

*top of the hill*

Jim Bredette  
Fred Chambers  
Mantel Long  
Larry or Faye Berron

SPRING 2014

**WL**



# Time Traveling Toppers

As part of Homecoming this year a special ceremony will be held to seal a time capsule containing your favorite memories.

"We want to encourage the preservation of Hilltopper Heritage in a fun way," said Alumni Director Shane Stack.

"Our Homecoming game versus Fairmont State will bring many alumni back to their 'Home on the Hill' to cheer on the Hilltoppers at the newly renovated football stadium. The completion of the stadium renovations will serve as the perfect opportunity to bring current and future alumni together to put our memories under lock and key for yet another generation of alumni," he said.

The Forever Hilltopper time capsule ceremony will take place Oct. 11, 2014, and is a collaborative effort between Student Government and the Forever Hilltopper Alumni Association.

"One of my biggest goals since joining the Student Government Association has been for our current students to have more interaction and contact with alumni during Homecoming," said Jeffrey Tice, SGA Vice President.

Alumni and current students who wish to donate items to be included in the time capsule or want to be part of this event can contact Stack at 304-336-8888. Look for more to come in the near future!

SAVE THE DATE:

**October 11, 2014**

HOMECOMING

WLU vs Fairmont State

1 pm kick-off

UPDATE YOUR CLASS NOTES:

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

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**FOREVER**  
*Hilltopper*

## 1964 *Shining Moment for the Diamond Sport!*



**1964 NAIA World Series Champs:**  
West Liberty University Baseball Team

It was the year that the Beatles made their debut on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Vietnam War raged and color television made its way into our homes.

For the Hilltoppers, it was THE year for baseball.

Coach George Kovalick's 1964 squad not only claimed the WVIAC championship, they went on to qualify for the NAIA World Series in St. Joseph, Mo. West Liberty fell into an early hole with a 16-inning loss to Wartburg, Iowa in the opening game of the double-elimination event but battled back with three straight wins to earn a shot at Grambling (La.) in the finale. The Hilltoppers had to beat Grambling twice in order to bring the NAIA national championship back to the hilltop and that's exactly what they did! West Liberty forced a winner-take-all game with a 6-4 win and followed that up with a 3-2 thriller to earn the title of NAIA World Series champs.

Led by future Major League ace Joe Niekro and NAIA World Series MVP Frank Ujcich, the star-studded squad included Gordon Long, Ron Romanoski, Dave Kovalick, Dave Forgash, Dave Scherr, John Pavlisko, Jim Benedetto, Bob Kota, Gary Zelinski, Glenn Petty, Ray Prantil, Fred Chambers, Joe Doerr and Floyd Shuler.

**Top of the Hill** wants to pay tribute to this unforgettable Hilltopper team on the 50th anniversary of its big win!

# Want to Be a Community Educator?



Dr. Miriam Douglas and Ramsay Core

## We've Got A **DEGREE** for That!

A degree aimed at individuals working in community education or seeking employment in non-formal education is now enrolling students at WLU.

"Our Bachelor of Arts in Community Education degree is perfect for those who work with the public like camp directors, community outreach coordinators, parks and recreation leaders, grant writers, wellness specialists and so many others," said Dr. Miriam Douglas, who is the new degree's program director.

Many employers need these types of degree-prepared employees, according to Douglas, who credits Dr. Keely Camden, dean of the College of Education, with overseeing the process of making this degree a reality.

The accelerated 120-credit hour (three-year) degree will prepare future leaders in all aspects of community education through working and teaching in 21st Century non-formal and informal learning environments.

WLU sophomore Ramsay Core, Rayland, Ohio, appreciates the new degree program.

"This degree fits what I want to do as a National 4-H extension agent. So I'm confident that it will help me with my career," Core said. Also president of his local 4-H Club, he enrolled in the new degree because it has a track that matches his career interest: outdoor education.

Community education students select from one of six tracks or majors: Community Arts, Disabilities Services, Educational Leadership in Faith Organizations, Museum Education, Outdoor Education or Sports, Recreation and Wellness.

Core also finds the chance for an internship and to study abroad attractive.

Dr. Douglas, who joined the WLU faculty in the fall of 2012, is a native of Germany and also has a master's in foreign languages from West Virginia University, so she will be facilitating the study abroad.

"Students can pick from two options for study abroad, a two-week summer trip or a six-week program. Summer 2015 will be the first trip," she said. "I'll take the students to Germany for two weeks, travel, study community places, visit museums and experience how German communities are different. We'll learn about the German education system, the culture, the way people interact and community organizations."

For example, Douglas and her students will visit a special forest kindergarten where kids are outside all year, learning and experiencing an unusual format of early childhood education.

