '28**

Celebrated her 105th birthday on Feb. 4, 2013! This amazing woman is a graduate of then-West Liberty State Teachers College, the same year aviator Amelia Earhart became the first woman to successfully pilot an aircraft across the Atlantic Ocean and Mickey Mouse appeared in his first film, "Steamboat Willie." Read more about our famous alumna online.



**ROBERT PRICE '92**

The graphic designer responsible for the National Memorial Logo for Flight 93 that honors the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, who lost their lives when their hijacked plane bound for Washington, D.C., crashed in Shanksville, Pa., on 9-11-01. His design will forever be a part of our national history. Read more about our famous alumnus online.