"We are excited to have such incredible partners as the Warhol Museum, the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, the Children's Museum of the Ohio Valley, area church youth organizations, the Schrader Center and Oglebay Institute to support our six new majors and provide hands-on experiences," said Dr. Camden.

"The best thing about this degree is its flexibility. It builds on core courses, community education courses and the student's choice of six majors. Then it adds in certain unique features like the study abroad. This not only embraces the students' interests and strengths, but also provides students with multifaceted employment options in schools, universities, museums, community, faith and sport centers and other community facilities upon graduation."

Each major has a particular track of courses to complete but Douglas is more than willing to assist students in finding the best option for earning their college degree.

Douglas earned both a master's and undergraduate degree in elementary education/art education at the University of Bamberg (Germany). She then came to West Virginia, completing her master's and doctoral degrees at West Virginia University. Her office is located in Room 105, Shotwell Hall.

For more information, please contact her at [miriam.douglas@westliberty.edu](mailto:miriam.douglas@westliberty.edu) or call 304-336-8561.



Shawn Dyer



The **MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM** found itself in a familiar place coming down the stretch of the regular season. After nine straight weeks as the nation's No. 1-ranked team, Coach Jim Crutchfield's Hilltoppers had already locked up the inaugural Mountain East Conference title and were looking ahead to the MEC Tournament and a shot at their fourth straight Atlantic Region crown.

C.J. Hester and Shawn Dyer joined West Liberty's 1,000-Point Club during the first semester and Preseason All-American Cedric Harris scored his 2,000th collegiate point in early February.

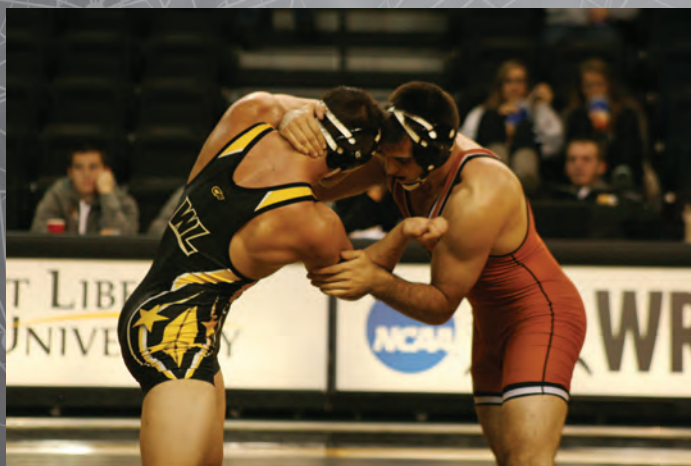
Kiki Simpson



In **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**, Coach Lynn Ullom's Lady Hilltoppers bounced back from a slow start and put together a lengthy second-semester winning streak to clinch a first-round bye in the MEC Tournament.

Although first-team All-American Hillary Southworth had to redshirt with a knee injury, Kiki Simpson was ranked among the nation's Top 10 rebounders, Kailee Howe was leading the MEC in assists and Liz Flowers was leading the scoring parade at better than 17 points a game.

Eric Antesberger Jr.



Coach Brian Davis's **WRESTLING TEAM** had to fight through a number of injuries but still provided plenty of highlights as they prepared for regional action.

The Hilltopper grapplers finished second in the inaugural West Virginia Open, which brought every college wrestling program in the state to the ASRC. Another bright spot was a 29-11 rout of Wheeling Jesuit in the first-ever dual match between the Ohio County rivals.

# WINTER SPORTS WRAPUP



# EARLY ADMISSIONS PROGRAMS in DENTISTRY & MEDICINE OFFER STUDENTS CAREER BOOST

Students now have two early acceptance programs open to them in the health sciences.

Students interested in the professional field of dentistry can apply for early admittance into West Virginia University's School of Dentistry in Morgantown.

Those interested in medicine will find the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Track program offers early admission for qualified applicants into the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg.

The Dental Early Admission Program (DEAP) allows a student to apply as early as the end of freshman year if requirements are met.

"This program is only the second of its kind with WVU and we are proud to offer it to our students," said Dr. Karen Kettler, WLU assistant professor of biology.

"WVU was anxious to work with us because they know the quality of our students and the excellence of our faculty," said Dr. Robert Kreisberg, dean of the College of Sciences, who spent about 18 months developing and planning the programs.

The purpose of DEAP is to help facilitate pre-dental students' transition into the WVU Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) program.

"This will be a win-win-win situation. For us, we will be able to bring highly qualified, well-mentored individuals into our school. West Liberty will offer customized guidance to allow their students to progress into dental school. And for the students themselves, they will be able to enter into our school fully prepared to begin the program," said Dr. Shelia S. Price, D.D.S., Ed.D., associate dean for admissions, recruitment and access for the WVU School of Dentistry.

West Mifflin, Pa., resident C.J. Hester is one of several students already following the DEAP curriculum at WLU.

Hester is well-known to basketball fans as a 1,000-point scorer for WLU's Mountain East Conference Champion men's basketball team, the Hilltoppers. Also a two-time Academic All American, he expects to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a major in DEAP in May 2015.

"I knew since I was a senior in high school that I wanted to go into the sciences. I shadowed Dr. Dan Joseph and Dr. Mike Medovic (Wheeling dentists) and that confirmed my choice of careers," Hester explained. His father, Dr. Eugene Hester, is an oral maxillofacial surgeon.

"The program here is great. It totally put me on the right career path," he said, giving WLU faculty credit for always being available to help students with their classes.

"C.J. is the epitome of why students should select DEAP. He's trying to do everything in his power to gain entrance into dental school and he will succeed," said Kettler.

Kettler also believes that the program is broad enough to prepare students for acceptance into many dental schools.

"We are allowed a maximum of two students per year

admitted through this program to WVU. But we in the biology department know this program will allow our students to find success in the admission process at many other schools."

Undergraduates must maintain a 3.6 GPA to qualify for DEAP.

"Larger universities might not be able to give the intense focus. DEAP gets you one foot in the door," Kettler said.

Similarly, the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Track is an early assurance program designed for undergraduates who desire to become an osteopathic physician and have identified WVSOM as their first choice school. In order to participate, students must maintain a minimum science GPA of 3.2 or higher. Students apply during their sophomore year. A goal of five eligible students per year from the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Track program will be accepted to WVSOM. As juniors, students can submit their medical school application and schedule an admissions interview. WVSOM requires a Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) with a score of 23 or above.

Students complete a Bachelor of Science in Biology at WLU before moving on to Lewisburg.

"West Virginia has a growing need for family doctors, pediatricians and other primary care physicians to serve the health care needs of its citizens," said Malcolm Modrzakowski, Ph.D., associate dean of affiliated and sponsored programs at WVSOM. "This program is a way to identify and mentor undergraduates who are interested in the field of medicine."

"We are thrilled to work with WVSOM and proud to be a part of this program that offers our students a real professional boost," said Kettler. For more information, please contact Kettler at [kkettler@westliberty.edu](mailto:kkettler@westliberty.edu) or 304-336-8070.



C.J. Hester

# YOUNG ATTORNEY LIZZ KUHN '00 BUILDS HER CASE FOR SUCCESS

## Evidence Points to WLU

When Elizabeth “Lizz” Kuhn was a teenager she had no expectations of college. Her mom was in the military and her family moved often during her childhood. As a senior in high school, she was happy to have a part time job at Denny’s restaurant and enjoyed playing alto saxophone in the Moon Township, Pa. high school band.

But her boss could see she was a hard worker and introduced her to Dr. Mark Williams, WLU music professor, who then interviewed her and showed her the Hilltop campus. Just 18-years-old, she was shocked to learn that WLU was offering her a full-tuition music scholarship that would change her life forever.

“I could see that Lizz was the caliber of student West Liberty seeks. She was talented and hard working and definitely deserved a chance,” Williams said.

Today she is a partner in the Georgia law firm of Hait, Eichelzer & Kuhn and she credits WLU with providing the foundation for her success. In recognition of this fact, she recently made a significant donation to the College of Arts and Communication.

“I was thrilled to get a phone call from Lizz in early December. She inquired about the Department of Music, its needs and asked how she could give back,” said Director of Development Angie Zambito-Hill.

“Lizz is a special alumna who understands the meaning of ‘pass it on.’ She values her West Liberty education and wants to keep it going. Her gift of \$10,000 will go a long way toward assisting the music department,” Zambito-Hill said, adding that Kuhn was happy to have her gift go toward equipment, scholarships —

whatever is the biggest need.

Kuhn’s journey after earning her bachelor’s degree, took her to Connecticut where she taught middle school chorus in Stratford. After two years of teaching her award winning chamber choir, Kuhn was accepted into the New England School of Law in Boston, Mass.

She graduated magna cum laude and was voted “most likely to succeed in the practice of law.” She also received the West Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award and served as the business managing editor of the New England Law Review.

After completing the honors judicial internship with the Massachusetts family and probate court in 2004, Kuhn decided to focus on family law and estate planning. She relocated to Georgia in 2005 and has represented hundreds of clients in divorces, modifications, contempt, legitimations and paternity actions. Her focus lies in the courtroom as an experienced litigator. She also drafts wills, trusts and other key documents to help guide clients in estate planning.

A member of the Georgia Bar, the Supreme Court of Georgia, the family law section of the Georgia bar, the women’s bar and the young lawyers division of the state bar, Kuhn stays very busy. In her spare time, she judges high school mock trial competitions and is actively involved in the Marietta, Ga. legal community.

She also enjoys skiing and vacationing with her husband, Alex Hait, and children Sam, Jacob, Sydney, Taylor and Will.



### Lizz Kuhn Family

From left,  
Alex Hait holding baby Will,  
Elizabeth holding Taylor,  
Sam in the middle,  
Sydney and Jacob right.



# POWER<sup>in</sup>NUMBERS

On the cover we've featured souvenirs that represent the 1964 Hilltopper baseball National Championship. That record-setting team was not led by one or two "superstars" but was powered by a group of hardworking individuals. Each brought unique talents to the game.

Group giving may not be something you consider a team sport but it is something that has a long lasting impact on the University. Team giving can inspire new donors and launch a major gift that may not have otherwise been possible!

Historically, groups that have joined together to raise funds for University projects include alumni chapters, Greek organizations, class years, athletic teams, degree programs, retired and current faculty and staff.

Friends and family will often memorialize an alumni who has passed on or is being honored, creating meaningful campaigns for new scholarships or projects in the individual's name.

We are fortunate to have generous examples of group giving and we want to highlight a few that play a significant role in the fundraising campaign for the Campbell Hall of Health Sciences.



**Jason Kogler**  
*Vice President  
Institutional Advancement*



**Angela Zambito-Hill**  
*Director of Development*



**Dr. Clyde Campbell '53,  
Chuck Jeswilkowski '69  
and Jay Duffy '69**

## **PITTSBURGH ALUMNI CHAPTER VERANDA**

**Project Goal \$25,000**

This project was led by dedicated Pittsburgh Alumni Chapter members who wanted to do something meaningful for their former professor and friend, President Emeritus Clyde D. Campbell. Since the veranda project was initiated, there have been four donors and several fundraising events held to support the effort of this enthusiastic bunch.



**Brianne Young '03, Robert Taylor and  
Molly Taylor '13**

## **JAN PELAEZ TAYLOR DENTAL HYGIENE OPERATORY**

**Project Goal \$25,000**

This team is led by Jan's husband, Robert Taylor and his daughters, Molly Taylor and Brianne Young, in memory of their beloved mother and wife, a member of the Dental Hygiene class of 1976. They met their goal to fund the entire cost of a Dental Hygiene operatory in the new Campbell Hall clinic with the help of 84 generous donors. These family, friends, classmates and colleagues have proclaimed forever how beloved, respected and missed Jan Taylor remains.



**Angela Zambito-Hill, Joe Davis '61  
and Shane Stack '10**

## **FLORIDA ALUMNI CHAPTER STUDENT LOUNGE**

**Project Goal \$25,000**

Fueled by an inspired speech delivered by Joe Davis '61, at the 2013 Florida Alumni Chapter reunion in St. Petersburg, Fla., 17 donors currently make up this giving group and have pledged support for this showpiece lounge in Campbell Hall of Health Sciences.



## TOPPER spotlight



READ MORE ABOUT FEATURED ALUMNI AT  
[westliberty.edu/toth/spotlight](http://westliberty.edu/toth/spotlight)



**SAMANTHA HORACEK WILSON '12**

Samantha "Sam" Horacek Wilson, a native of Moundsville, W.Va., was recently hired by West Liberty University to assist with web design and graphic needs in the department of Institutional Advancement. She's a great example of the quality graduates that the College of Arts and Communications turns out every year. She has been active in freelance design, creating logos and graphics for area businesses and nonprofits. Wilson also enjoys all kinds of art in her spare time, including painting, drawing and jewelry making. Watch for great new web design and creative input from this young alumna!



**BILL BEATTY '66**

Alumnus William Beatty was recently inducted into the Lee County (Florida) Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. The August 2013 ceremony was the first induction held for the conference. The inaugural honorees included 36 athletes and supporters from the county's 13 public high schools, including big sports names like Deion Sanders. Beatty was inducted into the Florida Hall of Fame for his work as the first Athletic and Activities Director at Cape Coral High where he developed high school athletic programs and was instrumental in the construction of the football stadium.



**JANE ATKINS SARGENT '63 & '13**

One of the most touching stories from our Alumni Office recently is the story of loyal Hilltopper, Jane Atkins Sargent, who passed away Nov. 26, 2013. A 1963 graduate, she earned a two-year degree in Dental Hygiene. A resident of Fairfax, Va., she always remembered her alma mater, eventually establishing a scholarship in her family name. We were saddened to learn of her failing health and expected demise this past fall. WLU is grateful for her support and presented her with an honorary Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree in recognition of her five decades of superior work in the field of dental hygiene as one of her final wishes.

**Top of the Hill** is now printed in a newsletter format four times annually, reducing the cost of printing and environmental impact when compared to the former lengthier magazine. We strive to offer our readers a campus snapshot in an informative, brief manner. Please let us know online or via email your comments and questions. Email Institutional Advancement: [IA@westliberty.edu](mailto:IA@westliberty.edu).

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